

Health and Safety: You Have the Right to be Safe



Associations Protecting Worker Safety

- Newfoundland and Labrador workplaces are regulated under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)
- Other workplaces are regulated by the Canada Labour Code
- Both of these define the rights and duties of everyone in the workplace - employer, supervisors, & workers
- Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Act also applies in Newfoundland.

Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Act

- It was created to promote:
 - healthy, safe workplaces,
 - to encourage safe, timely return to work
 - to provide insured benefits to workers who get injured on the job

- It is administered by the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission
- Each workplace should have its own safety policy and procedures and be clearly posted

Your Rights - Occupational Health and Safety Act

- **1. To know** – Your employer must inform you of any hazards in the workplace and provide training so you can work safely
- **2. To participate** - You have the right to participate in health and safety issues in the workplace
- **3. To refuse unsafe work** - You have the right to refuse work you believe is dangerous to your health, or safety, or the health or safety to another worker

Your Responsibilities

- **1. To inform yourself** - if you don't, you can't take care
- **2. To work safely** - Use all equipment safely, the way your supervisors show you. Use required protective equipment at all times.
- **3. To report any unsafe working conditions or occurrences.** Tell your supervisors - they need to know.
- **4. To report any injury-** any injury on the job must be reported to the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission. Go to your doctor!

Additional...

- While it isn't a legal requirement, it's a good idea to know basic first aid.
- The St. John's Ambulance Society offers first aid courses in your community.

Hazardous Materials



- One of the key regulations of the OHSA concerns the **Workplace Hazardous Material Information System**, (WHMIS). WHMIS regulations require:
 - **Labeling.** Every hazardous material must have a warning label that tells you what class a hazardous product is in, and how to safely work with it.
 - **Material safety data sheets.** Every hazardous material must have a material safety data sheet (MSDS). These must be kept where workers can find them, so they can read about hazards of a product, how to use it safely, and what to do in an emergency.
 - **Training.** Every worker must get trained in how to work safely with the product.

Top 5 Causes of Injury to Young Workers

- 1. slips and falls
- 2. overexertion
- 3. struck by or with an object
- 4. bodily reactions(toxic effect from chemical)
- 5. burns