

# NHBA H&S TIMES

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



AGM + Election of  
Directors Dinner

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## OHSA PPE & HYGIENE CHANGES TO JOBSITES ACROSS ONTARIO

On the heels of related memos and press coverage that has been circulating, please be sure to take note of the new PPE & Hygiene changes as per the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

### New Personal Protective Equipment Requirements

*Amendments to O. Reg. 213/91 – Construction Projects, made under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA), addressing the requirements for PPE*

These changes explicitly require that personal protective equipment and clothing be properly fitted, including for women and a diversity of body types and sizes. For more information, please contact the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development at the [applicable regional office](#).

### Job site Hygiene Requirements on Construction Projects

*Amendments to O. Reg. 213/91 – Construction Projects, made under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA), addressing the requirements for toilet and clean-up facilities*

Amendments include:

- requiring toilets to be adequately illuminated
- requiring single toilets to be completely enclosed
- ensuring female workers have access to at least one women's-only toilet facility on construction sites that must have a minimum of five or more toilets
- extending the requirement for good repair to urinal and clean-up facilities
- standardizing the ratio of clean-up facilities to toilets
- requiring hand sanitizer in addition to a product to clean hands where it is not reasonably possible to provide running water
- reducing the horizontal distance workers need to travel to get to toilet facilities, where reasonably possible

For more information, please contact the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development at the [applicable regional office](#). Please note that these changes came into effect on July 1, 2023, and your worksite should currently be compliant.



# BREATHE EASY? OUTDOOR AIR QUALITY & A HEALTHY WORK SITE

Outdoor air quality in Ontario can vary due to a variety of factors including pollutant emissions. The Occupational Health and Safety Act and its regulations do not specifically address poor outdoor air quality, but employers have a general duty to take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of a worker. This includes protecting workers from the hazards associated with poor air quality that could pose a risk when working outdoors.

Typically, we associate “the great outdoors” with “fresh air” and a sense of revitalization and good health. However, as we all saw this past summer season, raging wildfires pushed hazardous smoke into the province, causing schools to cancel recess and outdoor sports being rescheduled due to poor air quality.

The quality of our air directly impacts our health and the natural environment, so we want our air to be as clean as possible. The Ministry has a network of 39 ambient (outside) air monitoring stations across the province that collect real-time air pollution data. This information is communicated to the public through Ontario's new Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) and as hourly concentrations of each pollutant. The Air Quality Health Index and data collected from monitoring stations is posted online every hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For most individuals who work outdoors, stopping work for an entire crew for 1 or 2 weeks just isn't in the cards, so what do you do?

Medical professionals advise encouraging those who work outside to increase the size of crews, take more frequent breaks and slow down the pace of work. Those with pre existing medical conditions like asthma should speak with their doctor to ensure they are able to safely work outdoors when air quality warnings are issued, as well as work with their employer to see if their duties can be modified during this time.

Other ways to stay safe while air quality may be low, include:

- Drink lots of water, even if you don't feel thirsty
- Limit exertion that makes you sweat or breathe hard
- Stay out of the sun, take cool showers, spray yourself with a water bottle, or wear an article of damp clothing to cool your body

Safety of your employees is the number one objective everyday. Be sure to develop an air quality safety strategy that will work for everyone, to ensure progress of your projects, while maintaining happy, healthy workers.

## SDF STUDENTS: READY TO WORK!

The 2023-24 Construction Skills program is in the process of training 80 new skilled trades professionals in framing and carpentry to support the residential construction industry

Participants will gain a broad range of skills and knowledge – including occupational health and safety, power and non-power tool usage, safe handling of materials in the construction sector – as well as the specific skills needed to fulfil the demand for carpentry and framing professionals

There are currently 40+ students who are looking to secure an 8-week work placement with an NHBA company. If you are looking to hire, please reach out to Alicia at the NHBA or Julie at Niagara College



## LOOKING TO HIRE?

**Jobs site ready candidates are waiting for you.**

Together with Niagara College and the Ministry of Training and Skills Development, the NHBA is looking to fulfill **8 week paid work placement opportunities** for participants of the Construction Skills – Framing program.

As an added bonus, your company may be eligible for **wage subsidy compensation up to \$5000**.

For more information contact:  
**Alicia Dimitro-Lawrence, Executive Officer**  
Niagara Home Builders Association  
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**Julie Stuart-Niemi, Manager, Apprenticeship**  
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In association with:



This Employment Ontario program is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

**Additionally, if your company hires on one of our students, you will receive up to \$5,000 in wage subsidy payments.**



## WHAT'S NEW IN H&S?

### Ontario launching mobile skilled trades classrooms

The Ontario government is investing \$5.4 million to design and build three mobile tech classrooms that will travel across the province and teach students and young people about the skilled trades. The classrooms, built and operated by Skills Ontario, will feature hands-on learning stations and simulators for electrical systems, welding, crane operation, auto-painting, tire and brake work, heavy machinery and more.

### Consultation: New heat stress regulation

Due to changes in our climate, extreme heat events are a growing health risk to workers in Ontario. The ministry is proposing to introduce a stand-alone heat stress regulation under the Occupational Health and Safety Act with specific requirements that would apply to all workplaces to which the Act applies.

### Skilled Trades Ontario to launch certificates of qualification, wallet cards for skilled trades professionals

This summer, Skilled Trades Ontario will begin issuing over 17,500 certificates of qualification and more than 200,000 wallet cards to apprentices and certified skilled trades workers across the province.

