

The top hazards

Everyone in your company should know them by heart

The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) has identified four “priority hazard” areas. IHSA member firms have seen hundreds of injuries in each of them.

According to the statistics, musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs), falls, motor vehicle incidents, and contacts with machinery have caused more than 1,900 lost-time injuries (LTIs) within IHSA’s membership to April this year.

Top Hazards

Priority hazard	Number of LTIs (as of April 2010)
Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs)	1,155
Falls	645
Motor vehicle incidents	100
Contact with machinery	51

Along with IHSA and the WSIB, the Ministry of Labour has emphasized the need to reduce injuries in these areas through a series of targeted inspection blitzes related to MSDs, falls, and machine guarding across a number of industries, including those served by IHSA.

Priority areas

1. MSDs – Musculoskeletal disorders account for a large percentage of lost-time injuries in all the industries IHSA serves. See the articles on MSDs in this magazine, and visit www.ihsa.ca for a wealth of information on preventing MSDs.

2. Slips, trips, falls – Slips, trips, and falls on one level and from one level to another continue to be the cause of many serious injuries to member employees. These are very preventable through awareness, ongoing training, and prevention efforts. See the centre pullout of this magazine for more information on preventing falls.

3. Contact with machinery – Rotating, reciprocating, vibrating, or any moving equipment can cause serious injuries. While this may describe just about any machinery, without proper guarding, all machinery carries potential for injury.

4. Motor vehicle incidents – Ontario’s roads are congested and while Ontario compares favourably to other jurisdictions in terms of injury/fatality rates resulting from collisions, we still see many injuries and fatalities from road-related incidents.

The news is not all bad, however. The lost-time injury rate has been consistently lower each month this year over last year. This is a significant achievement. On the other hand, there is always room for improvement.

That’s why IHSA will continue to provide and enhance its products and services that focus on these areas. Through training courses, consultant visits, information manuals, and web-based resources, IHSA can help your company identify these and other hazards in your workplace, then create controls or ways to eliminate those hazards and reduce lost-time injuries.

How does your firm address these four critical areas? Do you have policies that address them? If we eliminated lost-time injuries in these four key areas, the impact, both physical and financial, would be substantial.

For more information on how we can help you, visit www.ihsa.ca 