



Toronto Hydro and IHSA

create specialized training programs that fit everyone's needs

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.

Toronto Hydro received the IHSA President's Award for three million hours without a compensable injury in September 2012.

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.