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IHSA signs on with

A specialized approach to health and safety
Explain dangers
The most common injuries workers suffer from falling objects are contusions, fractures, strains, and sprains. The objects that commonly fall range from large items such as roof trusses and steel beams to small items such as fasteners and small hand tools.

Identify controls

Physical controls involve physically stopping the object from falling (or from falling very far).

Guardrails—Toeboards must be installed on all guardrails to stop objects from falling down to the level below. They must be a minimum of 4” high and installed flush with the surface. If you pile tools, equipment, or materials higher than 4” high, you should put plywood panels or screening on the guardrails to prevent materials from falling down to the level below and stop small objects from falling through the openings between rails. As best practice, use paneling all the time, not just when tools or material are stacked higher than 4”.

Open grating covers—If you are performing work on open grating, place non-slip plywood or a similar product on top of the grating to prevent small objects from falling through it.

Barricades and overhead protective structures—Use barricades to block off exclusion zones below the work area. Combine barricades with signs that indicate it is an exclusion zone and entry is prohibited. This includes hoisting areas. When it is not practical to use barricades for exclusion zones, use overhead protective structures. For minimum design requirements, refer to section 64 (3) in the construction regulation.

Carts with sides—When moving equipment, tools, or material, always use a cart that is an appropriate size for what you are moving and make sure the cart has sides. If you need to extend something over the sides of the cart, you must secure the item and the cart must be stable.

Tool lanyards and tethers—These can attach tools directly to the worker’s harness or tool belt to prevent tools from dropping to a lower level.

Procedural controls involve changing the way you work so that objects can’t fall.

Securing loads—When lifting, make sure the load is balanced and secured. Check for small or loose pieces before you lift. Otherwise, a shift in the load or windy conditions could cause the load to fall. If you’re placing a load on a scaffold or a platform, make sure there are properly built guardrails in the work area that include mid-rails and toeboards.

Good hoisting practices—Never lift, lower, or swing a load over someone’s head. Use barricades to block off areas where loads are being lifted or lowered. If the operator’s view is impeded in any way, use a signaler to assist the operator. Always use proper rigging procedures and ensure the rigging equipment is in good condition.

Good housekeeping—Keep tools and other materials away from edges, railings, and other elevated surfaces. Always stack materials on flat surfaces and secure them, if necessary, to avoid movement. When working, be aware of your surroundings and watch that you don’t inadvertently knock or hit something off the level you are work on down to the level below.

Proper material stacking—To prevent tipping, store materials and equipment at least six feet away from an edge. If you are working near openings, arrange materials so that they can’t roll or slide in the direction of the opening. It is always a good idea to use opening covers as well. Wind can also pose a danger. Always secure material to prevent movement. When you remove something from a secured pile, don’t forget to re-secure the material.

Demonstrate
Perform a site inspection to identify falling-object hazards.
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On the cover...
IHSA CEO Al Beattie and Paul Casey, VP of Programs & Strategic Development, formally sign IHSA on to the COR™ program. See related article on page 23.

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After several surgeries, Micheal went into multiple organ failure. It was a direct result of the brain injury. His heart was not able to pump enough oxygen to his organs. “They asked us for permission to turn off the respirator. Within a couple of minutes, Micheal stopped breathing,” said Johanna. “He was in a coma for six days before he died. It’s been a long, hard road for our family. For ever and ever, Micheal will be missing from the table. It never leaves. He’s never far from our minds,” said Johanna. “My greatest coping mechanism has been working with the people at Threads of Life.” Threads of Life helps families heal through a community of support. Their staff and network of volunteers work to promote the elimination of life-altering workplace injuries, illnesses, and deaths.

According to the Ministry of Labour investigation, no one actually saw Micheal fall. Co-workers reported that he was having problems with his nail gun, so he climbed down from the roof to fix it. Once on the ground, he took off his harness. “We think he probably took it off to use the bathroom,” said Johanna. “Then he climbed back up the ladder to test the nail gun. He slipped at the top and fell.” EMS workers found Micheal’s harness lying on his tool box in the garage of the house they were working on. “The wording that
Johanna has one piece of advice for young workers: “Always wear your personal protective equipment. It’s there to protect you. It’s there for a reason.”

**Communication is key**

When you hire young workers, you can’t always treat them the same way you treat regular employees. Young workers have different experiences, different values, and may have fewer basic skills than your regular workers. Often, young workers don’t approach the work the same way you do. They don’t think about what could happen to them. They need you to tell them—over and over again if that’s what it takes.

Clear and effective communication can save a young worker’s life. Here are some tips to help you ensure that your young workers stay safe.

- Provide detailed orientation and training before work begins. Demonstrate how to do specific tasks and then observe the young worker doing them.
- Make sure young workers know what personal protective equipment to use, how to use it, when to use it, and why it is important to use it.
- Pair young workers with safety-conscious mentors. Ensure that the mentors are patient, can communicate with young people, and are familiar with the safe work procedures on the jobsite.
- Identify and explain the hazards young workers will be exposed to and the controls they will use to protect themselves.
- Make sure young workers understand their basic rights: the right to know, the right to participate, the right to refuse unsafe work, and the right to a workplace free of violence and harassment. Assure them that they should have no fear of reprisals for bringing up safety concerns and clearly identify to whom they should speak about it.
- Support supervisors by providing them with information and training on how to deal with young workers. Supervisors must provide young workers training and guidance at all times, not only during orientation.
- Even if things seem to be going well, have your supervisors follow up with young workers each week to keep in constant communication.
- Ask young workers to repeat instructions back to you or have them demonstrate the task for you to make sure they understand what you are asking them to do.
- Remind everyone that young workers may not understand industry terms and acronyms.

For more tips and resources on how to protect young workers, visit the New and Experienced Workers section at [ihsa.ca](http://ihsa.ca)

To find out more about Threads of Life and the important work they do, visit [threadsoflife.ca](http://threadsoflife.ca)
GET READY FOR spring start-up

Spring is finally here and work activities are ramping up for many of the industries IHSA serves. But increased activity creates more chances for workplace injury. Spring is a great time to check that your health and safety procedures are in place, your vehicles and equipment are working properly, your workers are trained and ready, and the jobsite conditions are safe.

Policies and procedures
Your health and safety policy and program must be reviewed at least once a year (OHSA, s.25 (2)). Check to see if there are any gaps or if the regulations have changed. If you revise the policy and program, make sure you communicate the changes to your workers.

Use the checklist below to make sure you have covered some of the basics.

- A Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) or health and safety representative has been appointed.
- First aiders have been designated.
- Worker training has been scheduled to take place before the work activity begins.
- Workers and subcontractors have been instructed on site-specific jobsite hazards and emergency procedures.
- Workers have the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) required by the company and the regulations.
- Start-up and maintenance procedures follow the best safe work practices.

Vehicles and equipment
Inspect vehicles and equipment and make sure everything is in good working order. They may have been inactive over the winter or been damaged by ice and snow. Some best practices include the following.

- Exhaust systems have been checked for leaks. (Diesel exhaust can damage the lungs and cause cancer.)
- Manufacturers’ instructions, operators’ manuals, and maintenance logs are available on the equipment.
- Operators are qualified and competent to operate the vehicles and equipment safely.
- Procedures are in place to safely off-load equipment or material from delivery vehicles.
- PPE, lifelines, lanyards, and ropes (including wire rope) have been inspected.

Policy and Program Resources
Visit IHSA’s Policy and Program section at ihsa.ca. There you’ll find useful resources that you can customize to suit your needs, such as

- Sample health and safety policies
- Safe work practices and job procedures
- Tool and equipment maintenance checklists
- PPE checklists
- Training and orientation checklists
- Workplace inspection checklists.
Workers 
Workers may have been less active over the winter, and that makes them more prone to injury when their work activity increases. It’s a good idea to remind workers about health and safety requirements on the site by having them answer the questions below.

- I am familiar with the company’s health and safety policy and program.
- I know the name of my health and safety representative or JHSC members and the designated first aiders.
- I know my rights and responsibilities and the procedure for reporting unsafe working conditions.
- I have been properly trained for the work I will be doing.
- I am familiar with the jobsite, its hazards, and the emergency response procedures.
- I am familiar with the equipment I will be using, its hazards, and how to use it safely.
- I am aware of the hazards of heavy equipment (e.g., soil conditions may change).
- I have checked my PPE, tools, and equipment before using them. If they are defective or degraded, I will inform my supervisor.
- I have prepared my body for the work ahead (e.g., by doing warm-up exercises before starting work and using good ergonomic techniques to reduce the strain on my body).

By completing these checklists you’ll help ensure your workers are not only well-prepared for spring start-up but also on their way to a safe and healthy year.

Jobsite conditions
Water is everywhere in the spring, so the site may be slippery and soil conditions may have changed. Check that you are following the proper procedures to deal with wet conditions on site.

- A housekeeping system is in place that includes controls for mud and water (e.g., walkways will be provided where necessary).
- Ground-fault circuit interrupters will be used when operating electrical equipment outside or in wet conditions.
- Soil stability will be tested before setting up heavy equipment.
- Soil stability will be tested before trenching.
- Trenches will be properly sloped or shored—or workers will be protected by a trench box.
Wind turbines
—safety and hazard considerations

Wind turbines are quickly becoming a part of Ontario’s skyline. Dotted across the province, they are increasing in number, and so is the number of people whose jobs are connected to their transportation, construction, and maintenance.

With 15 wind farms and many more scheduled to come online in 2014, Ontario is at the forefront of wind energy in Canada. According to the province’s Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), more than 1,500 megawatts of wind generation capacity is now connected to the Ontario power grid. The Canadian Wind Energy Association (CanWEA) says Canada is the ninth-largest producer of wind energy in the world.

When most of us think about the wind turbine workers, we think of the hydro generation workers and high-angle specialists who maintain and repair these machines. However, many other sectors are also involved in the wind turbine industry. Equipment and machinery are transported to the sites. The ground has to be excavated before a wind turbine can be erected. Aggregates are supplied to the sites. Construction workers build and raise the turbines, and utility workers connect them to the electrical grid, as well as inspect and maintain the equipment.

With so many different kinds of work to do, the number of hazards that workers may be exposed to during the transportation, construction, and maintenance of a wind turbine may be greater than expected. The following sections list some of the hazards that employers may want to consider.

**What the law says**

The *Occupational Health and Safety Act* covers industrial and construction workplaces. The following issues and situations that can be involved in wind turbine work are governed by the regulations under the Act:

- asbestos
- WHMIS
- confined spaces
- first aid
- designated substances
- roll-over protective structures
- fall protection
- excavation and trenching
- electrical safety.
Transportation
Transporting this often-oversized equipment, be it turbine blades or even the necessary heavy equipment such as cranes or excavators, requires specific training. The transportation of materials to the site falls under the Highway Traffic Act. To move objects as large as the blades of a wind turbine requires special permits, as well as special signs on trucks and flagging. Escort vehicles may be required, and the moving may have to be done on certain days and at certain times, depending on traffic and location. Considerations may include
• long-wheelbase trailers
• special vehicle configurations
• reduced-load periods
• transportation of dangerous goods
• clearance in construction zones
• overhead or underground electrical hazards.

Maintenance and inspection
• Weather—Weather can make inspections dangerous. The wind should be considered during all aspects of work in, on, or around the equipment. Many companies are using the Beaufort Scale to decide when work may be done safely on the outside of a wind turbine. Temperature is also a consideration. In the cold, ice can accumulate on the blades and become a danger. Blade inspection and access, which involve the use of specialized equipment, are considered high-risk activities.
• Batteries—Hydrogen being vented from batteries is another potential safety hazard.
• Fall hazards—Workers who maintain and inspect this type of equipment should be trained in proper access and egress techniques, in the use of fall protection, and in rescue planning. Practices should be conducted and fall protection equipment should be inspected regularly.

Emergencies
Workers who find themselves at the top of a wind turbine in an emergency need to be able to think quickly and rely on their training and knowledge. Employers should give their workers an emergency plan and teach them how to put it into effect. Copies of the plan, including fall rescue procedures, should also be given to the local emergency response teams.

Companies that work on wind turbines should consider giving their workers specific training and practice in
• the use and inspection of fall protection equipment
• the use and inspection of rescue equipment
• knots and ropes
• anchorages and connectors.

They should also think about
• the frequency of rescue practices
• policies limiting outside access during specific weather conditions
• lightning strikes.

As wind energy grows in Ontario, new safety precautions will be introduced. Meanwhile, IHSA offers a variety of training courses and safety manuals that can help employers create safety protocols and policies.
Changes to WHMIS are coming

After many years of discussion and proposed implementation timelines, it seems as though the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for hazardous materials in the workplace will finally arrive in Canada and Ontario.

For some 25 years, Ontario workplaces have used the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) to inform workers about the dangers of controlled products. WHMIS is fundamental to a worker’s right to know about hazards in the workplace.

Problems with WHMIS
Canada’s WHMIS standard came into effect in 1988. Since then, our trade with countries that don’t have systems like WHMIS has increased, and new products (and hazards) have been introduced. There are differences in how other countries classify chemicals, develop Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs), and organize their labels. This can cause confusion and make it difficult to enforce and to comply with the WHMIS standard. Ultimately, this confusion threatens the health and safety of workers both here and abroad.

What is GHS?
In 1992, the United Nations created an international system for classifying and identifying workplace chemical hazards in a consistent way. This system came to be known as the Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, or GHS.

GHS has three main elements:
1. Classification of Chemicals
   GHS sets out standard rules for classifying chemicals. Chemicals are classified into one of three hazard groups: health, physical, or environmental. However, Canada is not expected to adopt the environmental hazard group. Within the hazard groups, new classes of hazards are expected, such as explosives, combustible dusts, and simple asphyxiants. Although GHS does not recognize biohazardous materials (currently Class D3 under WHMIS), this category will likely be retained by Canada.

2. Safety Data Sheets
    GHS will also require the use of newly designed Safety Data Sheets (SDSs), which will replace the current MSDSs. Although the differences are not expected to be extreme, there are some. The SDS will have 16 sections, whereas WHMIS has 9. Much of the information for the SDS is already contained in the MSDS, but is better organized and clearer. The SDS must also list the sections in a specified order, use the words “Danger” or “Warning”, post or describe hazard symbols, and include hazard statements.

3. Labels
    GHS-compliant labels contain hazard symbols and signal words and list hazardous ingredients. Some of the symbols such as those that stand for skin irritation, cancer/germ cell, aspiration hazard, and explosives are different from those used in WHMIS. (See next page for pictograms.) Perhaps the most notable change, however, will be the removal of the distinctive hatched border.
GHS in Canada
Many countries have already adopted GHS into their existing legislation. In fact, the United States has started incorporating GHS into its Hazard Communication standard. At the federal level in Canada, amendments will have to be made to the Hazardous Products Act and the Controlled Products Regulation, which set out requirements for suppliers of controlled products. At the provincial level, the WHMIS legislation must also be amended to require that proper hazard information be obtained by employers and given to workers in a way that is consistent with GHS.

When will the new system take effect?
Health Canada, which is in charge of managing GHS implementation, has expressed a strong interest in aligning and synchronizing the implementation of GHS in Canada with the United States. The following tentative schedule has been proposed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed changes to Hazardous Products Act and Controlled Products Regulation published in the Canada Gazette, Part I. This gives various interested parties a final opportunity to review and comment on the proposed changes to the legislation before it is enacted.</td>
<td>Spring 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final amendments to the federal legislation to be published in the Gazette, Part II before receiving Royal Assent and becoming law.</td>
<td>Early 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amendment to Hazardous Products Act and Controlled Products Regulation come into force.</td>
<td>June 2015</td>
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After GHS comes into force in 2015, there will likely be a transition period to allow workplaces time to convert from WHMIS to GHS. In addition, provincial WHMIS legislation will also have to be amended to incorporate the GHS requirements.

What can workplaces do to prepare for GHS?
Workplaces in Ontario should continue complying with the current WHMIS legislation. This includes training workers and providing labels and MSDSs.

GHS Safety Data Sheets: Workplaces in Ontario may already be receiving GHS-compliant Safety Data Sheets from their suppliers. Although the use of the sheets is permitted, employers must ensure that workers are trained to understand the new style of SDS.

GHS labels: Some workplaces may already be receiving GHS labels; however, the use of these labels in place of WHMIS labels in the workplace is not yet permitted.

Review inventory: With the expected implementation of GHS in Canada likely to be only a few years away, workplaces should consider reviewing their inventory and minimizing unnecessary chemicals in the workplace. This can help them make the transition from WHMIS to GHS.

The transition to GHS is expected to result in much activity in the coming year. Check back with IHSAs for more updates as new information becomes available.
This year’s winter has been varied and unusual. From bitterly cold days to unseasonably summer-like conditions, the winter of 2012-13 has been a season of freezing and thawing. Those conditions and the coming spring may cause problems for many who rely on vehicles as the roads fall victim to spring thaw.

During the spring thaw, roads are much more fragile than at other times of the year. Under the weight of traffic, especially heavy trucks, potholes will appear at the weak spot in a road. Even one overweight truck can cause a lot of damage.

In Ontario, potholes, cracks, and breaks are a fact of life on our highways, roads, and city streets. Those can be made worse by above-average spring runoff and high water tables. Dry weather, on the other hand, helps to stabilize road beds, which allows crews to make repairs promptly.

Under the Ontario Highway Traffic Act, the province restricts the loads on trucks to protect the highways during the spring thaw, when roads are most likely to be damaged. Seasonal load restrictions are also common in other parts of Canada and in the United States—many road authorities monitor the depth of the frost to help them decide about load restrictions. The times and places where reduced load limits will be in effect are specified on special signs that are posted beside the road.

Potholes are caused when water from rain or snow works its way under the pavement. When the temperature drops, that moisture freezes and expands, moving some of the soil under the pavement. When the temperature rises again, the ice melts, leaving a weak spot under the pavement that can break with the pressure of passing vehicles. Some paved highways are more vulnerable to potholes and break-ups in the spring than others. Aged and cracked roads will allow more water to get below the pavement. Roads without much slope will stay saturated longer, because the water will have to evaporate rather than run away.

Though trucks and cars are the cause of some of the damage to roads, they can also be damaged themselves by potholes and spring thaw. Vehicles can receive damage to

• wheel rims and hubcaps
• tires
• suspension and shock absorbers
• wheel alignment.

It is important for all drivers, regardless of the size of their vehicle to

• keep their tires properly inflated (an improperly inflated tire is more likely to burst when it hits a pothole)
• maintain a safe speed
• avoid potholes safely
• beware of other cars or trucks swerving to avoid potholes
• be extra careful at night if there is a possibility of potholes.

Damage to vehicles, whether it is immediate or develops gradually, can make a worker less efficient. More important, it can cause accidents and injuries. Everyone, regardless of the size or type of their vehicle, should be especially careful when they are driving in the spring.

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation lists its most up-to-date load restriction notices on its website: www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/trucks/loadnotice.shtml
Changes to take effect in January 2015

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has updated its criteria for the annual, semi-annual, and safety standard inspections of commercial motor vehicles. The changes will harmonize Ontario’s inspection requirements with those of all other Canadian provinces and territories except Quebec. They also recognize the latest safety features found in today’s large trucks and buses.

In July 2011, the MTO adopted the National Safety Code Standard 11 Part B, commonly known as the National Standard. You may also hear it called the Periodic Commercial Motor Vehicle Inspections standard. This standard is currently being updated for safety inspections.

Large trucks, trailers, buses, school-purpose vehicles, and accessible vehicles must still be inspected and certified periodically. In future, however, the National Standard will be the standard for annual, semi-annual, and safety-standard inspections for these vehicles.

This standard enhances safety since it provides greater detail and employs a user-friendly pass/fail scheme. It also reflects recent technological enhancements to today’s large commercial vehicles. Any future updates to the standard will be adopted in Ontario so that the inspection criteria used in this province will stay current.

An educational transition period has been provided to allow technicians and vehicle owners to learn the new inspection criteria and adapt to them. This education period had originally been scheduled to end on July 1, 2013. This is now extended to January 1, 2015, at which time technicians must ensure that vehicles meet the new criteria contained in the National Standard.

The National Safety Code Standard 11B is currently being updated for all jurisdictions in Canada. The proposed revisions will not add any significant inspection requirements, however, it will add clarity and consistent language that is lacking in the current National Standard.

There has been no change to the inspection criteria for small vehicles, motorcycles, motor tricycles, and salvage vehicles or to the on-road standard for all vehicles. The new inspection criteria for annual, semi-annual, and safety-standard inspections apply only to the following vehicles:

- trucks and trailers that, alone or in combination, weigh more than 4,500 kg
- buses designed to carry 10 or more passengers, except those under 4,500 kg and used exclusively for personal use
- school-purpose vehicles transporting six or more children or adults with developmental disabilities
- accessible vehicles used for the transportation of persons with disabilities.

As before, trucks and trailers must be inspected annually, and other kinds of vehicles semi-annually. Commercial vehicles must display stickers showing that they have passed the required inspection.

The ministry’s internal study of the National standard and its consultation with industry led to 12 modifications to the standards to make them suitable for use in Ontario. These “Ontario customizations,” which pertain to such things as window tinting and anti-lock brakes for example, are intended to prevent undue hardship for the industry.

Publication of the updated National Standard will be announced on the CCMTA and MTO websites. Vehicle owners and technicians who need help in adapting to the National Standard can find more information, including an explanation of the “Ontario Customizations” and a comparison of Ontario’s current and new requirements, on the MTO website: mto.gov.on.ca/english/trucks/regulations/annual.shtml

The new inspection criteria can be found in the Highway Traffic Act, Regulation 611 (“Safety Inspections”), which has been amended.

The National Standard was developed by the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators and is for sale on their website, www.ccmta.ca
MOL Blitz 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.

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.

During this blitz, inspectors focused on traffic control, vehicle equipment (braking systems, steering, lights, etc), and vehicle access.

During the blitz period, the inspectors issued 127 orders, 12 of which were stop-work orders. The orders issued most often were for:
- poorly maintained equipment
- inadequate conveyor guarding or pull cords
- lack of guarding for exposed moving parts

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.
**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](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](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](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](ihsa.ca/topics_hazards/supervisors.cfm)
Since being introduced to Ontario, the Certificate of Recognition (COR™) program has gained momentum and is establishing itself as the future of occupational health and safety in the province. Of the more than 230 firms registered, 24 have already been awarded certification. The others are working diligently through the various stages of the program.

With a history that goes back more than 20 years, COR™ is a well-established, Canada-wide certification program that assesses and develops a company’s health and safety management system. IHSA brought COR™ to Ontario in 2011 in order to raise the standards of injury and illness prevention across the province. The program focuses on 19 elements that promote healthy and safe behaviour. To become certified, a firm must first pass an internal audit of its health and safety policy and program, and then pass an external, third-party audit.

The fact that COR™ is being adopted so rapidly in Ontario is not a surprise since it has already proved itself in the western provinces. But what is a bit unexpected is who is becoming certified. “We have a significant number of smaller firms with 15, 20, 30 people working towards certification. It’s not only the large, multimillion-dollar companies that are getting involved with COR™ at this early stage, as some may have expected”, says Carlos Figueira, a COR™ consultant at IHSA.

**Setting the standard**
One of those smaller firms that Mr. Figueira referred to is Allerion Oilfield Services. Allerion, a company with about 20 employees, is a leader in aboveground oil tank services and recently became COR™ certified. In addition to its work in southwestern Ontario, Allerion is active in Alberta’s oil industry. It has been COR™ certified in Alberta for several years, so the program wasn’t new to them. According to Chad Burke, the Health, Safety, and Environment Manager at Allerion, COR™ has become a regular part of the bidding process out west. “We’re not there yet in Ontario, but I see it moving in the same direction,” he says. “We recently had a meeting with one of our main clients where we had to show our commitment to safety. We told them we were COR™ certified and explained the process to them. They were very impressed with what we had achieved and that a third party had audited our firm.”

That point was echoed by Charlie Webb, President and CEO of Anderson-Webb. “I can see COR™ becoming a standard here, and I think it’s long overdue,” he says. Anderson-Webb is a mechanical contractor firm that has been in business in the Sarnia area for 28 years. “I think those firms that don’t meet COR™ standards will eventually be the losers when it comes to getting work with some of the major companies in Ontario,” says Mr. Webb. He went on to describe a recent project at a refinery where Anderson-Webb did more than 100,000 hours of work in four weeks with about 550 tradespeople and zero recordable injuries. He attributes this accomplishment in large part to the rigorous requirements of the COR™ program.

Another company that makes health and safety a priority is Atlas-Apex, which is well on its way to becoming the first roofing contractor to obtain COR™ certification in Ontario. As a member of the National Roofing Alliance, Atlas-Apex has been hearing about COR™ for some time. “It’s been coming
and safety at all their locations. Steve Murray, Vice President of Operations, valued the fact that COR™ helped remove redundancies in their health and safety program. “When something comes up, your knee-jerk reaction is to add another form to the policy and program. When you do that, you end up with too many forms out there and the person who has to fill them all in is confused. COR™ really helped to fix that and make things more effective,” he says.

Getting buy-in where it counts
While going through the process, some companies found that a lot of their success was due to the level of worker involvement required by COR™. Having a superior health and safety program only gets you halfway there. To be effective, the workers really have to be part of it. “When I was doing the employee interviews, a pleasant surprise for me was the eagerness of our crew to be involved in this,” says Ms. Way from Grid Link. Mr. Webb from Anderson-Webb had a similar experience with the employee interviews. The way that COR™ includes the workers along with the health and safety staff is something he considered a major strength of the program. “It’s something we hadn’t seen before,” he says.

Start now
If COR™ has the same success in Ontario that it has had in other provinces, health and safety standards will be raised throughout Ontario. That means more workers will return home to their families at the end of the day, and ultimately that’s what this is all about.

Don’t wait. Join the firms that are working towards certification. For more information about the program, visit ihsa.ca/cor
Navigating Ontario’s health and safety laws and best practices can be difficult. For many independent operators and small business owners, it can be overwhelming.

IHSA recognizes that small businesses have unique health and safety needs that are sometimes different from those of larger firms. That’s why we offer a wide selection of resources designed specifically for small businesses. This past March, IHSA launched its two latest resources for small business owners and managers: IHSA Health and Safety Essentials and IHSA My Health and Safety Program.

New e-tools
When you have a clear path to follow, it’s much easier to reach your destination. That’s the idea behind the new IHSA Health and Safety Essentials and the IHSA My Health and Safety Program. They are online health and safety management tools that will keep you and your company informed, organized, and in compliance.

If you’re an independent operator or small business owner, most of your time is spent building your business. If you find it difficult to keep up with the latest health and safety legislation, these new tools are for you. They will tell you what you need to do and give you the resources to do it. They will lighten your administrative burden by giving you e-tools for managing such recurring safety processes as training requirements, inspections, and corrective actions.

By taking you step-by-step through the process of creating, implementing, and managing an effective health and safety policy and program, these new e-tools eliminate the confusion and give you a clear path to follow.

How they work
IHSA Health and Safety Essentials is an e-learning course that gives you the fundamentals of Ontario’s health and safety system. It describes the province’s major health and safety organizations, the Occupational Health and Safety Act and related regulations, and concepts such as due diligence. It also explains what a health and safety management system is and outlines the purpose of a health and safety policy and program.

IHSA Health and Safety Essentials is ideal for independent operators or new employees who are dealing with some of this information for the first time. It’s a good starting point for anyone who wants a better understanding of Ontario’s health and safety system, specifically his or her rights and responsibilities. On average, you can complete the program in two or three hours. You can also start and stop any time, which makes it easy to fit into busy schedules. You can test yourself with a short quiz after each section and an exam at the end of the program.

The IHSA My Health and Safety Program is an online health and safety management system. It helps you build your company’s health and safety policy and
Both tools are dynamic and interactive, and both use clear language and effective graphics. If you can do online banking, you will have no problem using IHSA Health and Safety Basics and the IHSA My Health and Safety Program.

My Health and Safety Program and COR™
A significant number of the firms that are currently pursuing the provincial Certificate of Recognition (COR™) are small businesses. Because the IHSA My Health and Safety Program is organized around the same 19 elements as COR™, it’s a perfect tool to help companies prepare for a COR™ audit.

By taking you step-by-step through the process of creating, implementing, and managing an effective health and safety policy and program, these new e-tools give you a clear path to follow.

Try it today!
IHSA Health and Safety Essentials is available for a one-time fee of $250 ($350 for non-members). The IHSA My Health and Safety Program is available for a subscription fee of $900 per year and up, depending on the size of your firm. Visit ihsa.ca/smallbusiness today for more details, and start using these innovative small business e-tools right away.
Many plumbing problems can be fixed within the walls of a home or business. However, there are times when you have to go beyond the outside walls of a building to clear a blocked sewer line. It’s important for you to know that there may be a potential safety issue that could arise if you attempt to clear a blocked sewer service line beyond the outside walls of a building. It is possible that natural gas lines installed using trenchless practices may have inadvertently penetrated sewer service lines and remain undetected.

Without interference, the natural gas service line is safe. Unless the natural gas line is damaged, cross-bore utility lines are not dangerous on their own and do not pose an immediate safety risk. Homeowners can have a natural gas line intersecting a sewer service line without being aware of it and without it being a problem. However, if rotating or water-jetting equipment makes contact with the gas line that intersects the sewer, it could damage the gas line and cause a gas leak, fire, or explosion.

What you need to know before clearing a blocked sewer line

When a sewer line becomes clogged or backs up, you need to get into that sewer line to clear it. However, there are a few things you should know before you attempt to clear a blocked service line. Rotating equipment—such as motorized augers, power snakes, or other root-cutting equipment—is commonly used to remove the obstruction. In some cases, water-jetting equipment may be required. If this type of equipment is used, it could make contact with and damage a natural gas line that intersects the sewer line, and that could result in a gas leak, fire, or explosion. Although we aren’t aware of any serious incidents in Canada, there have been incidents in the United States.

Call before clearing a blocked sewer line

Call Ontario One Call and ask for a free Natural Gas Sewer Safety Inspection before you clear a blocked sewer service line beyond the outside walls of a house or building. You can reach Ontario One Call 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 1-800-400-2255.

Once a Sewer Safety Inspection has been requested, the following steps will be taken:

1. Ontario One Call will dispatch a gas company representative on an emergency basis within two hours or at a mutually scheduled time.
2. The utility representative will perform a Natural Gas Sewer Safety Inspection, which may include locating the natural gas line, locating the sewer line, and performing a video inspection of the sewer line to determine if there is a conflict.
3. If the sewer safety inspection cannot eliminate the possibility of a cross bore, the utility provider will then excavate the site and inspect visually for the presence of a cross bore. If a conflict does exist, the utility provider will work with the homeowner and/or the municipality to address the cross bore and make the necessary repairs.
Raising awareness
This information is part of ongoing safety communications by Enbridge Gas Distribution and Union Gas to raise awareness about how important it is to call Ontario One Call before you begin work to clear a blocked sewer line beyond the outside walls of a building. The Technical Standards and Safety Authority requires gas distributors to have a program and public awareness campaign about sewer safety.

The Pipe Trades Labour-Management Health and Safety Committee worked in conjunction with IHSA, Enbridge Gas Distribution, and Union Gas to develop a safety advisory on Gas Line and Sewer Service Line Conflicts (W154) to help inform the service, construction, electrical, and utility industries. Check out the complete advisory at ihsa.ca. Share it with your employees and with homeowners, property managers, municipal sewer operators, and anyone else who may be involved in clearing a blocked sewer line.

Signs that a natural gas line has been damaged during the clearing of a sewer service line include bubbling water, a hissing sound, a natural gas odour, or blowing dirt.

The Natural Gas Sewer Safety Inspection described in this article may temporarily unclog or drain the sewer service line. However, this may not prevent the blockage from recurring. Sewer service line clearing may still be required.

Learn more about the natural gas sewer safety program
A natural gas utility representative will be pleased to answer general questions about the program when you call. Don’t forget to ask for your free brochures, available in English and French, to provide to your employees who may be clearing sewer service lines. Brochures are also available for clients who may be requesting sewer service line clearing.

For more information:
Enbridge Sewer Safety program—call 1-888-880-8948 or visit www.enbridgegas.com/sewersafety

Union Gas Sewer Safety program—call 1-888-774-3111 or visit www.uniongas.com/safety

If you suspect a gas leak, evacuate the building immediately and then call 911 or your local natural gas distribution emergency number from a safe distance.

Enbridge Gas Distribution emergency number: 1-866-763-5427

Union Gas emergency number: 1-877-969-0999
With an organization as large and diverse as Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited (Toronto Hydro), it makes sense that it places a strong emphasis on internal training. However, when additional expertise or resources are required, an organization like IHSA can be a helpful addition to the training team.

That’s why Toronto Hydro has developed a customized program that sees its workers go through training with both internal staff and a variety of expert consultants from IHSA. Participants receive safety training from internal people who have knowledge of Toronto Hydro procedures, as well as receiving the benefit of provincial experts in their trades.

Courses with IHSA instructors were either based on the standard IHSA course curriculum or designed to fit the specific needs of Toronto Hydro workers and procedures. These courses included an overview of Equipotential Grounding and Bonding, Defensive Driving for Commercial Drivers, Poletop Rescue, Confined Space, Bucket Rescue, Transportation of Dangerous Goods, Worksite Set Up, and Effective Supervision.

Looking at industry statistics as well as internal data allowed Toronto Hydro and IHSA to build a program that includes organizational goals and addresses particular hazards that could be mitigated through training.

“IHSA has a standard that is similar to our philosophy,” says Jodi Engel, Director of Organizational Development and the Trade School. She explains this similarity has allowed for open discussion and planning for the program.

Engel points out that all instructors are from the trades or industries they teach about and can blend real-life scenarios into their programs.

In 2012, Toronto Hydro orchestrated more than 7,000 training days; 1,200 of those were led by IHSA.

These training days are leading to results. After workers completed the driver training, motor vehicle incidents were reduced by 40 per cent. Since 2010, at-fault vehicle incidents were reduced by 50 per cent.

IHSA is always willing to customize its programs. We will custom design and deliver programs that suit your specific requirements. IHSA makes courses available when and where you need them.
For more than a year, IHSA has been urging its members to take part in the national Certificate of Recognition (COR™) safety program. Now IHSA is going to show its confidence in that program by undergoing the COR™ audit itself.

COR™ is a nationally trademarked certification program. It is endorsed by participating members of the Canadian Federation of Construction Safety Associations, of which IHSA is a member. The program provides employers with a tool for assessing their health and safety management system.

IHSA decided to take part in COR™ because it is a proven program that measures a health and safety system, recognizes those that achieve the standard, and helps others find and correct the gaps in their own programs. Since April 2012, more than 240 firms have registered for COR™, and 24 have been COR™ certified.

IHSA's CEO Al Beattie has formally signed IHSA on as an employer that will undergo the COR™ audit.

"By achieving COR™, employers are able to demonstrate to buyers of construction that their health and safety management system has been developed, implemented, and evaluated every year through comprehensive internal and external audits. We want to show our members that IHSA's system will also meet this standard," says Beattie.
Federal HRSDC Labour Program

open house

If you’ve ever wanted to learn more about the inner workings of our government, you’ll have your chance on May 9, when Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) opens up its Labour Program to the public. This free open house, which will be held at the Centre for Health and Safety Innovation (CHSI) in Mississauga, will give federally regulated employers an opportunity to speak directly to the people who enforce the law.

This will be the second annual HRSDC Labour Program open house. The favourable comments about last year’s event, which drew 160 participants, inspired HRSDC to do it again. HRSDC says the participants praised the event for giving them the opportunity to meet with regulators and discuss common issues in an informal setting. The organizers have decided hold this year’s event during North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) week, which runs from May 5 to 11. Since NAOSH week puts a spotlight on occupational illness and injury prevention, it’s a perfect time for a health and safety event.

Also new for this year’s open house is HRSDC’s partnership with the Infrastructure Health and Safety Association (IHSA) and Workplace Safety and Prevention Services (WSPS). Although IHSA took part in last year’s event, this year we have been involved at the planning stage. The added resources have allowed for more topics to be covered. “The overall feedback from last year’s event was extremely positive, with many requests for additional topics and greater opportunities for interaction. I believe this year’s expanded format, and having it at CHSI, will undoubtedly address those requests,” says Ken Rayner, Vice President of Business Development and Labour Relations at IHSA.

Though many of IHSA’s members are governed by provincial health and safety laws, a significant number—mainly transportation and telecommunications firms—operate under federal laws. The open house will allow those firms to see more clearly just what the Labour Program is all about and will help them learn exactly what they need to do to comply with specific legislation.

Last year, federal Health and Safety Officers and Labour Affairs Officers were available to meet with participants, as were representatives of Transport Canada—Air, Rail, and Road Transportation. Representatives of the same groups are expected to be on hand again this year.

Michelle Roberts, Manager of Regional Operations, East at IHSA, expects a good turnout at this year’s event. “I think we’ll see health and safety committee members, supervisors, and health and safety managers,” she says. The program has been expanded to include several 45-minute sessions on topics that were suggested by last year’s attendees. These information sessions will be facilitated by experts from the Labour Program, IHSA, and WSPS. Session topics will include:

- workplace violence
- hazard prevention programs
- ergonomics
- intervention model
- employment standards, Part III of the Canada Labour Code
- hazard prevention program
- forklifts, transportation of dangerous goods, and material handling.

For more information on this free event and how to register, visit the News and Events page at ihsa.ca.
Get ready for the next MOL blitz

The Ministry of Labour (MOL) has announced its 2013-2014 schedule of inspection blitzes or periods of heightened enforcement. Workplace injuries and fatalities can usually be traced to a few root causes that may vary by sector. These proactive enforcement blitzes allow MOL inspectors to focus on some of the most common root causes of hazards in those sectors facing the highest number of injuries.

Inspection blitzes are also designed to raise public awareness and increase compliance with health and safety legislation.

To help you prepare for these blitzes, IHSA will provide prevention tools and resources such as articles in IHSA.ca Magazine and 2-Minute News as well as blitz-related web pages at ihsa.ca.

The MOL usually releases the results of the blitzes soon after they’re completed. The ministry tracks each sector to determine if the blitzes have resulted in long-lasting improvements in compliance and fewer injuries. For more information about the results of MOL inspection blitzes held in 2012, refer to the article on pages 14-15.
IHSA.ca Magazine is produced four times each year. In each issue you will receive valuable information such as prevention tips and enforcement blitz announcements. Printed copies can be ordered by IHSA member firms at no charge by filling out our subscription form. Order multiple copies so you can share them amongst staff, visitors, and other firms you work with. You can also order or download the magazine from our website. For more information, please contact Ariel White at awhite@ihsa.ca

Name of member firm ____________________________________________
Contact name __________________________________________________
Mailing address (no PO Boxes please) ________________________________
City ___________________________________________ Province ____________ Postal code ____________
Phone ______________________ Fax ______________________ Email ____________
Trade/occupation ________________________________________________
Are you a: □ Worker □ Apprentice □ Union □ Non-union □ Manager □ Supervisor □ Other___________
Age range: □ under 25 □ 25-49 □ 50-64 □ 65+
Number of employees: □ 1 □ 2-5 □ 6-19 □ 20-99 □ 100-499 □ 500+ □ n/a
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Currently IHSA.ca Magazine and other IHSA products are printed in English. Would you like us to use any other languages in future products? Please list: ________________________________________________________________

Training and Product Catalogues Now Available

IHSA has just released two new catalogues to help you find the safety product and training options you are looking for.

IHSA’s Training Catalogue (IHSA002) includes detailed descriptions of the more than 115 courses that IHSA offers. With hands-on skills development programs, classroom programs, online programs, and home-study programs, you’re sure to find the training your company needs.

IHSA’s Product Catalogue (IHSA017) contains a comprehensive listing of our health and safety merchandise. Many of our products are available at no charge or as a free download from the IHSA website.

Visit ihsa.ca today or call customer service at 1-800-263-5024 to learn about our many valuable safety product and training options.
Returning home safe to your loved ones is a promise you make everyday.

Keep your promise.

Tragically in Ontario a worker dies almost every day from either a workplace injury or illness. They will not be able to keep the promise they made to friends and family to come home safely.

In every workplace, hazards need to be respected, controlled, and if possible, eliminated. Getting home safely each day requires respect for the hazards that can occur, no matter how remote the possibility. Learn how IHSA can help. Visit ihsa.ca
IHSA Training Programs—
Made Just for You

When something is made just for you, it’s always better. That’s why we develop and deliver custom training programs specific to your workers and your workplace.

Our subject-matter experts will adapt an existing program to address the type of work you do and the environment in which you do it. It’s just one of the unique ways IHSA is here to serve you.

Contact IHSA today for more information at 1-800-263-5024.

Don’t Forget To Call Before You Dig

This poster reminds workers to call Ontario One Call or contact local utilities before excavating a site. It includes a list of the colour-coded markings that designate each underground utility (Gas, Water, Sewer, Electrical, etc.). 17” x 22” Vinyl.

Members: $6.45    Non-Members: $13.95

More great products

IHSA’s Product Catalogue (IHSA017) contains a comprehensive listing of our health and safety merchandise. Our products range from books, manuals, log books, stickers, decals, posters and many other support products that can help your company ensure a safer working environment. Many of our products are available at no charge or as a free download from the IHSA website. Visit our website today or call customer service to learn about our many valuable safety products. Visit ihsa.ca to download your copy of the Product Catalogue today.