

FALL 2011

EVERY WORKER

A WSN HEALTH AND SAFETY MAGAZINE

VOLUME 1 NO.3

**SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS
NO LAUGHING MATTER**

**CAUTION
WET FLOOR**



**ATTENTION
PLANCHER
MOUILLÉ**

**IN THIS ISSUE:
WATCH YOUR STEP, BUT FIRST
WATCH YOUR FOOTWEAR**

**BIGGER AND BETTER
SAFETY GROUPS**

**KEEPING CURRENT
WITH SAFE MAINTENANCE**

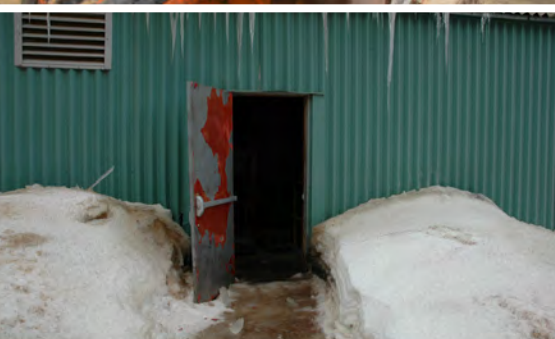
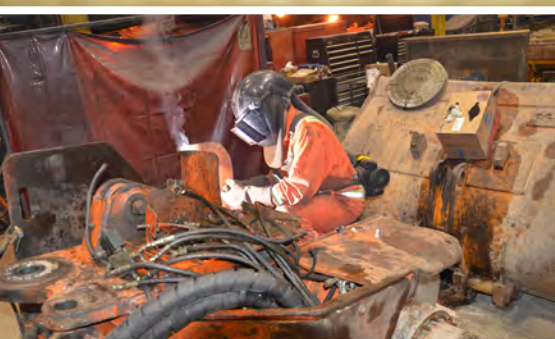
**BONUS:
SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS
FOOTWEAR POSTER**

HAZARD ALERTS



**Workplace
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A Health & Safety Ontario Partner



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President's Message

Slipping into Winter



The last of the leaves have fallen – and you know what that means – freezing temperatures, snowstorms, and winter hazards – snow- and ice-covered roads and walkways. Brrr. We'll be shoveling driveways and clearing sidewalks and steps at home, not a favourite task but a necessary one to keep our families and friends safe and upright.

Of course, slips, trips and falls don't just occur on ice or snow-covered sidewalks at home. They also occur, both inside and out, at work. In fact, falls at level account for about 20 per cent of all injury claims submitted to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB). Falls cost us all; that's why this issue

of Every Worker not only looks at winter housekeeping measures on Page 14, but also at preventing these all too common incidents on Page 4.

Taking prevention beyond slips, trips and falls, Workplace Safety North is pleased to work together with our Health and Safety Ontario (HSO) partners to bring significant improvements to the Safety Groups program. In collaboration with them, we have created the Northern Ontario Safety Group, which in the new year will grow into a community-based format open to all sectors. This means more community locations and a broader, deeper range of health and safety expertise available to all. Safety Groups is a health and safety support system. While there's a monetary incentive to get involved, the real benefit is improved health and safety in the workplace. Improving workplace safety is easier if you can learn from the experience of others who, like you, have the common goal of reducing injuries and illnesses. Collectively, you will build health and safety across your businesses, reducing workplace illness and injury, and lowering premiums. I invite you to learn more about the power of Safety Groups on Page 10 and get involved at a Safety Group location near you. Let 2012 be your healthiest and safest year yet!

We are excited and energized about the positive and tangible steps we are taking toward bringing every worker home, safe and healthy – and we know that if you are reading this, you share our passion for a healthier, safer Ontario. It is this greater good that will energize us all through a year of new challenges and aspirations. We hope you enjoy this issue of Every Worker. Please let me know what you think.

Have a safe winter season, inside and out, and watch your step!

President & CEO

candysballangermichaud@workplacesafetynorth.ca

EVERY WORKER

A WSN HEALTH AND SAFETY MAGAZINE

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Slips, Trips and Falls

No Laughing Matter



“Have a nice trip?” the old joke goes, after someone’s stumbled, slipped or tripped, and possibly fallen.

But there’s little, if any, humour left in the joke, and there never was any humour, even visual humour, in the type of falls that happen every day and account for about a third of all Ontario’s workplace insurance claims.

Workers suffer bruises and abrasions, broken limbs, cracked ribs, serious back and head injuries, and sometimes death. And while the image of a worker falling generally involves a fall from elevation, the truth is anyone can slip, trip, and possibly fall even on the same level. In fact, according to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board “same level falls” including slips and trips account for 65 per cent of all fall-related injuries, about 20 per cent of all injuries.

This year the Ministry of Labour launched its first-ever year-long blitz into falls, noting that falls from height seem to get most attention from employers, possibly because they perceive the potential consequences to be greater. But with falls at level outnumbering falls from heights by a two-to-one ratio, they can’t be forgotten or ignored.

From 2006 to 2011, Workplace Safety North clients in the mining, forestry, and paper, printing and converting sectors, filed claims for 1,029 lost-time injuries for employees injured in slips, trips and/or falls at level. While that's a lower claim rate than Ontario as a whole, they still accounted for 12 per cent of lost-time injuries in those sectors.

While the most serious injuries involved the head, back, and legs (ankles, knees and thighs), overall the incidents involved every part of the human body from the toes to the scalp, including hands, arms, ribs, and feet.

Almost half of the incidents resulted in workers suffering sprains, strains and tears, while more than 200, approximately 20 per cent, experienced fractures. More than 12 per cent of the workers involved suffered bruises and contusions, while others had dislocations, and cuts and lacerations. A handful of workers, about three per cent, suffered concussions, cranial injuries and traumatic injuries to the back and nerves.

The biggest hazard for slip, trip and fall incidents at level is poor housekeeping (not cleaning up garbage and clutter), but slippery and uneven surfaces, dark and obstructed pathways, and unsuitable footwear also rate among the top hazards.

The easy solution to such hazards is to keep the work area clean, but even that is insufficient to eliminate the risk of an incident. Preventing all such injuries should be a key goal of every workplace health and safety program. Employers should:

- Put a company policy in place that outlines the rules for housekeeping, lighting, and inspections
- Advise and train workers about risks in their job and in the workplace
- Encourage workers to participate in the health and safety program through reporting of slip, trip and fall hazards
- Identify and assess job-related hazards
- Establish controls to reduce workers' exposure to slip, trip and fall hazards
- Make sure that preventive measures are working

Slip, trips and falls are no laughing matter.



Good Housekeeping Checklist To Slip, Trip, Fall Prevention

Housekeeping is not just for home. Good housekeeping is key to creating a safe workplace, and important in preventing slip, trip and fall (STF) incidents, which account for nearly 20 per cent of all lost-time injury claims in Ontario.

This is a sample of a housekeeping checklist for walking and working surfaces, including different workplace areas. It may be used as a pre-shift check. Modify the checklist to suit your needs.

Housekeeping Checklist

- Slippery, uneven or unstable surfaces
- Spills of wet or dry substances
- Unsecured mats, tiles, carpets
- Seasonal hazards (snow, ice, rain)
- Debris, storage in pedestrian areas
- Trailing cables, cords, wiring in pedestrian areas
- Smoke, steam, or dust obscuring view
- Poor lighting
- Unsuitable footwear
- Projecting equipment, furniture or storage items
- Reporting procedures posted/enforced
- Warning signs posted/barriers erected
- Written procedures/standards for safety of walking/working surfaces

Areas that should be inspected include:

- Parking lot (condition)
- Outside stairs, walkways
- Interior stairs, hallways and work areas
- Washrooms (neat, clean, dry)
- Lunch rooms (clean, tidy, dry)
- Loading dock

Control measures, such as appropriate waste bins for trash, sand or salt for icy walkways, brooms, shovels, mops, buckets, and warning signs, should be readily accessible for all locations.

In fact, workers share the responsibility for creating a safe workplace, and should always be aware of slip, trip and fall hazards in their workplace. Whether one works in an office, shop, or on a worksite, a STF check should be part of the start-of-shift routine.

A worker checklist may include:

- Appropriate footwear
- Check the work area to identify STF hazards
- Fix or report STF hazards
- Follow safe work practices

Safe work practices include walking, not running; not walking backwards; cleaning up after yourself; paying attention to footing when carrying things; using the guardrails on stairs; using the appropriate equipment to reach high shelves; and maintaining three-point contact on a ladder or stepstool.



WATCH YOUR STEP, BUT FIRST WATCH YOUR FOOTWEAR



The first step in slips, trips and falls prevention begins with the foot – footwear actually.

Footwear should be selected with attention, not necessarily for fashion, but for function – hazard considerations – and fit.

Proper footwear will not only help prevent slips, trips and falls, but reduce the likelihood of a wide range of potential incidents – falling or rolling objects, punctures, chemicals, twisted ankles, electric shock, and more – that could keep you and co-workers off the job.

Purchase the appropriate type of protection for the work you do. If you have any questions, ask an experienced sales clerk. To ensure the footwear is appropriate for the hazards in your workplace, check the footwear for the proper Canadian Standards Association (CSA) tags, which indicate its resistance to punctures, falling weights, electricity, and cutting tools.

Slip-resistant soles are an important feature of most work footwear because of the risk of slips and falls due to walking surfaces, weather conditions and the time of year. Slip-resistant soles can prevent many slip/fall injuries. It's important to find out the type of sole the footwear has before purchasing them.

Proper fit is also a priority. Improperly fitted footwear can cause



Look for the appropriate CSA tags on the tongue or inside the quarter lining of the right shoe.

back, leg or foot pain, as well as cause workers to work slowly, make mistakes and lead to other injuries. Any foot discomfort should be dealt with as soon as it arises.

Wearing the footwear correctly is just as important as having the correct footwear. Boots that are six to eight inches tall, should be laced all the way to support the ankle. Sprained ankles can occur when the worker doesn't lace the boot fully. As well, dangling laces and open tongues on footwear can be a safety hazard, another reason to lace them all the way.

Footwear's anti-static (or static dissipative) qualities, which reduce the accumulation of static electricity and the chance of igniting flammable material, can be altered or rendered ineffective when insoles are added. It's important to ensure that the safety qualities of footwear are retained when an insole is required.

Proper care and maintenance will help to extend the footwear's life and the protection they provide. The protection level decreases when there are signs of wear. Worn out heels and soles may not provide proper traction, increasing the risk of a slip and fall. Footwear with worn-out uppers will not provide the same support to ankles as newer footwear, and worn-out toecaps may not provide the same level of protection. Footwear should be regularly inspected for signs of wear and tear, keeping in mind the type of work you are doing.

When Buying Footwear:

- Buy the correct footwear for the job. Check for the proper CSA tags on the tongue or inside the quarter lining of the right shoe.;
- Always try on the footwear before purchasing;
- Bring along any insoles, orthotic supports and the types of sock that will be wore with the footwear, as these will change the way the footwear fits;
- Don't pay too much attention to the designated size of the boots – each piece of footwear will fit slightly different. Make sure they are comfortable and yet provide all the necessary safety features;
- Pain and fatigue often occur when shoes or boots are too narrow or shallow. Boots should fit snugly around the ankle and foot, but they should also be comfortable;
- The heels should not slip up and down, as this will decrease the amount of support, increase instability and may also cause blisters.
- Footwear should fit so that one's toes are about 1.25 cm (a half-inch) from the front of the protective cap when standing with the footwear fully laced. The toe cap should allow for the toes to move around.
- Shop for footwear toward the end of the day, when your foot will be larger;
- Make sure there is an exchange/return policy when purchasing footwear. Put them on at home, wear them around and make sure they are truly comfortable, because you will be spending a lot of time in them. It's important to have boots that make your feet feel good at the end of the day.

How WSN Can Help:

Workplace Safety North offers a range of training programs and products to help workplaces improve their slips, trips and falls safety program, including:

TRAINING

Planned Workplace Inspection & Hazard Recognition

Federal and provincial laws protect citizens from unsafe conditions in their workplace, but the front lines of defence against job hazards are the employers and workers who see and work near these hazards every day. One of the most effective weapons employers and workers have in the battle against these hazards is the planned workplace inspection. This half-day classroom training program reviews the purpose, function, planning and execution of inspections.

Supported by a video, the course material explains who should perform the inspections, what should be inspected, and how often the inspections should be conducted. It examines the direct causes and underlying causes of hazards and explains the “ABC” system of hazard classification. The course includes a detailed five-step program for creating an effective planned workplace inspection process, as well as a brief awareness course on basic principles of hazard recognition.

Focus on Falls

People are falling — statistics are not. In Ontario, approximately 80 people fall at work every day. This course provides participants with information and guidance on controlling slip, trip and fall hazards in the workplace. Participants also learn how to develop and implement a fall prevention program.

PRODUCTS

Guideline for Developing a Health and Safety Program Element \$15.75

Workplace Safety North’s guideline is intended to provide an easy-to-follow, step-by-step approach to developing program elements for your health and safety program.

Program elements are modules or chapters of a health and safety program. An element deals with a single specific hazard such as slips and trips, guarding, travel restraint, emergency response; or a practice like incident investigation or workplace inspection.

This guideline contains a flow chart outlining the steps needed to create and implement a program element in the workplace. Using the example of fall arrest, the guideline also provides a concrete example of what information should be documented and recorded in the written portion of a program element; from title, date of issue, scope and purpose, to roles and responsibilities.

The guideline includes an electronic copy of the template on CD for workplaces to use to develop their own health and safety programs.

Fall Protection Safety Meeting CD \$27.50

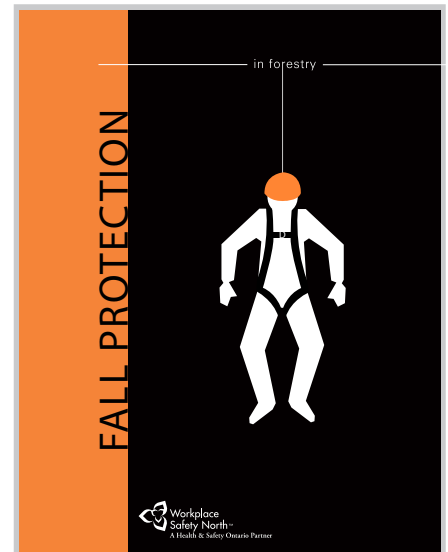
Everyone, even employees with years of experience working near fall hazards, can become complacent about wearing fall protection equipment. This safety meeting talk is an excellent opportunity to reinforce the importance of a fall protection program.

WSN’s Fall Protection safety meeting package outlines the components of a fall protection program and provides information on how to work safely near fall hazards. The package focuses on: fall arrest and travel restraint systems; limiting swing distance and fall distance; as well as tips for working safely in a fall protection zone.

The safety meeting also covers what to do in the event of a fall including: the necessity for quick and safe rescues, and tips for managing post-fall suspension trauma.

The Fall Protection safety meeting package includes a PowerPoint presentation and leader’s guide on CD.

For more information on these courses and products, or for information on other Slips, Trips and Falls courses and products, contact Workplace Safety North at 1-888-730-7821 or visit www.healthandsafetyontario.ca/WSN.



Fall Protection Resource Guide

This revised and updated resource guide is designed to help member firms provide fall protection systems for their workers and ensure that these systems comply with standards and legislated requirements.

The guide describes and assesses the hazards of falls from heights in the transportation of forest products using railcars, haul trucks and chip vans, as well as other fall hazards in forestry work. It identifies and explains the various standards and legal requirements regarding fall protection.

The important differences between travel restraint systems and fall arrest systems are explained in detail, as are the various components of a fall protection system. The second part of the guide examines in words and pictures a number of fall protection systems currently being used by forestry firms.

Price: \$15.00

HAZARD ALERT!

PAPER, PRINTING AND CONVERTING SECTOR

Open Loading Dock Door Leads to Lift Truck Tumble

WHAT HAPPENED?

A lift truck driver picked up a large load, and reversed. There was no trailer in the loading dock but the dock door was open for air circulation. When the driver swung back and engaged the brakes, the lift truck slid on the metal dock plate and fell backwards off the dock. The lift truck landed on pavement and then fell to its side. The driver was wearing his seatbelt, and held tightly onto the steering wheel during the incident. The driver suffered bruises and abrasions, but was otherwise unhurt.

WHY DID IT HAPPEN?

The location of the load did not allow sufficient room to manoeuvre the lift truck. Steel plates are a slipping hazard for lift trucks. An open loading dock door poses a fall hazard. The tires on the lift truck appeared worn and may have contributed to the skid.

HOW COULD IT BE PREVENTED?

Materials and product should be stored in locations and a manner that allows safe access for lift trucks, including adequate lines-of-sight and room to manoeuvre.

Loading dock doors should not be left open for ventilation purposes.

Guarding straps or temporary barriers for dock areas can alert workers to the fall hazard.

Lift trucks should be regularly maintained and inspected for tire wear and proper operation.

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This alert is based on an actual incident. If you have an incident you'd like to share, please email customercare@workplacesafetynorth.ca. The description of circumstances does not reflect legal commentary, nor is it meant to assign legal responsibility to any person or firm.



Bigger, Better

Workplace Safety North (WSN), and its Health and Safety Ontario partners - Infrastructure Health and Safety Association, Public Services Health and Safety Association and Workplace Safety and Prevention Services, have joined forces to bring a bigger and better Safety Group to all businesses in northern Ontario.

The goal of the Safety Groups Program is to motivate and support participating firms to become more self-reliant in the development and application of occupational health and safety programs aimed at eliminating workplace injuries and illnesses. Safety Groups give employers access to a variety of current health and safety related resources, networking opportunities, and potential rebates from the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB).

The former Ontario Forestry Safe Workplace Association, now a part of WSN, pioneered Safety Groups in the forestry sector in northern Ontario more than 10 years ago. Members of this voluntary group consistently maintained a lower lost-time injury frequency and severity rate than the industry average, and shared more than \$10 million in rebates. This year participation was expanded to include other sectors, and 2012 will bring greater integration with the entire Health and Safety Ontario system.

Under the new Northern Ontario Safety Group, the program is growing into a community-based multi-sector format. The expansion means more community locations and a broader, deeper range of health and safety expertise available to all. Businesses from Huntsville to the Manitoba border and all points in between are included in this expanded service mandate and welcome to join the initiative.

A number of companies, large and small, have benefited from participating.

"By participating in the Safety Group program we've been able to reduce the number of injuries, the frequencies of injuries over the years and now we're very fortunate to also be able to reduce the

number of lost-time accidents," says Rene Bergeron, Health and Safety Coordinator, for Tembec Inc. in Cochrane.

"At our site, we're very privileged to have the Safety Group sponsor provide training to our workers and our staff and that has been very beneficial in helping us improve our safety program," says Bergeron. "They also provide onsite the physical evaluation of our workplace and help us in finding solutions to resolving health and safety matters."

At the start of the year, Safety Group members select five safety elements they will initiate or improve upon, from a list provided by the WSIB. Firms will receive resource materials, as well as the assistance of health and safety specialists to help meet program requirements. They must also attend at least three of four meetings during the year. Each meeting provides networking opportunities and additional support to promote leading health and safety practices.

At the end of the year members can receive a WSIB rebate based on the entire group's success in implementing their safety elements. If all the firms complete all the required health and safety changes, the group will receive the full potential rebate.

The Northern Ontario Safety Group will hold meetings in 10 communities in 2012 - Kenora, Fort Frances, Dryden, Thunder Bay, Hearst, Timmins, Sault Ste. Marie, Chapleau, Sudbury and North Bay. Meetings are scheduled in January/February, March/April, September/October, and November/December.

Membership demonstrates to employees, the community, and other businesses, that a company is serious about health and safety. Companies can register to join the Northern Ontario Safety Group for 2012 until Dec. 15. For more information, contact Rose Bedard, Prevention Services Assistane Safety Groups, at 1-888-730-7821 ext. 291 or rosebedard@workplacesafetynorth.ca.

Or visit www.safetygroups.ca/northern.

HAZARD ALERT!

MINING SECTOR

Unsecured Binder Handle Strikes Worker in Face

WHAT HAPPENED?

A crew was setting up a diamond drill on a new hole and installing the mast's guy wires. From a kneeling position, a worker secured one of the hooks of an indirect lever load binder, also called a bear-trap binder, to a guy wire and the other hook to a length of chain attached to the drill skid bumper. Using his weight as leverage, he closed the binder handle, simultaneously tightening the guy wire. Once the worker felt the load binder handle pass centre and loosen, he released the handle and started to rise. As he leaned forward to get up from one knee, the binder handle sprung open, striking him in the face. The blow broke the frame of his safety glasses, and he suffered trauma to his left eye.

WHY DID IT HAPPEN?

The worker, while rising from the kneeling position, leaned over the load binder within the range of the handle.

The binder handle was obstructed by a defect inside the chamber preventing the handle from closing completely into the locked or over-centre position.

The worker was unaware of the defect and the method of identifying such a defect.

HOW COULD IT BE PREVENTED?

Ratchet-type load binders are safer and more secure than lever load binders. They eliminate the risk of the handle whipping back due to lock defects, binder malfunctions or improper operation.

The working load limit or load rating of the binder should be recorded on the chain and/or components for reference during inspection to ensure it is capable of securing the load.

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How Do You...?

Manufacturers, employers and workers need to work together to stay current on safe service and maintenance procedures

A coroner's inquest last year into the death of a miner conducting equipment maintenance shone a potentially revealing light on the relationship between equipment manufacturers, companies that purchase from them, and the workers and supervisors who use and maintain the equipment.

Two workers were adjusting an ITH longhole drill located underground. In attempting to remove a large nut from the drill, one worker held two large wrenches on the assembly, while the other engaged the machine to jam the wrench against the drill's metal frame. One wrench slipped off, allowing the second wrench to strike the first worker in the lower face. He suffered massive facial trauma and asphyxiated due to injuries to his airway.

Though the inquest examined the death of a miner, the equipment issues raised apply to any firm in any sector that purchases, uses and maintains specialized equipment.

The workers were using an unapproved procedure to conduct the maintenance. Subsequent investigation and the inquest indicated there was a lack of communication between manufacturers, distributors, purchasers and end users (supervisors and workers) of equipment to ensure proper procedures related to maintenance and repair.

Preventive Measures

Workers and their supervisors should be trained in the proper procedure to conduct equipment maintenance, and should receive regular refresher training, including whenever procedures are changed or new procedures introduced.

Checklists can be effective tools to ensure procedures are followed. The checklists could be developed and maintained on critical and/or hazardous maintenance procedures, and be readily available to supervisors and workers.

All purchasing agreements for new and used equipment should include training by qualified trainers for operations and maintenance personnel.

Current service and operating manuals, including all updates, should be obtained when new and used equipment purchases are made. Manuals and updates should be readily available for use by workers and supervisors.

Employers should ensure that manufacturers provide a mechanism that allows purchasers to be notified in a timely fashion of any

product recalls, maintenance changes, or safety issues that might arise. Purchasing agreements should include the positions and titles of employees at any work site where notices and service updates must be sent.

Employers should have a procedure for manufacturer updates and information to be forwarded in a timely fashion to the supervisors and workers responsible for using/maintaining the applicable equipment. The procedure should include a process, such as a log or signature sheet, to ensure all employees received notification and understand the information.

As well, employers should attempt to obtain "contact service" with manufacturers and distributors, whereby workers or supervisors can contact manufacturers/distributors to clarify procedures or obtain information.

Safety Assessment

- Are your supervisors and workers adequately trained to do their work? Is there a process to ensure they receive refresher and updated training as necessary?
- Will your employees contact a supervisor if they are unsure of a maintenance procedure? Do your workers and supervisors know when to stop and get help? Do they know where to get help?
- Does your company have current service and operating manuals for all equipment? Contact information for manufacturers and distributors? Is that information readily available to supervisors and workers? Do they know where it is?
- Has your company made arrangements with equipment manufacturers and suppliers to be informed of changes? Is there a process to ensure that supervisors and workers are informed of those changes in a timely fashion?
- Has someone been designated, in writing, to oversee this program? Is there a formal process to determine the effectiveness of the program?

HAZARD ALERT!

FORESTRY SECTOR

Jammed Processor Catches, Crushes Worker

WHAT HAPPENED?

A worker was operating a processor in a woodland operation when the head became jammed. The operator attempted to clear the jam, and became caught in the equipment. He suffered a crushing injury, and subsequently died.

WHY DID IT HAPPEN?

The investigation is ongoing, and no determination has yet been made as to the cause of the incident.

HOW COULD IT BE PREVENTED?

When working on equipment it is best practice to follow the manufacturer's recommendations for safely securing equipment prior to performing maintenance or clearing debris. Lockout procedures should be specific to the machine being operated and should prevent the inadvertent movement of a machine caused by all energy sources.

When working on a piece of machinery/equipment ensure that the proper PPE is worn and that the appropriate tools are available.

Wherever possible, when conducting maintenance, stop the machine in an area that is flat, open and out of the way from other traffic or hazards.

Get a second opinion or ask your supervisor for assistance when a situation arises that is out of the normal routine.

Ensure that when locking out a machine or piece of equipment that it is in a zero energy state prior to working on it.

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BY BRIAN LAWRENCE, CONSULTANT/TRAINER, WSN

Winter weather poses specific problems for Ontario workplaces. Addressing snow removal and icy conditions is a critical element of an effective health and safety program.

While some companies have a designated in-house person who is responsible for looking after the yard and walkways in winter, other firms employ outside contractors. But even if outside contractors are used, an in-house person should be responsible for ensuring that snow and ice issues are handled in a timely fashion. Icy surfaces may not only be found outside the workplace, but floors around loading docks, and large door openings may also become covered in ice.

Many workers have been seriously injured when they have slipped and fallen on ice in the workplace. In addition to the risk of personal injury, icy conditions in the workplace can also result in damage to equipment, materials and buildings. Winter conditions are a fact of life in Ontario workplaces, so it is important that the icy conditions that develop during the winter be addressed.

Icy conditions are addressed in the “Green Book”. Section 11 of the Regulations for Industrial Establishments (RIE) specifically mentions floors or other surfaces used by workers should be free of accumulations of “snow or ice”. And although Section 45 of the RIE does not specifically mention icy conditions, it states that when material, articles or things are to be “lifted, carried or moved”, the action is to be carried out with such precautions so as not to “endanger the safety of any worker”.

The yard, parking lot and other areas of workplaces are surfaces used by workers. Buildings in some workplaces have large openings to allow for the movement of supplies and product. Some of the openings may have doors that prevent snow and rain from entering the building. Others have no doors, so snow and ice can accumulate on the floor. Any floor or surface used by a worker, whether indoors or outdoors, is addressed in Section 11 of the RIE.

As with other workplace hazards, it is recommended that a company address icy conditions through a policy and procedures.

A policy is a statement of what is to be done. A typical policy might state “When icy conditions exist in the workplace, corrective action is to be taken in a timely manner to reduce the risk of slips.

During the winter months, warning signs are to be posted to alert workers to the potential of slips and falls on the ice.”

Procedures are written statements of how the policy is to be implemented. There are several items that should be covered in the procedures. These include:

- Designating a specific person by name or position (such as yard supervisor) who is ultimately responsible for ensuring that corrective action is taken when icy conditions exist. This reduces the risk of just having someone taking action when they can “get around to it”;
- Monitoring the weather to prepare for adverse weather conditions before the weather arrives;
- Maintaining supplies of sand or salt on the property ready for use;
- Ensuring that warning signs are posted at the start of each winter season;
- Having available emergency footwear (such as clip-on ice cleats) that can be used if the need should arise;
- Ensuring that staff wear appropriate footwear during the winter season;
- Having designated pedestrian areas that are salted or sanded before a shift starts or ends to minimize the risk of slips and falls while employees come and go from work;
- If an external company is contracted to do the plowing and sanding/salting operations, ensuring that these activities are carried out in a timely manner (such as before the start of a shift). Maintaining emergency supplies (loader, sand, salt, etc.) on hand in the event that external contractor is delayed;
- Ensuring that yard workers wear high-visibility clothing is recommended at all times of the year, but it is especially important in the winter months when stopping distances are increased because of slippery surfaces;
- Ensuring that road and floor conditions are included in the monthly inspection form;
- If appropriate, equipping yard machines with tire chains; and
- Providing appropriate parking spots for visitors to minimize their walking distance.

WSN Health and Safety Notes



2011 **MOCK TRIAL**

Bringing the community together to help build safer workplaces



Who is Responsible?

Timmins and area employers have the opportunity to get a better understanding of their responsibilities under the Occupational Health and Safety Act during a mock trial 8 a.m. to noon, Nov. 8 at Timmins High and Vocational School, 451 Theriault Blvd.

The mock trial organized by Workplace Safety North will present a realistic scenario in which a company has been charged following an incident in which a young worker has been seriously injured.

The audience will learn first-hand about the emotional and financial cost of an incident. After the mock trial the audience will have a chance to ask questions, and to network with staff from the safety associations and the Ministry of Labour.

Admission is free and refreshments will be provided. To register for the event, contact Lorraine Breckles at Workplace Safety North: 1-888-730-7821 ext. 285, Fax: 705-472-5800, lorrainebreckles@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Ohh! That Might Hurt!

The Ontario Ministry of Labour (MOL) will be conducting a blitz on Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSDs) targeting the industrial, construction, mining, and health care sectors in February 2012.

During a blitz campaign, ministry inspectors have been instructed to take a zero-tolerance approach, meaning that if a workplace is found to be non-compliant, the MOL will take enforcement measures.

Employers are encouraged to be proactive by identifying MSD hazards in their workplace, and establishing a plan to manage these hazards.

For information on how Workplace Safety North can help your workplace address MSDs, visit our website – or call us toll free at 1-888-730-7821.

Circle April 17 to 19

It's not too early to plan to attend the 2012 Mining Health and Safety Conference, April 17 to 19, in Sudbury.

The 2011 conference was a sellout with more than 300 delegates including employers, managers, Joint Health and Safety Committee members, health and safety personnel, and others networking, attending various speakers, and a trade show.

Workplace Safety North staff are now putting together the 2012 conference, and welcome inquiries.

Watch www.healthandsafetyontario.ca/wsn for updates or contact:

For sponsorship opportunities: Susan Haldane, 705-474-7233 ext. 261, Fax: 705-472-5800, susanhaldane@workplacesafetynorth.ca

For trade show opportunities: Ken Sitter, 705-474-7233 ext. 234, Fax: 705-472-5800, kensitter@workplacesafetynorth.ca

For a registration package: Carol Lessard, 705-474-7233 ext. 265, Fax: 705-472-5800, carollessard@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Workplace Safety North **Mining** 2012 Health and Safety Conference



PRINCIPLES OF RIGGING, HOISTING AND TOWING ON LOGGING OPERATIONS

Principles of Rigging, Hoisting and Towing On Logging Operations examines how to recognize, assess and control rigging, hoisting and towing hazards associated with mechanical harvesting equipment including: cable and grapple skidders, feller bunchers, cut-to-length processors, forwarder/transporters, delimbers, slashers, log loaders and grinders. The course covers those same hazard topics for operators of hydraulic excavators, bulldozers, graders, front-end loaders, haulage trucks, fuel trucks and service trucks used in forestry pit and road construction operations.

Participants in the course learn how to identify:

- the right equipment for the job
- the capacity of the equipment being used
- where to get the information they need to do their rigging, hoisting or towing job safely - every time.

This course is essential for certified operators who have not received training on how to safely conduct hoisting, rigging or towing operations. The training is an important element in assisting employers in working towards meeting their due diligence requirements in taking every precaution reasonable in protecting the worker.

As well, this course has been added as a component to the Cable Skidder and the Mechanical Harvesting Equipment Operator and Forestry Pit and Road Construction certification training programs, effective January 1, 2012. All new workers and supervisors will receive this training when they take their certification training.