

Falls Blitz 2016

May 16th to July 15th, 2016

External - Industrial Program

Safe At Work Ontario

Enforcement > Compliance > Partnership >

Ministry of Labour

Disclaimer

The purpose of today's presentation is to assist the workplace parties in understanding their obligations under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and its regulations. It is not intended to replace the OHSA or the regulations, and reference should always be made to the official versions of the legislation.

It is the responsibility of the workplace parties to ensure compliance with the legislation and the presentation does not constitute legal advice. If you require assistance with respect to the interpretation of the legislation and its potential application in specific circumstances, please contact your legal counsel.

Ministry of Labour inspectors will apply and enforce the OHSA and its regulations based on the facts as they may find them in the workplace. This presentation does not affect their enforcement discretion in any way.

Outline

To provide an overview of the Falls Blitz including:

- Blitz Rationale
- Sectors
- Legislated requirements for falls
- Key Focus for Inspectors
- MOL Resources

Safe At Work – Compliance Strategy

Safe At Work Ontario (SAWO) is the MOL's compliance strategy, designed to:

- improve the health and safety culture of workplaces
- reduce workplace injuries and illness
- avoid costs for employers as a result of work related Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) claims, and
- provide a level playing field for compliant employers.

Safe At Work Ontario is risk based, and focuses on sector hazards and on building and sustaining a health and safety culture in the workplace.

For additional information, see the Ministry of Labour SAWO website:

<http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/sawo/index.php>

Falls Blitz Rationale

Across the province in all sectors falls continue to be a significant problem.

- Over the 10 year period from 2005 to 2014, falls accounted for 17.1% of the traumatic fatalities in all programs for schedule 1 employers.
- In 2014, fall on same level accounted for 15% of the injury events in all programs for schedule 1 employers.
- In 2014, fall on same level accounted for 21% of the injury events in all programs for schedule 2 employers.

- Between April 1, 2014 and March 31, 2015, there were 4 work-related deaths and 20 critical injuries from falls involving ladders in industrial establishments.

Workplace Sectors

- Workplaces in the following sectors may be visited:
 - Retail
 - Restaurants
 - Offices & Related Services
 - Tourism, Hospitality & Recreational Services
 - Wholesale
 - Wood & Metal Fabrication

Workplace Location Information

In particular, inspectors will check workplaces:

- with a high incidence of injuries resulting in lost time at work
- not previously visited by the ministry
- where complaints have been received
- where there is a history of non-compliance

Inspectors have broad powers to take enforcement action, as appropriate, in response to any violations of the [Occupational Health and Safety Act](#) and its regulations. Inspectors are taking a zero tolerance approach to this blitz.

Legislated Requirements for falls

- Inspectors will check that employers are taking appropriate action to assess and control fall hazards as required by the:
 - *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)*
 - *Regulation for Industrial Establishments*

General Duties of Employers

The following are some examples of employers' duties under the OHSA:

- Take every reasonable precaution in the circumstances for the protection of a worker.
- Ensure equipment, materials and protective devices are well maintained.
- Ensure that workers are provided with the appropriate information, instruction, and supervision.

Duties for Supervisors

The following are some examples of supervisors' duties under the OHSA:

- Ensure workers comply with the OHSA and its regulations.
- Ensure any equipment, protective device or clothing required by the employer is used or worn by workers.
- Advise workers of any potential or actual health or safety dangers known by the supervisor.
- Taking every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of a worker.

Worker Duties

The following are some examples of workers' duties under the OHSA:

- Use or operate equipment in a safe manner
- Reporting defects in equipment
- Working in compliance with the OHSA and its regulations
- Report any known workplace hazards or contraventions of the OHSA to their supervisor or employer

Workers Rights

- Right to refuse unsafe work.
- Right to participate.
- Right to know.

Portable Ladders

- *Section 73 of the Industrial Regulation* sets out the requirements for portable ladders including but not limited to:
 - free from broken or loose members or other faults
 - non-slip feet
 - placed on firm footing
- When not secured, ladders should be placed at an angle of no less than 1:4 and no greater than 1:3 (e.g. one foot out from the wall for every three or four feet up).
- Workers should be trained to keep three point contact when using ladders (e.g. two feet and one hand or two hands and one foot in contact with the ladder).

Fixed Access Ladders

- *Section 19 of the Industrial Regulation* sets out the location requirements for a fixed stair or access ladder, with permanent platforms.
 - Where frequent access is required to equipment above or below floor level
- *Section 18 of the Industrial Regulation* sets out the requirements for fixed access ladders including but not limited to:
 - be vertical
 - have rest platforms at not more than nine metre intervals
 - be offset at each rest platform
 - have side rails that extend ninety centimetres above the landing
 - have rungs which are at least fifteen centimetres from the wall and spaced at regular intervals

Guardrails

Section 13 and 14 of the Industrial Regulation sets out the requirements for guardrails.

In general guardrails are required:

- Around the perimeter of a uncovered opening in a floor, roof or other surface to which a worker has access
- At the open side of a raised floor, mezzanine, balcony, gallery, platform etc.
- At the open side of a vat, bin or tank.
- Guardrails should have a top rail (91 to 107 centimeters above the area to be guarded) and a mid-rail.

Openings

- *Section 15 of the Industrial Regulation* sets out the requirements for a cover on an opening in a floor, roof or other surface shall be:
 - Secured in place
 - Constructed to meet the structural requirements for loads due to the use of floors and roofs as set out in the Building Code.

Key Focus for Inspectors

Policies and Programs:

- Inspectors will check that employers have policies and programs in place to protect workers from falls such as requirements for safely using ladders use and ensuring that an investigation is conducted when there are fall-related incidents. They will also check that employers have emergency rescue procedures for workers who fall.

Safe Work Practices:

- Inspectors will check that employers have developed safe work practices, including assessing fall risks. They will also check to see if workers are following safe work practices, for example, safely using ladders, mobile stands and platforms.

Falls from ladders, mobile stands and platforms:

- Inspectors will check that employers have assessed ladders, stands and platforms for hazards, and that this equipment is maintained and placed on firm footing when in use.

Key Focus for Inspectors

Falls from trucks/loads:

- Inspectors will check that workers are using safe work practices where they may be exposed to the hazard of falling from the beds of trucks, trailers or the top of loads.

Ergonomics:

- Inspectors will check that workers are performing tasks in a manner that prevents falls. This will include checking workers' posture, use of force and other ergonomic factors. For example, inspectors will check that workers are carrying objects so their view is not obstructed or they are working on a ladder in a safe manner that protects them from losing their balance.

Worker Training:

- Inspectors will check that workers receive information, instruction and supervision to prevent injuries and deaths from fall hazards including the right to refuse unsafe work.

Ministry of Labour Resources

MOL Blitz Announcement and Fact Sheet

Will be posted on the MOL Internet Site

Health and Safety Partners

<http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/websites.php>

Sector Plans

<http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/sawo/sectorplans/index.php>

Hazard Alerts

<http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/pubs/alerts/index.php>

Occupational Health and Safety Contact Center

- Toll-free: 1-877-202-0008
- TTY: 1-855-653-9260
- Call any time to report critical injuries, fatalities or work refusals.
- Call 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday, for general inquiries about workplace health and safety.
- In an emergency, always call 911 immediately.

Thank You!