

# Burnout in the Workplace: A Focus on Prevention

Public Services Health & Safety Association Olena Chapovalov, RN, MPH – H&S Consultant



#### Who We Are



**ESTABLISHED IN** 

200

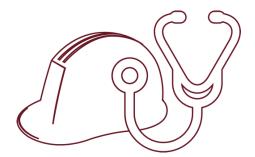
NON-PROFIT ASSOCIATION

FUNDED PARTNER

OF THE Ministry of Labour

WE PROVIDE OCCUPATIONAL

**HEALTH** 



**&SAFETY** 

Training Resources Consulting

**WE WORK WITH** 

1.67 + MILLION WORKERS

10,000+
ORGANIZATIONS

ONTARIO'S PUBLIC & BROADER PUBLIC SECTORS:

Education
Healthcare
Emergency Services
Government
First Nations



# **Agenda**

- 1. Burnout what is it and why is it an issue for Workplaces
- 2. Recognizing burnout
- 3. Prevention of burnout
- 4. Controlling burnout
- 5. Resources





# Psychologically Healthy and Safe Workplace

 A workplace that promotes workers' psychological well-being and actively works to prevent harm to worker psychological health including in negligent, reckless, or intentional ways







# Hazard - Psychological

# Mental Health (Psychological Health)

 A state of well-being in which the individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community







# **Psychological Safety**

 The absence of harm and/or threat of harm to mental wellbeing that a worker might experience







# Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace

**Psychological Health and** Safety in the Workplace WV&H **Chronic Mental** Compassion PTSD, OSI Burnout **Fatigue** Stress







Workplace

Homelife



Worker
Self-care,
Resilience,
Mental Health
& Wellbeing

Community, Society







### **Common reactions/conditions**

- Occupational Stress Injury
- Burnout syndrome
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder/Injury
- Chronic Mental Stress
- Compassion Fatigue
- Vicarious Trauma
- Moral Injury
- Second Victim Phenomenon (HC specific)
- Suicide
- Substance Abuse







# A Canadian Spotlight on Stress

- General Social Survey 2010 stressful –
   73%
- Among these stressed workers, 37% reported that they were highly stressed
- Source of stress work for 62% (followed by time, finances, family, personal/other)







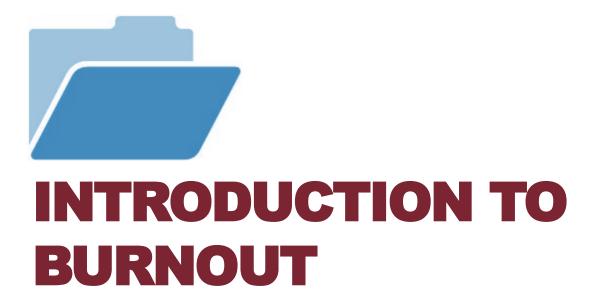
# What kind of experiences cause stress?

At least three different types of stress associated with physical and mental health risks:

- Chronic routine stress
- Sudden negative change
- Traumatic stress









### **Burnout: what is it?**

- Major psychosocial issue resulting from chronic stress
- Cumulative reaction to constant occ. stressors – misfit between worker and designated work (job)



We cannot eliminate the work to be done but we can control the risk to injury



### **Burnout:**

- Etiology
- Mismatch between expectations and processes or structures in workplace
- Workload
- Job Control
- Reward
- Community
- Fairness
- Values



### **Burnout - what is it?**

- Also known as Burnout Syndrome (BOS)
- Characterized by emotional exhaustion, cynicism and a sense of professional ineffectiveness
- A Mental Health Issue Psychological response to hazards, impacts individual as well as workplace
- Inability to cope with emotional stresses at work or the excessive use of energy leading to exhaustion and feeling of failure
- The focus of this presentation is the workplace factors which may have potential to cause mental harm and what we can do as individuals and as an organization to mitigate or control the risk this harm





# Decline in emotional & physical resources

- Meaning and purpose
- Attention
- Control
- Rational thinking
- Instincts
- Lack of energy
- Motivation
- Capacity to do work is diminished



# **Burnout: Cynicism / Depersonalization (DP)**

# Psychological state

- Detachment
- Lack of enthusiasm / determination
- Egocentric behavior
- Loss of passion
- Impersonal treatment of people
- Anxiety

# Burnout: Reduced Professional Achievement (PA)

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- Inefficiency
- Low personal accomplishments
- Lack of self confidence
- Negative self assessment
- Dissatisfaction with achievements



### **Stress**

#### Stress is the nonspecific response of the body to any demand for change

**Eustress** or positive stress, has the following characteristics:

- Is short-term
- Motivates, focuses energy
- Is perceived as within our coping abilities
- Feels exciting
- Improves performance

**Distress** or negative stress, has the following characteristics:

- Can be short- or long-term
- Causes anxiety or concern
- Is perceived as outside of our coping abilities
- Feels unpleasant
- Decreases performance



### **Stress Continuum**

- Eustress "positive stress" to Burnout Syndrome (BOS)
- BOS "distress". Unable to cope with stressors over an extended period of time, leading to depletion of the body's defense mechanisms and ultimately physical and emotional exhaustion (Vahedian-Azimi et al., 2017)
- BOS Emotional exhaustion, depersonalization, and reduced personal achievement (redefined in 1996)





HEALTHY	REACTING	INJURED	ILL
Good Mental Health Normal Functioning	Common, self- limiting distress	More severe and persistent functional impairment	Diagnosable mental illness Severe and persistent functional impairment

Adapted from the US Marine Corps.



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#### Recognize

#### Assess

#### Control

#### **Evaluate**

- Workplace Inspections
- Hazard Identification Tools
- Job Hazard Analysis
- Observations
- Problems/ concerns of anyone
- Use your senses
- Review of Documents

- Compare to a standard
- · Risk assessment
- Identify how the individual might get harmed
- Identify the probability that the hazard is going to cause harm
- Identify how severe the hazard could be
- Identify hazard priority

- Locations:
  - At the Source
  - Along the Path
- At the Worker
- · Controls:
  - Elimination
  - Substitution
  - Engineering
  - Administrative
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- · The control is:
  - Working as expected
- Has been communicated to affected workers
- Reduces the risk
- Reduces complaints, injuries, illnesses
- Does not create new hazards



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#### Recognize

# Signs & Symptoms

- ►Identify H&S metrics
- Identify workplace stressors

#### **Assess**

Determine current state; Mindful Employer, Stress Assess Surveys

#### **Control**

Educating & training

Structural changes to reduce workplace stress

#### **Evaluate**

Check the impact of controls

Are they making the desired difference?







# Burnout; how do we Recognize it?

In ourselves and our colleagues.... can be broken down into 3 Categories:

Physical signs and symptoms

• Behavioral signs and symptoms

Social signs and symptoms





- Exhaustion
- Sleep Disruptions
- Headaches, migraines
- Aches and pains without a discernible physical injury
- Eye twitching
- Heartburn/indigestion, nausea
- Increased susceptibility to illness; frequent colds, flu



# **Behavioral Signs & Symptoms of Burnout**

- Cognitive Weariness
- Forgetfulness
- Judgement and/or Decision Making
- Anger or irritability



# Social Signs & Symptoms of Burnout

- Withdrawing from social events/gatherings
- Not wanting to be around others
- Overindulgence

# How do we Recognize Burnout in our Organizations?



- ↑ Absenteeism
- ↑ Presenteeism
- ↑ MSD's and other injuries
- † grievances and or internal conflicts
- Employees with an exaggerated sense of responsibility
- Employees expressing inadequacy for accomplishments
- ↑ Errors



# **Recognition Continued**

- ↓ Quality of service / work
- ↓ Employee morale
- Turnover
- Individuals with poor self esteem or devaluing their accomplishments
- ↑ Costs associated with healthcare/disability
- ↑ Mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety disorders





- Fast pace More demand, less control
- Shift work
- Client populations
- Insufficient/inadequate funding
- Low social support at work
- Interpersonal conflicts
- Low participation in decision making
- Exposure to suffering, trauma, dying patients





# R.A.C.E. Against Burnout

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### **ASSESS**

- CCOHS Mental Health
- https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/psychosocial/mentalhealth\_risk.html
- Workplace Strategies for Mental Health <u>https://www.workplacestrategiesformentalhealth.com/</u>
- Mindful Employer
   <a href="https://www.mindfulemployer.ca/">https://www.mindfulemployer.ca/</a>
- Stress Assess OHCOW https://stressassess.ca/



### **CCOHS Resources**



- https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/psychosocial/mentalhealth\_risk.html
- https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/psychosocial/mentalhealth\_address.html
- https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/psychosocial/mentalhealth\_intro.html

# **Workplace Strategies for Mental Health**





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Can we help you find something? Find out more

PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGING WORKPLACE ISSUES EMPLOYEE RESOURCES

JOB-SPECIFIC STRATEGIES

FREE TRAINING

Improve psychological health and safety in your workplace.

Support employee success when mental health is a factor.

ALL TOOLS AND RESOURCES ARE FREE.
USE THEM TO HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE.





Learn about the National Standard – Civility and Respect

Civility and Respect means showing appreciation, care, and consideration for everyone, whether they're coworkers, supervisors, customers, or clients. Create a psychologically safe and healthy workplace using these tips from the National Standard.

#### Latest News

PRESENTED BY THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION OF CANADA: SUBSTANCE USE AND MENTAL HEALTH ON CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT EVENT

The Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC), in collaboration with key partners and funders, invites you to a **Substance Use and Mental Health on Campus Engagement Event** to inform a new Standard for Psychological Health and Safety for Post-Secondary Students (PSS Standard).

Many post-secondary students experience

https://www.workplacestrategiesformentalhealth.com/Search/DisplaySearch

### **Mindful Employer**





#### **HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?**









### StressAssess



Choose from two versions



# Stress Assess - OHCOW





#### StressAssess



Personal Edition



TABS SPECTRUM GRAPH

#### Your Results

See how your score compares to the average score collected from a representative sample of workers from Canadian organizations with more than five workers. Note that this is for your information only. Advice and ideas on how to take action to improve your psychosocial health and safety are provided, but decide whether these results represent a situation that needs to be addressed.

Quantitative work demands	Tempo, work pace	Emotional demands	
Influence at work	Possibilities for development (skill discretion)	Meaningful work	
Predictability (sufficient information)	Recognition	Role clarity	than
Role conflicts	Quality of leadership	Social support from colleagues	
Social support from supervisors	Sense of community at work	Insecurity over employment	
Insecurity over working conditions	Vertical trust	Organizational justice	
Physical work environment concerns	Safety concerns	Satisfaction with work - job satisfaction	
Overall Health	Burnout Symptoms	Stress Symptoms	
Undesired sexual attention	Threats of violence	Physical violence	
Bullying			

(incomplete)

much better

better

same as

not as good as

worse

much worse

than the National average







### Prevention of Burnout, Controls

Refresher of what it is ....

Characterized by emotional exhaustion, cynicism / depersonalization and a pervading sense of professional ineffectiveness



### Prevention of Burnout, Control

The methodologies we use to prevent a physical injury can and should be applied for the prevention of a mental injury or illness



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#### **Control Measures**

1. CONTROLS AT THE SOURCE

2. ALONG THE PATH

3. AT THE WORKER















ELIMINATION
Remove the Hazard

SUBSTITUTION
Replace the Hazard

ENGINEERING

Design out the Hazard

ADMINISTRATIVE Safe Work Policies, Processes and Practices PERSONAL
PROTECTIVE
EQUIPMENT
Protect at the Worker

### Hierarchy of Controls for the Prevention of Burnout

#### At the Source

Redesigning tasks or environments, encouraging participation, time management, team building, creating flexible working conditions and increasing personal support

#### **Along the Path**

Health promotion, relaxation techniques, stress and conflict management skills, assertiveness training, screening for early symptoms and exposures, mindfulness and resilience training, improving communication

#### At the Worker

Counselling services (Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy (REBT), EAP, rehab. programs, return to work initiatives, stress management services

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	individual	organizational
prevention level	At the source Coping and appraisal skills (resiliency)	At the source Changing the culture, climate, work structure, workload management & organization
	Along the path Wellness, relaxation techniques (mindfulness)	Along the path Awareness, Mental Health 1 <sup>st</sup> Aid training, screening (surveys)
	At the worker Therapy, counselling, medication, support	At the worker  EAP, WSIA recognition of chronic stress, return to work

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- involvement and influence
- workload management
- engagement
- work/life balance
- psychological protection from violence, bullying, and harassment
- protection of physical safety; and
- other chronic stressors as identified by workers
- \* CSA Z1003 clause 4.3.4.2

- psychological support
- organizational culture
- clear leadership and expectations
- civility and respect
- psychological job demands
- growth and development
- recognition and reward





#### Resilience

- Ability to 'bounce back' after an adversity
- Individual and organizational
- 'Bounce forward' after adversity and develop new strengths that contribute to the organization







### **Building Resilience – in Organizations and Individuals**

- Low resilience more likely to exhibit illness, disability, higher absence and turnover, and reduced engagement and productivity.
- Employees can be resilient by imposing resiliency building program that are:
  - Self-regulation
  - Efficient problem solving
  - Self-efficacy
  - Social support







### Create a respectful workplace

- A disrespectful or uncivil workplace can result in reduced employee productivity, poor engagement, conflict and complaints. This may escalate to violence and can contribute to accidents, incidents and injuries.
- Harassment and bullying contribute to psychological injuries, including stress disorders, anxiety and depression.
- If not addressed, disrespectful behavior can become pervasive, resulting in a 'toxic workplace' that can undermine employee recruitment, labor relations and customer confidence.







### **Enhance Mental Health Knowledge**

- Anti-stigma interventions
- Use of 'contact-based education', in which individuals with experiences of mental illness are invited into the workplace to share their stories and employee are given the opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussion







#### **Coordinated RTW**

 A key role for the RTW Coordinator is to facilitate communication between managers, health care providers and employees, coaching each of these key players and ensuring they are having the critical conversations needed to identify and resolve problems preventing work return







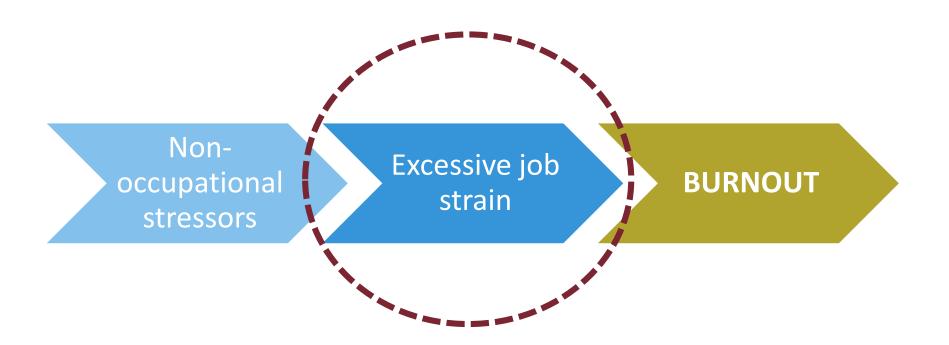
### **Culture of Psychological Safety**

- Shared commitment to the importance of promoting and protecting the psychological well-being and safety of employees by taking actions to identify and address risks
- Psychological Safety culture may be enhanced by:
  - Ongoing leadership commitment
  - Two-way communication
  - Learning approach
  - Employee involvement
  - Attitude towards blame





### **Path to Burnout**









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### **Evaluating Controls**





### **Evaluating Controls**

- Evaluating the effectiveness of control strategies can include short term and long term objectives:
- Short Term:
  - Has the hazard been adequately controlled?
  - o Is the control easy to maintain?
  - o Are there any concerns or problems?
  - Have any new problems or hazards been created?
- Long Term:
  - Number of psychological cases reported?
  - Severity of psychological injuries or injuries?



### Take away messages...

- It's okay to feel burnout
- Employers cannot ignore the psychological health and safety piece
- I understand what <u>I</u> can do in the workplace to help prevent burnout
- Many evidence-based resources are available to help employees and employers establish good practices







#### **PSHSA**

### https://www.healthy-worker.ca/

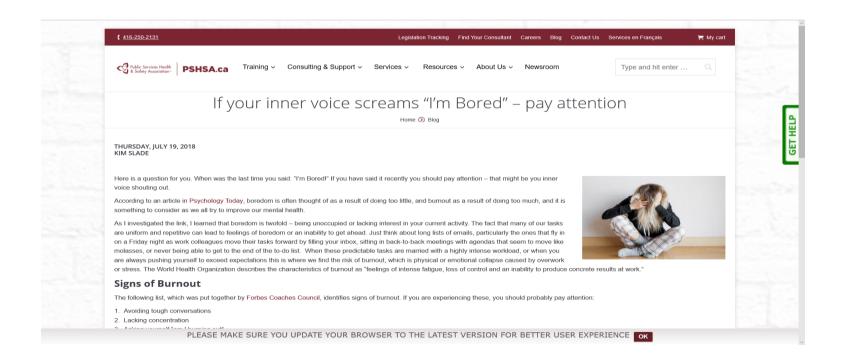
### Healthy Worker

We work, we care for and support our family, and we care for ourselves. We commit to juggling these roles in life, but doing so often puts us in overwhelming situations and constantly managing conflicting priorities.

Learn More ↓



### **PSHSA – Burnout Blogs**



https://www.pshsa.ca/blog/if-your-inner-voice-screams-im-bored-pay-attention/





#### Resources



#### **Mental Health Resources by Topic**

Topic	Subtopic	Resources	
		PSHSA Resources	Other Resources
Chronic Mental Stress	WSIB Chronic Mental Stress Policy	PSHSA's response to WSIB's Chronic Mental Stress policy consultation https://www.pshsa.ca/newsroom/pshsa-response-wsib-chronic-mental-stress-policy-consultation/	WSIB – Chronic Mental Stress Policy http://www.wsib.on.ca/WSIBPortal/faces/WSIBManualPage? cGUID=15-03- 14&rDef=WSIB RD OPM&fGUID=835502100635000498& af rLoop=2162065747414000& afrWindowMode=0& afrWindo wld=12w4eoyswu 1#%40%3FcGUID%3D15-03- 14%26 afrWindowld%3D12w4eoyswu 1%26 afrLoop%3D21 62065747414000%26rDef%3DWSIB_RD_OPM%26_afrWindo wMode%3D0%26fGUID%3D835502100635000498%26 adf.ct rl-state%3D12w4eoyswu 25 WSIB – Chronic Mental Stress FAQ See above link
	Chronic Mental Stress / Resiliency at work	Chronic Mental Stress and Resiliency – Key concepts and actions for employers. Dr. Ash Bender. https://www.pshsa.ca/product/chronic-mental-stress-and-resilience-key-concepts-and-actions-for-employers/ Webinar: Burnout in the Workplace https://www.pshsa.ca/product/burnout-in-the-workplace-a-focus-on-prevention-october-23-2018-from-1200pm-to-100pm-webinar/	Webinar: OEA – Mental Stress – the New Landscape





#### **CCOHS Resources**



- https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/psychosocial/mentalhealth\_risk.html
- https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/psychosocial/mentalhealth\_address.html
- https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/psychosocial/mentalhealth\_intro.html

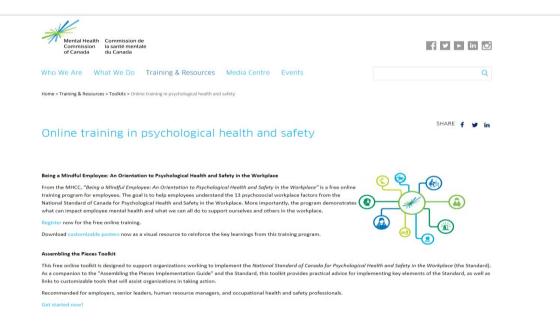


### **Free E-learning tools**

- Being a Mindful Employee: An orientation to Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace
  - a course for anyone interested in learning more about how you can contribute to positive mental health at work.
- Assembling the Pieces Toolkit online course recommended for employers, senior leaders, human resource managers, and occupational health and safety professionals who are working to implement the Standard.



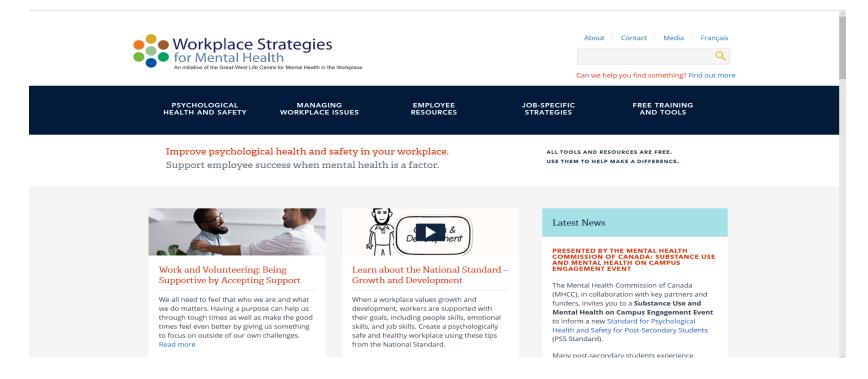
### Free E-learning tools



 https://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/English/online-trainingpsychological-health-and-safety







 https://www.workplacestrategiesformentalhealth.com/Search/Displa ySearch

# "Beyond Silence" Training for Workplace Mental Health Champions

#### "Beyond Silence"

Evidence-based workplace mental health training program customized for healthcare and EMS workers



- Focus on building skills to promote early intervention and support for mental health at work as well as psychological health and safety in the workplace
- PSHSA will be offering 8 training programs over the next two years and evaluating the impact

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#### **Contact**

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### Thank you!









