

Opioid Crisis

[The Other Pandemic](#)

The Ontario Construction Consortium has identified that our Province is in the grips of another pandemic – the high rate of overdose deaths from tainted street drugs.



This crisis is disproportionately impacting the construction industry workforce.

Since 2016 over 19,000 Canadians have died of overdoses related to the toxic street supply of drugs. More than 7,000 of these people have been Ontarians.

Opioid-related deaths surged in Ontario after the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020 — the number of confirmed and probable deaths from drug overdose has increased by over 60%.

The construction industry workforce is hit harder by this crisis than people employed in any other sector of the economy — 1/3 deaths of employed people in Ontario according to the May 2021 report.

Why? Researchers found that construction workers with musculoskeletal disorders are three times more likely than their co-workers to use prescriptions for pain management.

Users are at a higher risk of overdosing if they use alone and no one is with them to administer naloxone.

The powerful opioid fentanyl is a common street drug now. This is leading to a high rate of overdoses and deaths.

Not having the right approaches is costing taxpayers more.

Links available on this site include a [YouTube Video](#) explaining the crisis and the following links:

[Want to stop using and need help?](#)

[Need support to use safely?](#)

The ODPRN, the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario/Ontario Forensic Pathology Service (OCC/OFPS) and Public Health Ontario (PHO) have developed a new report describing patterns surrounding opioid-related deaths that occurred in Ontario during the COVID-19 pandemic up to the end of December 2020. This report updates the data provided in a preliminary report released in November 2020 describing patterns that occurred during the first three months of the pandemic.

[ODPRN report on opioid deaths](#)

This Months Tip:

Are you maintaining (updating) your H&S Program and Procedures?

Section 25(2)(j) of the OHSA states that an employer is required to maintain a program to implement their H&S policy. Maintaining a program mean, among other things, that when changes in the legislation (the Act, Regulation, Standards or Guidelines) occur they must be updated in your H&S Program.

Don't stop there.

Any changes in your Program must include training your staff on those changes.

Think About it.

Safetyscope Upcoming courses

Working @ Heights

July 2, 16, 30

W@H refresher July 9, 23

Confined Space Entrant Course July 12 -13

DBC JHSC Refresher July 6
Distance Learning

DBC Part 1 Certification
July 26-28

First Aid Aug 3-4

Competent Supervisor Sept 27

Contact Us with your training needs training@safetyscope.net

New Ontario Regulation 420/21



Notices And Reports Under Sections 51 To 53.1 Of The Act – Fatalities, Critical Injuries, Occupational Illnesses and Other Incidents is a new regulation coming into effect on July 1 revoking regulation 834 Critical Injury Defined.

The new regulation incorporates the critical injury definition and streamlines reporting requirements into a single regulation that applies to all workplaces covered under the OHSA. Regulation effected:

Reg. 414/05 (Farming Operations)

1. (1) Paragraph 1 of subsection 4 (2) of Ontario Regulation 414/05 is revoked and the following substituted:
 1. Ontario Regulation 420/21 (Notices and Reports Under Sections 51 to 53.1 of the Act — Fatalities, Critical Injuries, Occupational Illnesses and Other Incidents) made under the Act.
- (2) Paragraph 3 of subsection 4 (2) of the Regulation is revoked and the following substituted:
 3. Ontario Regulation 381/15 (Noise) made under the Act.

Reg. 213/91 (Construction Projects)

1. The heading before section 8 and sections 8 to 12 of Ontario Regulation 213/91 are revoked.

Reg. 67/93 (Health Care and Residential Facilities)

1. Ontario Regulation 67/93 is amended by adding the following heading before section 4:

Retention of Reports and Records

2. The heading before section 5 and sections 5 and 6 of the Regulation are revoked.

Reg. 629/94 (Diving Operations)

1. Sections 10 and 11 of Ontario Regulation 629/94 are revoked.
2. Subsection 64 (7) of the Regulation is revoked and the following substituted:
 - (7) An employer shall attach to the daily record a copy of any report or notice relating to the day that was given under sections 51 to 53.1 of the Act.

Reg. 855 (Oil and Gas—Offshore)

1. Sections 7 to 10 of Regulation 855 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 are revoked.

Reg. 859 (Window Cleaning)

Sections 5 and 6 of Regulation 859 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 are revoked.

Reg. 851 (Industrial Establishments)

1. Sections 5 and 6 of Regulation 851 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 are revoked.
2. (1) Clause 51 (1) (b) of the Regulation is amended by striking out “permanent” in the portion after subclause (ii).
 - (2) Section 51 of the Regulation is amended by adding the following subsection:
 - (1.1) Where a record is required to be kept under clause (1) (b), it shall be kept for,
 - (a) a period of at least one year; or
 - (b) such longer period as is necessary to ensure that at least the two most recent records are kept.

Reg. 861 (X-Ray Safety)

1. Sections 13 and 14 of Regulation 861 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 are revoked.
2. The Regulation is amended by adding the French version:

OCC Campaign Targets Construction's Opioid Crisis

The following article was published in the [Daily Commercial News by Construct Connect](#).

Due to an alarming increase in drug overdose deaths in Ontario and its disproportionate impact on the construction workforce, the Ontario Construction Consortium (OCC) has launched a campaign called The Other Pandemic to raise awareness about the opioid drug overdose crisis.



A new report by the Ontario Drug Policy Research Network, the office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario and Public Health Ontario, released on May 19, shows that 2,500 Ontarians died of drug overdoses in 2020, up from 1,500 in 2019, which is an increase of 60 per cent.

Of the victims who were employed, 30 per cent were construction workers – by a wide margin the industry most impacted, states an OCC release.

At least 57 construction workers died of overdoses in Ontario last year.

The OCC launched the public information campaign May 31 with the website [TheOtherPandemic.ca](#) urging construction workers to take steps to safeguard their health and safety.

The campaign is also supported by the Interior Systems Contractors Association, the Carpenters' Union District Council of Ontario and the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades.

The campaign offers the following tips:

- Do not use hard drugs alone. Use in the company of another individual with a Naloxone kit close at hand or go to a supervised injection site.
- All construction workers should get vaccinated against COVID-19 as this advice will bring the worker into close company with other people.
- Unions and contractors must step up training and education regarding drug use and its possible consequences.
- Governments need to increase addiction treatment and counselling services to meet this unprecedented challenge.
- Workers wrestling with addiction should seek help.

“This situation is alarming,” said OCC executive director Phil Gillies in a statement.

“Construction workers are dying from drug overdoses, a crisis largely driven by the widespread street distribution of the highly-addictive opioid fentanyl. And the 60 per cent increase in deaths in 2020 has to be linked to the shutdowns and isolation imposed by the COVID pandemic. The increase in addiction and mental health issues that has accompanied the pandemic is impacting the construction workforce in a dramatic and tragic fashion.

“We know that urging drug users not to use in isolation goes against most advice directed at the general population re the COVID pandemic. There the messaging is about staying away from other unrelated people,” added Gillies. “But using hard drugs alone is killing people. What we are recommending here will save lives.”

In the Courts

It has been another very quiet in the courts this month.

Review the bulletin below and click on the link to know more if these hazards could occur in your workplace.

[June 4, 2021 2 Temp Workers Killed - Upper Crust Bakery Fined \\$700,000](#)



Two workers were killed in separate incidents a year apart. One worker was fatally injured after being struck by a tractor-trailer that was backing up; another worker was pinned against moving machinery.

The first fatality resulted when a temporary help agency employee was working as a general production worker on the bread assembly line at the Canarctic location. The worker was fatally injured after being struck by a tractor-trailer reversing up to an exterior loading dock.

There were signs stating Do Not Enter and No Trespassing in the loading bay area, but there were no signs, barriers or other safeguards alerting pedestrians or workers to the danger of reversing vehicles in the loading bay, and other workers had previously been observed standing at the corner of the loading bay.

Sufficient barriers, warning signs or other safeguards for the protection of all workers in an area where vehicle or pedestrian traffic may endanger the safety of any worker were not in place, contrary to S 25(1) of the OHSA and S 20 of Reg. 851.

The second incident took place at the company's 60 Marmora Street location where another temporary help agency employee employed as a sanitation worker at the time of the incident was fatally injured after being pinned between an autoloader and an infeed conveyor.

The worker was sweeping fallen corn meal from below the autoloader and became trapped and was pinched between the leading edge or "nose" of the autoloader and the infeed conveyor when the autoloader activated.

Before the worker entered the perimeter fencing the machine should have been stopped and all sources of power should have been turned off/disconnected and locked out.

The company's paper-based pre-operational safety checklists did not record that a panel of the perimeter fencing had been removed.

Allowing a worker to have access to an unguarded machine with potential pinch points is an offence contrary to section 25(1) of the OHSA and section 25 of Regulation 851.

Temporary Workers High Risk

Temporary employment takes a wide variety of forms: term, contract, seasonal, casual, and placement through a staffing company. Temps tend to suffer more injuries than permanent employees, and those injuries tend to be more serious. Both the employer and the employee need to be on their guard for safety in temporary work situations.

Employers must ensure their workplace is safe, train employees with respect to any potential hazards, supply the necessary personal protective equipment and make sure workers know how to use it. These responsibilities apply to all workers, whether permanent or temporary.

Regardless of a worker's qualifications, employers must never leave a new temp to work unsupervised before ensuring he or she can safely perform the required tasks. Job orientation and safety training are extremely important for temporary workers. Yet surveys conducted by Safe Workplace Associations in Ontario show that many new workers report that they did not receive any such training.

With inexperienced seasonal workers, the risks increase. Again, both the employer and the worker must be aware of all hazards. Proper training, equipment and other safety measures are essential.

Joint Health and Safety Training (In Class and Distance Learning)

In general, your joint health and safety committee certification is valid for 3 years after the successful completion of an approved JHSC Part 2 training program.

You must successfully complete a refresher program within three years of the date of certification, or the date of successfully completing a refresher program, to keep your certification valid.

Safetyscope can help with:

- Both in class and distance learning using Dwight Barratt Inc. approved Joint Health and Safety Refresher training courses.
- Both in class and distance learning using Dwight Barratt Inc. approved Joint Health and Safety Part 2 training courses.
- In class using Dwight Barratt Inc. approved JHSC Part 1 training courses.

Contact us if we can be of assistance.

Safetyscope's Public Training Sessions

With our COVID-19 procedures in place, Safetyscope is now holding regular public training sessions in Working at Heights, Working at Heights Refresher and Confined Space Awareness.

If your organization requires any additional courses, please contact us with your training needs at training@safetyscope.net.

Safetyscope Continuing to Maintaining Registration as an OWWCO Training Provider

These courses meet the criteria in subsection 29(4) of O.Reg. 128, Certification of Drinking Water System Operators and Water Quality Analysts. On Completion of training all participants will receive a certificate of completion with corresponding CEU Value.

1. Working at Heights	.7 CEU
2. WHMIS 2015	.4 CEU
3. TDG	.4 CEU
4. Working in Confined Spaces Rescue Level	2.8 CEU
5. Confined Spaces Attendant Non Entry	1.3 CEU
6. Confined Spaces Advanced Entrant	.7 CEU
7. Confined Spaces Attendant Refresher	.7 CEU
8. Confined Spaces Rescue Refresher	.7 CEU
9. Standard First Aid	1.4 CEU
10. Self Contained Breathing Apparatus	.4 CEU
11. Spill Response	.7 CEU
12. Trenching Hazards	.4 CEU



Safetyscope is a TSSA Approved Training Provider

Safetyscope is an approved provider for Corrections Canada

