

Live Safe! Work Smart!

Health and safety e-news for Ontario teachers

? YOU ASKED US

Q: As a Teacher **what can I do** about a health and safety situation at a student's co-op placement – or if they come to me with safety concerns about their part-time job?

A: You can help keep your students safe by helping them get answers to their questions. Suggest they check out the Ministry of Labour's website for young workers at: www.worksmartontario.gov.on.ca where they can get lots of helpful information about staying safe.

You or your student can also call the Ministry of Labour's **new toll-free number – 1-877-202-0008**, 24 hours a day, seven days a week – to report a workplace health and safety incident or suspected unsafe work practices or to ask questions related to the student's concerns. In addition, your school board may have policies that may apply when a student reports safety concerns, especially with respect to co-op placements. You may wish to contact your school board for further information.

TISH'S TIPS

WILL YOUR STUDENTS BE PLACED IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR? THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR HAS INTERACTIVE WEB TOOLS AND VIDEOS THAT YOU CAN SHARE WITH YOUR STUDENTS.

TOOLS

WWW.LABOUR.GOV.ON.CA/ENGLISH/HS/TOOLS/

VIDEOS

WWW.LABOUR.GOV.ON.CA/ENGLISH/HS/TOOLS/CS/CONSTRUCTION.PHP

Results of the Ministry of Labour's 2010 New and Young Worker Inspection Blitz (Construction)

BY TISH AMICO, Education Consultant for the Ministry of Labour

From May 1, to August 31, 2010, Ministry of Labour (MOL) health and safety inspectors conducted an inspection blitz to enforce compliance of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* focusing on the health and safety of new and young workers at construction, industrial and health care workplaces.

Inspectors checked if young and new workers were being properly oriented, trained and supervised, and if they met the minimum age requirements for working. Inspectors also checked to ensure that employers are taking every reasonable precaution to protect the health and safety of young workers (as, they must do for workers of all ages).

In the **Construction** sector, MOL inspectors encountered:

- lack of training and supervision for new and young workers
- lack of personal protective equipment, and
- improper use of fall protection.

During the 2010 inspection blitz, MOL inspectors conducted 2,450 construction workplace visits (1,999 projects) and issued 6,058 orders, including 505 stop-work orders.

From 2006 to 2009, inclusive, 16 young Ontario workers lost their lives in construction-related accidents (20% of all construction fatalities). Over the same time period, 94 young workers were critically injured (15% of all critical injuries).

Employers have duties set out in Ontario's *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and its regulations to protect the health and safety of workers. Employers must provide information, instruction and supervision to workers. They must also provide workers with the personal protective equipment required by regulation, and ensure that this personal protective equipment (and all other equipment and materials) are used as prescribed in regulation.

Stay tuned in the next newsletter for more information on the 2010 Blitz in the Industrial sector and the Health Care sector.



BRIGHT IDEA

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF ASKING A MINISTRY OF LABOUR INSPECTOR TO COME TO YOUR SCHOOL TO TALK TO STUDENTS ABOUT HEALTH AND SAFETY? I'M SURE THAT THEY HAVE LOTS OF TIPS, BASED ON THEIR WIDE EXPERIENCE, TO KEEP YOUR STUDENTS SAFE DURING EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES. CONTACT YOUR LOCAL MOL OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

We welcome your questions, comments and suggestions for future newsletters at info@livesafeworksmart.net

Links

www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/sawo/blitzes/blitz_report20.php

www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90o01_e.htm

www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_910213_e.htm

www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/atwork/youngworkers.php

Disclaimer: This newsletter has been prepared to help the workplace parties understand some of their obligations under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (OHSA) and regulations. It is not legal advice. It is not intended to replace the OHSA or the regulations. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE SEE THE [FULL DISCLAIMER](#)