



# Small business safety solutions IHSA can help



At IHSA, we recognize that the health and safety needs of independent operators and small business owners are not the same as those of large firms.

Maybe you don't think you have the budget or the dedicated staff for an effective health and safety management system. Or maybe you think the odds of one of your workers getting hurt on the job are so slim that it's not worth the time and money.

That's why we have compiled this issue of *IHSA.ca Magazine*. It's filled with suggestions and links to resources that can help smaller companies comply with Ontario's health and safety legislation. Because even a small employer is responsible for making sure their employees are safe on the job.

IHSA's membership is largely made up of small businesses, which are companies with less than 50 full-time staff or equivalent. In fact, 96 per cent of our member firms have less than 20 employees and 85 per cent have less than 5.\*

In some ways, it's even more important for smaller companies to pay attention to safety than it is for larger companies. A single workplace injury can have a devastating effect on a business with just a few employees.

Think about losing one of four workers for several weeks during a busy work season due to a broken bone or a back injury. That's 25 per cent of your workforce laid up instead of earning money. And that's one worker suffering because safety was an unaffordable luxury—a “nice to have” instead of a mandatory practice ingrained in every aspect of your work. By preventing injuries and illness, you will not only be protecting your workers but also your financial future.

So take a look at what's inside this issue of *IHSA.ca Magazine*. You'll find small business safety solutions, a five-step safety guide for small businesses, a best practices guide for small businesses, safety tips for independent truck drivers and owner-operators, and a health and safety guide for supervisors. There's also information on due diligence, working alone, manual material handling, new working at heights rules, and how IHSA can support you in your safety efforts.

We hope you'll find this issue of the magazine to be a useful tool for helping improve your company's health and safety program. If you can, share this information with other small businesses you know and work with.

\*According to 2014 statistics provided by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB).