

Results

During their site visits, MOL inspectors focused on

- support for excavation walls
- location of utilities
- safety measures to prevent slips, trips, and falls.

During this one-month enforcement blitz, MOL inspectors made 1,094 visits to 957 workplaces. They issued 2,191 orders, of which 186 were stop work orders. Seventy-five per cent of the orders were issued under the Regulation for Construction Projects. Orders were issued most frequently because the employer had not ensured that

- excavations were in compliance with proper support systems
- workers were wearing protective headwear
- adequate emergency procedures were in place.

See the full reports

For each enforcement blitz, the MOL publishes the results on its website at labour.gov.on.ca. Go there to view the complete reports.



New training requirements for working at heights

Falls continue to plague Ontario's worksites. In 2013, 10 workers died in fall-related incidents on construction projects and falls were responsible for 25% of lost-time injuries (LTIs) for IHSA member firms.

The Ontario Ministry of Labour (MOL) has announced changes to Regulation 297/13: Occupational Health and Safety Awareness and Training that will come into effect on April 1, 2015. As of that date, workers on construction sites will need to complete a working at heights training program that has been approved by the Chief Prevention Officer before they can work at heights. This training will be valid for three years from the date of completion.

Workers who have already received training will have two years (until April 1, 2017) to complete an approved working at heights training program. As of January 5, 2015, there are no approved training programs, but anyone who is exposed to fall hazards on the job is legally required to have fall protection training.

The **Working at Heights Training Program Standard** and **Working at Heights Training Provider Standard** laid out minimum learning outcomes for working at heights training programs and the requirements for approved training providers. Reducing working at heights injuries and fatalities through standardized training was a key recommendation of the Expert Advisory Panel on Occupational Health and Safety in 2010. The Ontario government committed to implementing all of the recommendations proposed by the Expert Advisory Panel.

IHSA will be releasing additional information on the new standards and how *IHSA's Working at Heights—Fundamentals of Fall Prevention* training will fit into the future of fall-related training in Ontario.

For more information, visit the MOL's Working at Heights Training page at labour.gov.on.ca or download the Update on Working at Heights Training in Ontario presentation available at ihsa.ca