



Welcome to IHSA's surface mining & aggregates quarterly newsletter!

At IHSA, we are committed to helping workplaces in the surface mining and aggregates sector stay safe, informed, and up to date. This quarterly newsletter is designed to keep you connected with the latest health and safety resources, industry events, legislative updates, and best practices tailored to your sector.

Each issue brings you valuable insights, expert guidance, and tools to help protect workers and prevent incidents on the job. Whether you're looking for training opportunities, regulatory updates, or new safety initiatives, we've got you covered.

Stay informed and stay safe. Let's work together to build a safer industry.

MLITSD news & events

Mining health and safety program

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training, and Skills Development puts together a report for the Surface Mining & Aggregate Working Group each quarter with an overview of events, court bulletins, and statistics. This report is updated on our Labour-Management Page and can also be located on the IHSA's aggregates webpage.

[Access the report](#)

Surface mining and aggregates compliance campaign 2025–2026 focuses on slips, trips and falls

From April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training, and Skills Development will conduct an enforcement campaign to focus on slips, trips, and falls in mines and mining plants.

Significant increase in critical injuries

Over the past five years, Ontario's mining sector has seen a significant rise in critical injuries. Nearly 40 per cent of these injuries between 2023 and 2024 were due to slips, trips, and falls.

These incidents led to a substantial number of lost-time injuries. Proper controls and

compliance with the *Regulation for Mines and Mining Plants* (R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 854) under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* can prevent hazards related to slips, trips, and falls.

Learn
more



Register for
webinar

Webinar provides resources on compliance campaign

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training, and Skills Development, Infrastructure Health and Safety Association, and Workplace Safety North have produced an informative webinar that focuses on the 2025–2026 compliance campaign in the surface mining sector, specifically addressing slip, trip, and fall hazards. Learn about the requirements that the Ministry expects surface mine projects to meet across the province and gain valuable insights and resources to ensure regulatory compliance.

Specialized professional service campaign details 2025–2026

There are two specialized professional service campaigns in 2025–2026: worker exposure to chemical agents in the workplace and WHMIS training based on the amended *Hazardous Products Regulations*. Both the education, outreach, and awareness efforts and the focused inspections will occur from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026.

To help stakeholders achieve compliance during the year-long campaigns, IHSA is highlighting the following resources:

- [IHSA's Silica Control Tool topic page](#)
- [Current occupational exposure limits for Ontario workplaces](#)
- [WHMIS - A guide to the legislation](#)

Legislative changes & alerts

Ministry releases ventilation guideline

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training, and Skills Development has released the *Ventilation Systems in Mines and Mining Plants* guideline. This guideline has several objectives:

- To provide guidance and information on the requirements for ventilation systems in mines and mining plants
- To provide information on the role ventilation systems play in controlling airborne hazards in mines and mining plants
- To inform workplace parties about record keeping requirements related to ventilation systems
- To provide information on non-ventilated areas in underground mines and the required protections for workers

The guideline is available in French and English.

Ventilation systems in mines and mining plants

Systèmes de ventilation dans les mines et les installations minières

Read recent court bulletins related to health and safety

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training, and Skills Development has released a number of court bulletins relating to health and safety issues, injuries, and fatalities.

[Learn more](#)



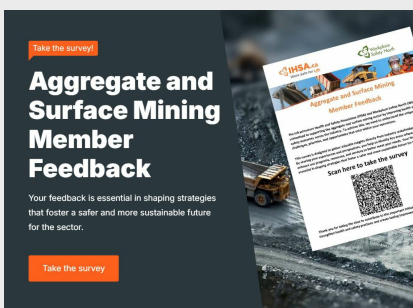
Coroner to launch inquest into 2017 death at Cambridge worksite

Dr. Ian MacPhee, the regional supervising coroner for the West Region, Waterloo office, has announced an inquest will be held into the death of Joseph Horn.

Horn, 57, was fatally injured on December 8, 2017, after he was struck and pinned by rock crushing equipment.

[Learn more](#)

IHSA news and events



[Take the survey](#)

IHSA seeks member feedback through joint survey

IHSA and Workplace Safety North are committed to supporting the aggregate and surface mining sector by improving health and safety outcomes across the industry. In order to do so, we need to understand the unique challenges, priorities, and opportunities that exist within your operations.

This survey is designed to gather valuable insights directly from industry stakeholders like you.

By sharing your experiences and perspectives, you help us identify key areas where we can enhance our programs, resources, and services to better meet your needs. Your feedback is essential in shaping strategies that foster a safer and more sustainable future for the sector.



2025 IHSA Health and Safety Awards: Nominations open in May

The award nominations for the 2025 IHSA Health and Safety Awards are open until June 30, 2025. These awards are an excellent opportunity to recognize individuals, companies, or committees that have worked hard to embody health and safety excellence.

Visit the [IHSA awards page](#)

Surface mining & aggregates training requirements

Worker training is a critical component of all successful health and safety programs. The mining industry in Ontario presents unique hazards which require specific training to manage.

Sections 11 through 11.3 of Reg. 854 require employers to establish and maintain an accredited modular training program for all workers in mines and mining plants specific to the type of work they perform.

To be accredited in the appropriate modular training program, the worker must have demonstrated competency in each of the required Common Core modules and any applicable specialty modules for that particular training program. Performance objectives must be signed off by an authorized trainer when the trainee has achieved competence in the skill. For the purposes of the program, competence is achieved when the trainee can perform the skills repeatedly and without assistance in the workplace to the standard set out in the Training Standard document.

A Signing Authority is designated by the employer and authorized by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training, and Skills Development to be accountable for the quality of training and maintenance of training records. The Signing Authority is responsible for determining the competency of company employees for modular accreditation.

Although each employer is responsible for implementing their own training program, the modular training programs are standardized across the province so workers can transfer their accreditations between sites or employer.

Sector-specific training

IHSA facilitates training through public, at-customer locations, and through external partners. IHSA's training programs are designed to give workers the knowledge and skills they need to stay safe on the job and return home safely at the end of the day.

Did you know that IHSA offers training courses specifically for your industry?

- **Surface Miner Common Core**, May 13–15, 2025, in Ottawa
- **Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) Certification Part 2 – Aggregates**

We also provide a range of hazard- and role-specific training programs, including Basics of Supervising, Hoisting and Rigging, Traffic Control, and Silica Awareness.

In addition, IHSA's partners **Workplace Safety North** and the **Ontario Stone, Sand and Gravel Association (OSSGA)** have training programs available. The list below includes a

few programs offered by the OSSGA:

- [Virtual Common Core \(base 3 modules\)](#), June 17, 2025
- [Quality Control/Sample Taking Training in Codrington](#), June 25, 2025
- [Rehabilitation Tour with Reception and Dinner in London](#), June 18–19, 2025
- [Quality Control/Sample Taking Training in Codrington](#), August 6, 2025

You can also find a list of specialty modules available [here](#). Stay informed, stay safe, and take advantage of the training opportunities available to you!

Learn
more

Are you a trainer? Increase your facilitation skills with IHSA's *Foundations of Facilitating, Training, and Learning*

This course will help participants become familiar with the competencies necessary for effective facilitation of training. Participants will learn proven methods to help them facilitate health and safety training that gets results on the job.

The course addresses the training cycle, how adults learn, and successful delivery techniques. Participants will take part in a variety of exercises. Training concludes with a practical demonstration of basic facilitation skills.

Passionate about workplace health & safety?

Join the Surface Mining & Aggregates Working Group



Join now

IHSA's Surface Mining & Aggregates Working Group brings industry professionals together to share knowledge, best practices, and innovative solutions for a safer, more productive workplace.

By joining, you'll gain access to exclusive discussions, events, and resources tailored to your sector's unique challenges. Whether you're experienced or new to the industry, this group supports your growth and strengthens safety culture.

Together, we can build a safer future for the surface mining and aggregates industry.



Do you have health and safety questions? IHSA can help

Our experienced consultants specializing in surface mining and aggregates are here to support you.

For expert guidance, contact these IHSA consultants:

- Ryan Smith: rsmith@ihsa.ca | 613-218-1242

- David Greene: dgreene@ihsa.ca | 519-575-3811

IHSA also provides occupational hygiene and ergonomic assessments:

- Jasmine Kalsi, MSc, ROH: jkalsi@ihsa.ca
- Peter Vi, Hon. BSc., M. Eng., CCPE: pvi@ihsa.ca.

Featured IHSA resources

Root cause analysis: Slips, trips, and falls in the aggregate sector

In 2022, the IHSA Surface Mining and Aggregates Sector Working Group decided to host a root cause workshop on slips, trips, and falls.

The workshop participants, including peer-recognized subject matter experts from the industry (management and labour) and other industry stakeholders, worked together over the course of two days to identify and prioritize causal factors for slips, trips, and falls in the surface mining and aggregates sectors.

[Review the technical report](#)



[View IHSA's aggregate resources](#)

Aggregates dedicated resources

IHSA's aggregates page is your go-to resource for health and safety in the surface mining and aggregates industry. Here, you'll find industry-specific training, safety best practices, legislative updates, and essential resources to help keep workers safe and operations compliant. Whether you're looking for guidance on hazard prevention, training opportunities, or regulatory requirements, IHSA is here to support your safety journey.



Safe work practices for the aggregates industry (M075)

This manual provides workers in the aggregates sector with guidelines for performing their work safely. With 20 chapters, this is a comprehensive health and safety resource. It covers common worksite hazards and hazards specific to the aggregates industry, such as:

- Explosives and blasting
- Crushing, screening, and washing operations
- Shovels, cranes, and draglines
- Front-end loaders
- Bulldozers

Download the manual

- Haulage (rock) trucks
- Haulage roads
- Stockpiling and dumping procedures.

The basis for this document is the *Mining & Aggregates Safe Work Practices* from the former Mines and Aggregates Safety and Health Association (MASHA). All personnel in the aggregates industry should read, understand, and use these rules in their everyday work practices.

50+ health and safety topics in your pocket

Check out IHSA's completely revamped Construction Safety web app:

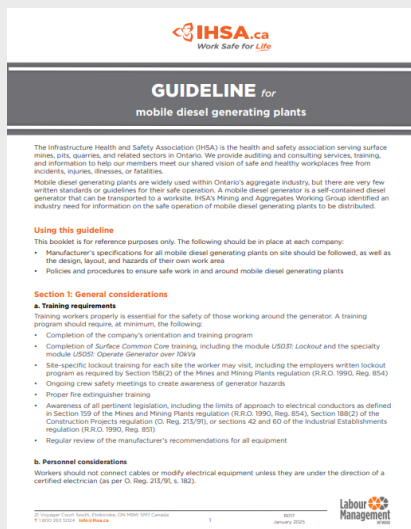


Access the online version

IHSA Construction Safety App updated and improved

IHSA's construction safety web app has been redesigned!

It summarizes health and safety requirements (in English and French) for 50-plus topics to give you clear, actionable guidance for ensuring jobsite compliance. Use Safari or Chrome to access the app.



Guideline for mobile diesel generating plants (B017)

Mobile diesel generating plants are commonly used in Ontario's aggregate industry. This guideline identifies the health and safety hazards associated with mobile diesel generating plants and explains how worksites can eliminate and control them.

This guideline covers essential topics like set up, training, operation, fuel storage, noise control, and emergency plans. It also includes pre-operational checklist samples and a list of important Ontario legislation and related documents.

Download the guideline

Mobile distractions

Struck-by incidents are a common cause of injury and death on busy worksites with lots of moving vehicles and equipment. By limiting the use of mobile devices, workers will be less distracted and less likely to be struck by moving vehicles and equipment.

IHSA has many resources to help employers limit mobile distractions:

- **Mobile distractions in the workplace: risks**

GUIDELINE for
avoiding electronic device distractions

Electronic devices can help drive innovation at the workplace by encouraging connectivity, enabling quick access to information, and streamlining the planning and execution of work tasks.

However, these devices also have limitations and negative effects that must be understood—and, in some cases, controlled—to ensure workers can stay focused on their work, especially when they are performing safety-sensitive or high-risk tasks. This guideline outlines best practices for electronic device use in workplace scenarios: when and where such devices may or may not be suitable and when they should be put down or turned off.

The content of this guideline aligns with the **Electrical Safety Rules (ESR)**, Rule 103 Personal Conduct (3), which states that "Electronic devices must not be used in workplaces where it will affect the safety of work being performed."

Definitions

The following definitions are used throughout this document.

Electronic device: A handheld mobile device that has a display screen with touch input and/or a QWERTY keyboard, which may also provide users with Bluetooth connectivity (to headphones or speakers) and telephone capabilities. Laptop computers may also be considered mobile electronic devices in the workplace.

Digital distraction: A situation where a worker or supervisor may be distracted by an electronic device while engaging in workplace activities.

Distracted working: Occurs when a worker is not focused on the hazards of their work tasks and/or the work activities occurring near them.

Distracted walking: When a person is walking but not paying full attention to their surroundings. Causes of the distraction can include taking a phone call, texting, listening to loud music, reading, or even being in conversation with others.

Personal device: A person's own electronic device—such as a smartphone, tablet, e-reader, or laptop computer—that is used for non-work tasks, including (but not limited to) answering personal phone calls or emails, text messaging, playing games, posting to social networks, browsing the internet, consuming media, etc.

Responsibilities

When it comes to electronic device use, all workplace parties have responsibilities to make sure that safety guidelines are put in place, communicated to all workers, and carried out.

Employers are required to take every precaution reasonable under the circumstances for the protection of their workers.

Supervisors must set an example for other workers. They should:

- Avoid taking or making calls while directing activities on the jobsite.
- Limit electronic device use to the trailer, site office, or designated area away from general work activities.
- Establish expectations on when electronic devices need to be put away due to work activities.

Workers should know and follow their company's rules surrounding electronic device use.

If your company does not have an electronic device policy, encourage them to develop one. At the jobsite, you should be empowered to identify to your supervisor situations that may require specific rules about device use. Remember: it's not just you. Your co-workers can also become distracted, putting your life in danger.

- **Health & safety advisory: Mobile devices**
- **Guideline for avoiding electronic device distractions**
- **Texting on jobsite awareness poster**

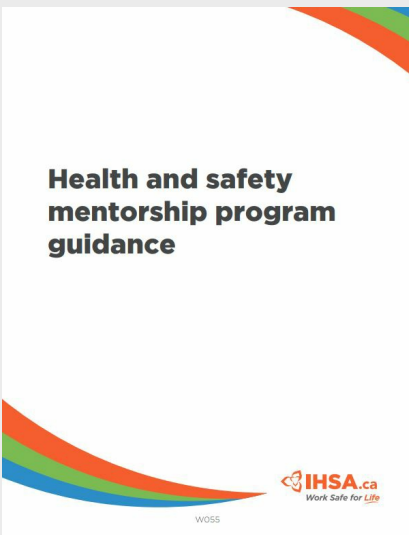


YouTube safety talk videos

A safety talk is a hands-on way to remind workers that health and safety matter everyday onsite. Our **safety talk videos** make it easy for you to share information on hazards and appropriate controls.

The latest videos include:

- **Workplace safety starts with the internal responsibility system (IRS)**



Health and safety mentorship guidance document (W055)

Workers face many health and safety hazards every day on the worksite. This guide provides a framework for creating a workplace health and safety mentorship program that supports young or inexperienced construction workers.

Though it focuses on workplace health and safety, you can use the guidance and best practices for any type of mentorship in your business.

[Download the guide](#)

Keep Your Promise campaign: See Something, Say Something

Working safely is a daily promise that you make to yourself and to those who care about you. Safety is also your legal responsibility in the workplace. When you see a health and safety hazard and report it to



your supervisor, you can prevent someone from being injured or killed on the job.

Do your part, and understand the campaign to lead by example:

- Implement and support the campaign at your workplace
- Share/promote the campaign
- Share your efforts on social media
- Make it part of your regular discussions/safety talks
- Order and adopt the supporting resources
- Have your workers make a pledge and wear the stickers
- Share it with your sub-contractors
- Make it part of your orientation program

[Access the campaign resources](#)



[Listen now](#)

Latest podcast episodes available

The *IHSA Safety Podcast* is a free podcast that seeks to improve the lives of workers in Ontario. The latest episodes include:

- **Episode 104: JHSC & WHSC Overview: Roles, Legal Requirements, and Best Practices (Part 1)**
- **Episode 105: JHSC & WHSC Overview— Roles, Legal Requirements, and Best Practices (Part 2)**
- **Episode 106: JHSC & WHSC Overview— Roles, Legal Requirements, and Best Practices (Part 3)**
- **Episode 107: National Day of Mourning: Remembering, Reflecting, and Rebuilding Safer Workplaces**

Industry news and events

What's new

Stay updated on current news from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development.

Ontario 
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WSIB@WORK newsletter

Access the WSIB's quarterly email newsletter to get the latest information or visit the [archive page](#) to read past issues.

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Transportation Network News

Access monthly updates, news, and events from the Fleet Safety Council and the transportation industry that IHSA supports.

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newsletter](#)

Construction & Electrical Utility Network News

Access monthly updates, news, and events from the construction and electrical utility industry that IHSA supports.

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newsletter](#)

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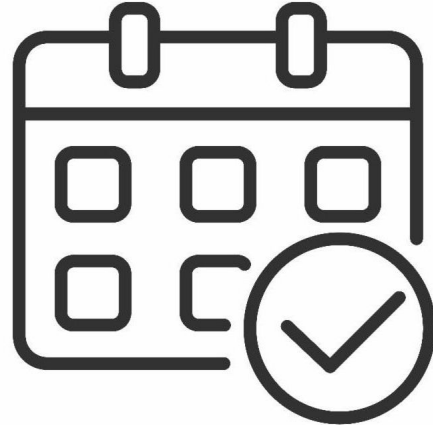
Stay informed! Sign up for IHSA's Surface Mining & Aggregates Quarterly Newsletter for the latest safety resources, industry updates, and training opportunities. [Click here to sign up.](#)

Have ideas or topics for the next issue?

Submit your suggestions and help shape IHSA's Surface Mining & Aggregates Quarterly Newsletter! Email [Ariel White](#) with details.

Industry dates

Falls Awareness Week: May 5-9
Emergency Preparedness Week: May 4-10
Slow Down Move Over Day: May 13
CVSA International Roadcheck: May 13-15
Victoria Day: May 19
Speech and Hearing Awareness Month
Vision Health Month
Motorcycle Safety Month



Watch here for a list of upcoming industry events and dates throughout the year.
Have an important date to include?
Email [Ariel White](#) with details.



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