

Municipal Safety News

Alberta
Municipal
Health
&
Safety
Association



July 2008

E-Newsletter

Sign up to receive this newsletter via email. Send your request to stephanie@amhsa.net.

Member News

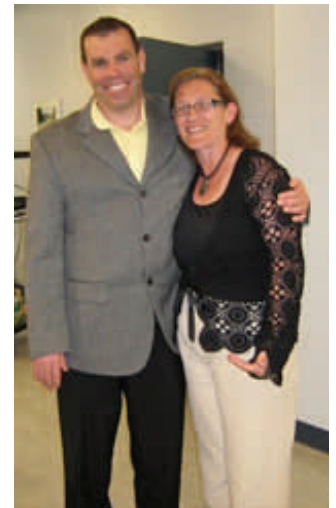
On Tuesday, June 10, 2008, Parkland County held their annual staff safety barbeque at their County Services Building. Employees enjoyed a steak barbeque, safety recognition awards were distributed, and Dr. Louis Francescutti was the keynote speaker. AMHSA and representatives from several of the surrounding municipalities were in attendance.

AMHSA thanks Parkland County for their hospitality and congratulates them on the well-received safety barbeque, a great display of their organizational commitment.

Northern Alberta Safety Council

The first meeting of the Northern Alberta Safety Council was held on June 10, 2008 in Parkland County. Representatives from Beaver County, Town of Ponoka, MD of Bonnyville, Lac Ste Anne County, Brazeau County, Town of Stony Plain, the MD of Wainwright, and Black Gold Regional School Division participated. They shared information on incidents, trends, projects, initiatives, and innovations. AMHSA is grateful to Yvonne Beattie for hosting and coordinating this meeting.

The next meeting will be hosted by Lac Ste Anne County on October 15, 2008. All AMHSA members in the 780 area code are welcome to attend. Participants will report on their health and safety programs and there will be an education component. AMHSA will report on current projects and both Alberta Employment and Immigration and Workers' Compensation Board will be invited to attend. Please RSVP to Shannon Thomas by October 3, 2008.



Executive Director Jim Moroney with Yvonne Beattie, Parkland County

A Southern Alberta Safety Council will be formed soon!

Contact AMHSA

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Audit Tips

An Auditor Update was sent to AMHSA-certified auditors in June, which included information on fatal flaws, firefighters, and new audit-related documents for 2008.

A page of justification tips was included for documentation, interview, and observation questions. Remember to quantify all scores awarded by providing positive indicators for documentation questions and positive response rate for interview questions. When writing observation justifications, remember to include examples of what you saw. Always address each part of each question, and read the "Note to Auditors". Note that any justification-related issues found during quality assurance review will need to be corrected before AMHSA can process the audit.

If you have questions about an audit, please contact Shannon Thomas.

Rural Utilities/Safety Conference

The 2008 Municipal Safety/Utility Conference will be held December 1-4, 2008 at the Red Deer Lodge. Watch www.rusa.ca for details.

December 2nd will feature the Alberta Cities Safety Council's fall meeting, the RUSA annual general meeting, an AWWOA course entitled Advantages of Water Metering for Municipalities, AMHSA's Formal Workplace Inspections course, and an evening banquet.

The draft schedule for December 3rd includes sessions entitled Recent Changes to the Alberta Occupational Health & Safety Code, Personal Protective Equipment – Hands and Ears, Health for Dummies, Thriving in the World of Safety, Picker Trucks, and Transportation Safety Audits. The draft schedule for December 4th includes Wheatland County vs Shaw Cable – CRTC Decision, Confined Space Entry, Emergency Preparedness, Health & Safety Auditing, and Regional Water Systems.

In addition to meetings and presentations, the conference will include a trade show, wine and cheese reception, evening banquet, and grand prize draw.

See www.rusa.ca for details and registration information.



Workers' Compensation Board News

NO TIME LOST CLAIMS

Many claims processed at WCB are no time lost claims (NTL), this means your employee returns to regular duties without losing time from work beyond the day of injury and does not have a permanent disability. WCB covers your employee's medical costs and sends you a letter informing you of the benefits your employee will receive. Your employee may be on modified work, but still not miss any time from their job. Employers are responsible to pay employees for the day the accident occurred. NTL claims are sent to the claim processing team.

The April 8, 2008 Employer Fact Sheet entitled "Processing No Time Lost Claims", available from www.wcb.ab.ca, includes a graphical representation of the process, and information about the three steps.

OCCUPATIONAL INJURY SERVICE (OIS)

OIS is getting the right care at the right time for the right result. The OIS program consists of medical clinics that provide timely and appropriate medical care and disability management services specifically for occupational injuries.

The Occupational Injury Service Fact Sheet for employers includes information on how they can help, the kinds of outcomes you can expect, how to get involved, and OIS providers in Alberta. Download the PDF from www.wcb.ab.ca.

Call 1 (800) 267-9764 or (780) 417-3900 to register in AMHSA courses.
See www.amhsa.net for fall schedule.

Online Course Now Available: Working Alone Safely

AMHSA's Working Alone Safely course has been converted into an online format which takes approximately 15 minutes to complete. Participants will:

- Understand what it means to "work alone"
- Know how to make a plan
 - ⇒ determine who works alone, identify potential hazards, reduce the risks with hazard controls, create a communication plan
- Understand meaning of "hazard" and "incident"
- Learn the Occupational Health & Safety Code requirements

To participate, send an email to stephanie@amhsa.net requesting an ID and password. She will reply with the required sign-on information, a help document, and invoice. The course fee per participant is \$20 for members and \$25 for associate members. No special software is required to complete the course, just an Internet browser (e.g. Internet Explorer) is needed. Once you've successfully completed the short online exam, you will receive a certificate in PDF format by email.