



STOP FALLS!

New working at heights rules are in effect IHSA now an approved training provider

Falling from heights continues to be a leading source of injury and death on Ontario construction sites. Even though employers are required to provide workers with fall protection training, until recently there was no standard in place to ensure the quality of that training. That all changed when the Prevention Office of the Ministry of Labour (MOL) released the Working at Heights Training Program Standard and Training Provider Standard.

As of April 1, 2015, certain construction workers must take working at heights training that has been approved by Ontario's Chief Prevention Officer (CPO). This applies to workers on construction projects who use any of the following methods of fall protection:

1. A travel restraint system
2. A fall restricting system
3. A fall arrest system
4. A safety net
5. A work belt
6. A safety belt

IHSA was one of the first working at heights training providers to be approved. So as of April 1, 2015, all of **IHSA's Working at Heights: Fundamentals of Fall Prevention courses meet the requirements of the new legislation.**

Reducing working at heights injuries and fatalities through standardized training is a key component of the

MOL's *Healthy and Safe Ontario Workplaces* strategy. Both the Minister of Labour, Kevin Flynn, and the Chief Prevention Officer, George Gritziotis, attended one of IHSA's working at heights courses recently to underscore to participants the need for consistent and competent training by approved training providers such as IHSA (see picture above).

The approved working at heights training will be **valid for three years from the date of completion.** Workers who have already received training that met the previous requirements set out in section 26.2 of the Regulation for Construction Projects (213/91), which includes IHSA's previous *Working at Heights* course, will have **two years (until April 1, 2017) to complete an approved working at heights training program.**

All of the working at heights programs that are approved in Ontario meet the strict requirements of the training program standard. Each program must include two modules: one that covers the basic theories and knowledge required to work safely at heights, and a second, practical component that requires students to perform a hands-on demonstration of the relevant equipment and procedures.

IHSA's *Working at Heights—Fundamentals of Fall Prevention* program meets this high standard of training. IHSA has a long list of training dates throughout the year at locations across Ontario for working at heights training. The schedule is available in the training section of ihsa.ca

