



## MOL looks at recycling and waste management in **upcoming blitz**

Recycling and waste management firms have seen a rise in injuries in recent years, and now they are going to see Ministry of Labour (MOL) inspectors knocking on their doors. In October and November, MOL inspectors will be visiting recycling and waste management facilities as part of a provincial safety blitz.

From 2010 to 2011, the total injury rate on these industrial sites increased by almost 13 per cent.\* During the same period, the number of workers in that sector rose by 25 per cent. In most cases, inspectors will be visiting these industrial employers to make sure that health and safety programs include appropriate measures to reduce hazards in these workplaces.

This blitz will include visits to both municipal and privately owned workplaces. Inspectors will focus on a variety of situations and issues including, but not limited to, the following:

- movement of materials in and out of buildings
- safe use of cranes and lifting devices
- safe operation of mobile material-handling equipment
- safety of persons on foot in the workplace and surrounding yards
- occupational hygiene issues such as noise, silica, dust, and biohazards
- slipping, tripping, and falling hazards
- musculoskeletal hazards.

Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) and falls continue to be the leading causes of injuries in this rate group, and in 2012 they were responsible for just over 50 per cent of all lost-time injuries.

\*Statistics were provided by Ontario's Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB).



Province-wide blitzes not only give MOL inspectors the opportunity to check Ontario's workplaces for compliance with the relevant legislation but also to provide education on the problems they find.

## How IHSA can help

### Resources

IHSA is here to help you and your workers prepare for this blitz. You can find many free resources on our website. Visit [ihsa.ca/topics\\_hazards](http://ihsa.ca/topics_hazards) to download free safety talks, posters, and prevention tips on topics such as fall prevention, occupational diseases, and MSDs.

### Training

IHSA offers a variety of courses that may be helpful before and after the blitz, such as

- Working at Heights
- Basics of Supervising
- Ergonomics: Implementing into the Workplace
- Ergonomics for Transportation: How to Prevent Strains, Sprains, and Overexertion
- Ergonomics: Manual Material Handling Workshop
- Lift Truck Operator

If your workers haven't been trained yet, register them today at [ihsa.ca/training](http://ihsa.ca/training)