

NHBA H&S TIMES

THE OFFICIAL HEALTH & SAFETY NEWSLETTER OF THE NIAGARA HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION



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NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING: WE REMEMBER. WE COMMIT

Marked annually in Canada on April 28, the National Day of Mourning is dedicated to remembering those who have lost their lives, suffered injury or illness on the job, or experienced a work-related tragedy, as well as to collectively renew our commitment to improve health and safety in the workplace and prevent further injuries, illnesses and deaths.

In 1991, eight years after the day of remembrance was launched by the Canadian Labour Congress, the Parliament of Canada passed the Workers Mourning Day Act making April 28 an official Day of Mourning. Today the Day of Mourning has since spread to more than 100 countries around the world and is recognized as Workers' Memorial Day, and as International Workers' Memorial Day by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC).

It is the hope of CCOHS that the annual observance of this day will help strengthen the resolve to establish safe and healthy conditions in the workplace, and prevent further injuries, illnesses, and deaths. As much as this is a day to remember those who have lost their lives, it is also a call to protect the living and make work a place where people are safe and can thrive.

According to the Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada (AWCBC), in 2021, there were 1,081 workplace fatalities recorded in Canada, 1,009 of which were male workers, and 72 were female workers. Among these deaths were 18 young workers aged 15-24.

Add to these fatalities the 277,217 accepted claims (an increase of 23,820 from the previous year) for lost time due to a work-related injury or disease, including 34,548 from workers aged 15-24, and the fact that these statistics only include what is reported and accepted by the compensation boards, there is no doubt that the total number of workers impacted is even greater.

And it's not just these numbers on which we need to reflect. With each worker tragedy there are loved ones, family members, friends and co-workers who are directly affected, left behind, and deeply impacted – their lives also forever changed.

How to Support:

Traditionally on April 28th the Canadian flag has flown at half-mast on Parliament Hill and on all federal government buildings. Employers and workers have observed Day of Mourning in a variety of ways over the years. Some have lit candles, laid wreaths, worn commemorative pins, ribbons or black armbands, and paused for a moment of silence.

We encourage all NHBA Members to hold or support an event, or to simply observe a moment of silence at 11:00 am on April 28.

Employers and individuals can also show their support and commitment to a safe workplace by promoting the social media cards and messages provided here:

<https://www.ccohs.ca/events/mourning>

By sharing these messages, you are reminding more people to put health and safety at the forefront of their work and helping to prevent further work-related injuries and loss of life

To find a Day of Mourning Ceremony service in your area, please visit:

<https://4207.cupe.ca/event/niagara-regional-labour-council-day-of-mourning-ceremonies/>



SAFE DRIVING SAVES LIVES: WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK

April is a major month to recognize and implement health & safety measures that directly affect the well-being of trade workers throughout Ontario. The occupational hazard that often takes the lives of workers occurs because drivers are not obeying traffic laws through construction zones. This awareness campaign is held at the start of construction season to encourage safe driving because we've all experienced frustration, rushing, fatigue and even complacency when driving through a construction work zone.

All road users are asked to slow down and exercise extra caution when traveling through work zones to protect on-site workers and keep everyone safe. National Work Zone Awareness Week aims to help drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians understand that work zone safety is a shared responsibility.

National Work Zone Awareness Week provides an excellent platform for road workers, companies and municipalities to come together and raise awareness for worker safety and training, and to show support for individuals who have lost their lives in road work accidents

Workzone Safety Tips



Comprehensive Training: Providing regular, [comprehensive safety training](#) to all employees, emphasizing the importance of following safety protocols in work zones. This training should cover the correct use of personal protective equipment (PPE), the proper installation and maintenance of barriers, and the importance of maintaining a clean and organized work area.

Effective Communication: Establishing clear lines of communication among team members is essential for safety. This includes daily briefings on the day's tasks and any potential hazards, as well as clear signage for both workers and the public.

Implementing Technology: The use of technology, such as drones for site surveying and wearable safety devices that can monitor worker health and alertness, can enhance safety in work zones. Investing in technology that improves safety is a wise investment

Regular Safety Audits: Conducting regular safety audits allows contractors to identify potential hazards and address them before they lead to accidents. These audits should be thorough and involve every level of the workforce.

Public Awareness Campaigns: Contractors can play a role in educating the public about the importance of work zone safety. This can include engaging with local communities, schools and the media to spread awareness about how to safely navigate work zones and the critical role the public plays in maintaining safety.

APRIL DECLARED DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

With the increased use and dependency of mobile devices and other technologies that can take a drivers attention away from the road, the daily commute can turn into a challenging and dangerous feat.

Distracted driving is one of the leading causes of car accidents, and you are FOUR times more likely to be in a crash if you are on your phone.

So what is categorized as distracted driving? It refers to any activity that diverts a driver's attention away from the primary task of driving. Distractions can range from entering an address in a GPS or answering a text message.

Distracted Driving: Four Categories

Visual: This may include using a cell phone while driving, or looking at a distraction such as an accident on the road

Cognitive: The driver's mind is not focused on the task of driving

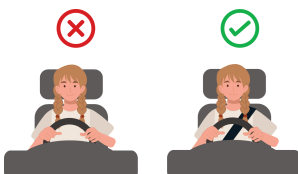
Biochemical: The driver is impaired and under the influence of drugs or alcohol

Auditory: This includes listening to loud music or receiving phone calls from clients. These distractions make you less aware of your surroundings and slower to react to hazards

How Can you Reduce Distracted Driving?



- Set the GPS and review directions before driving
- Ensure your Bluetooth is properly connected before departure
- Allow plenty of travel time
- Stow and secure loose objects
- Do not text, use apps, or check social
- Always keep two hands on the wheel
- Avoid eating and drinking while driving
- Keep your eyes on the road



WHAT'S NEW IN H&S?

Ontario Raising Minimum Wage to Support Workers

The Ontario government is increasing the minimum wage from \$16.55 per hour to \$17.20, effective October 1, 2024. This 3.9 per cent annualized wage increase is based on the Ontario Consumer Price Index (CPI) and brings Ontario's minimum wage to the second highest in Canada.

Ontario Training Jobseekers for In-Demand Careers as Electricians

The Ontario government is working to fill the labour shortage by successfully training new Electrical Construction workers for in-demand careers in Niagara Region, together with union partners. Enabled by an investment of \$672,700 through Ontario's Skills Development Fund (SDF), the government has partnered with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 303 to deliver the Job Readiness Program for local apprentices and jobseekers.

Updated training standards for working at heights

Newly updated standards for mandatory [working at heights training](#) are now online. These updated standards address one of the leading causes of workplace deaths in industries like construction and will help improve the quality of training and the safety knowledge of participants when working with ladders, skylights, damaged equipment and more.