National Roads and Bridges

Traffic control

In June, the MOL conducted an inspection blitz on the dangers of working around vehicles and large pieces of mobile equipment at construction sites, including roadwork projects. During this period, 944 orders were issued, 56 of which were stop-work orders. The orders were based on 573 field visits by inspectors. The orders issued most often were for:
- lack of protective headgear
- failure to develop and use a traffic protection plan
- failure to ensure workers and employer complied with the Occupational Health and Safety Act and regulations

The MOL chose this issue for its blitz because there had been so many injuries and fatalities in this kind of work. Between 2009 and 2011, four workers were killed or injured on construction sites and roadwork projects and fifteen workers were seriously injured.

Pits and quarries

In July, inspectors visited Ontario’s pits and quarries. The MOL had targeted these workplaces because of the high number of serious incidents. MOL statistics show that since 2000, ten workers have been killed on this kind of worksite and sixty-one have been injured.

Tower cranes, mobile cranes, and concrete-pumping equipment

In July and August, inspectors visited construction sites to look at tower cranes, mobile cranes, and concrete-pumping equipment.

The condition and operation of these types of equipment continue to be a serious concern in Ontario. Between 2007 and 2011, one worker died and seven workers were seriously injured in tower and mobile crane accidents at construction sites.

During the blitz, inspectors focused on:
- safe access and fall prevention
- proximity of overhead energized powerlines
- maintenance records and other records for tower cranes
- maintenance records and other records for mobile cranes
- training.

During this blitz, inspectors visited 527 construction projects and issued 1,481 orders, including 149 stop-work orders.

Results 2012

Last summer, Ontario Ministry of Labour (MOL) inspectors were busy with three different inspection blitzes in the construction and aggregates sectors.

The MOL uses these blitzes as an opportunity to raise awareness about the health and safety hazards in specific workplaces. Inspectors check to see if workplaces are complying with laws and regulations and trying to prevent injuries and illnesses that can result from unsafe work practices. They’ve undertaken these inspections as part of the Safe at Work Ontario strategy, which pays special attention to companies whose injury rates are higher than average, or that have a higher risk of accident because of their industry, the size of the business, and other factors.
Supervision in construction
In September and October, inspectors shifted their attention to supervisors and their influence on safety in construction. Inspectors made 1,916 visits to 1,671 workplaces looking for supervisors who
• provided supervision
• inspected equipment and systems regularly
• provided written instructions for workers
• made sure work was done according to the relevant laws, regulations, and policies
• ensured that workers wore personal protective equipment
• protected workers by taking every reasonable safety precaution.

Of the orders that were issued during this period, most were for inadequate fall protection, a serious hazard to workers. As a result, the second-highest number of orders were stop-work orders. A high percentage of orders had to do with personal protective equipment and appointing a supervisor as constructor without fully specifying his or her duties.

2013 blitzes
In February and March 2013, MOL inspectors conducted a winter safety blitz across several sectors, where they checked for slip, trip, and fall hazards in industrial and construction workplaces. The results are not yet available. The full schedule of blitzes to be conducted in 2013-2014 is available on the MOL website. Refer to the article on page 25 for the blitzes relevant to IHSA’s industries.

IHSA will continue to work with the MOL to make sure we provide the resources, training programs, and related products that will help our member firms reduce the workplace hazards that were identified during the inspection blitzes. We’ll make sure you have access to the right prevention tools and resources, such as articles in IHSA.ca Magazine and our monthly email 2-Minute News.

How IHSA can help
Although these blitzes are over, the workplace hazards that led to them still exist. IHSA has a variety of resources and training programs that deal with those hazards. The topic pages on our website continue to provide links to useful resources.

Traffic control
For anyone who works around traffic and mobile equipment, IHSA’s Traffic Control topic page contains useful information, including best practices, training courses, and helpful resources. ihsa.ca/topics_hazards/traffic_control.cfm

Aggregates
IHSA’s Aggregates topic page has information for those who work in pits and quarries. Training courses, products, and many free downloads are available here. ihsa.ca/topics_hazards/aggregates.cfm

Cranes and concrete pumps
Our Cranes and concrete pumps topic page covers hazards related to this type of equipment such as struck-by injuries, electrocution, crushing injuries, and falls. ihsa.ca/topics_hazards/cranes_and_concrete_pumps.cfm

Competent supervisors
IHSA’s Supervisors topic page outlines the duties and responsibilities of supervisors and the legislation that governs them. It also has a link to relevant training and products that IHSA offers for supervisors. IHSA has created a short video in which IHSA and MOL staff discuss some of the questions supervisors may have, their responsibilities, due diligence, and some best practices. ihsa.ca/topics_hazards/supervisors.cfm