

Municipal Safety News

Alberta
Municipal
Health
&
Safety
Association



January 2009



Happy new year from the board and staff of AMHSA.

E-Newsletter

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

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Winter Driving Tips

A severe blizzard or snowstorm in Alberta is a common winter occurrence. Motorists have become stranded and perished because they were unprepared for an unexpected circumstance. If possible, don't subject yourself to such a situation. If a bad storm is forecast, unless absolutely forced to go out, you should stay at home.

In case you encounter an unexpected blizzard or a storm where the intensity was underestimated — always be prepared!

KEEP IN THE CAR:

- Flashlight
- Ice scraper
- Snow brush
- Fuses
- Road maps
- Matches
- Pocket knife
- Emergency contact list
- Cellular phone or change for phone calls

KEEP IN THE TRUNK:

- Booster cables
- Tire chains
- Spare tire
- Fire extinguisher
- First aid kit
- Jack and lug wrench
- Flares or reflective devices
- Empty can for gas or water, and a funnel
- Shovel
- Traction pads or sand
- Distress flag
- Antifreeze
- Empty can and candle
- Blankets/newspapers
- Extra clothing
- High caloric, non-perishable food

Modified Work: Sharing Opportunity

In an effort to improve their modified work program, Parkland County is creating a physical demands analysis for all of their positions, and would appreciate any PDAs that other municipalities are willing to share. Eventually all of the PDAs will be made available to AMHSA members on SafetyNet, our online library. Parkland County would also appreciate any templates or forms related to modified work that your municipality finds useful.

For details, call Jewel Day-Hampton, Parkland's Safety Coordinator, at (780) 968-8433 or email jday-hampton@parklandcounty.com.

Thinking Driver



Have your staff already attended our Defensive Driving course? AMHSA now recognizes Thinking Driver as a provider of driver training. Thinking Driver can provide your municipality with driver safety training and consulting services. The team of instructors, curriculum developers and implementation specialists can address most driver or vehicle safety issues. They offer a complete selection of courses and products including DVD and video.

For more information including prices, see www.thinkingdriver.com, email info@thinkingdriver.com or call 1-877-250-5601.

Source: AMA Driver Education

Legal News

In the first case of its kind in Alberta, an employer is being charged in connection with the rape of an employee who was working alone.

On October 31, Garda Canada Security Corp was charged with one count under the province's Occupational Health and Safety Act of "failing to ensure, as far as it was reasonably possible to do so, the health and safety of a worker," said Alberta Employment and Immigration spokesman Chris Chodan.

The company's first court appearance is scheduled for January 8, 2009.

Source: Canadian OH&S News

Alberta Employment and Immigration News

ONLINE VIEWING OF CSA STANDARDS

View Access is a funded pilot project established by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) in collaboration with all Canadian government departments responsible for occupational health and safety (OHS). Alberta's employers and workers now have a place to view CSA standards referenced in the OHS Code.

See <http://ohsviewaccess.csa.ca>



TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKERS

Publications are available for temporary foreign workers and their employers to help them understand their rights and responsibilities under Alberta's employment standards and workplace health and safety legislation.

See <http://employment.alberta.ca/cps/rde/xchg/hre/hs.xsl/1699.html>.

CONFINED SPACE BULLETIN

See http://employment.alberta.ca/documents/WHS/WHS-PUB_cs001.pdf for the November 2008 Workplace Health and Safety bulletin entitled "Guideline for Developing a Code of Practice for Confined Space Entry".

WCB News

ANNUAL RETURN INFORMATIONAL BRIEF FOR EMPLOYERS

Last year 74% of employers that submitted on time, did it online — how will you do it this year?



Many have done it before, and this year WCB wants you to do it again...online. You can file your annual return between January 1 and February 28, 2009 and doing it online is easy. Passwords to online filing will be in the mail starting late December. Visit www.wcb.ab.ca, enter your account number and password, and breeze through customized screens with automated calculations and built-in error checking. If you have not received a password by the first week in February, one can be requested online.

Complete and submit online. It's that easy.

Please note: As February 28th falls on a weekend, WCB-Alberta will be extending the reporting deadline to Monday, March 2, 2009.

NEW WEBSITE

WCB launched its new website on January 1, 2009. The new site will be divided into four key sections:

- WCB for Workers - a section loaded with return-to-work information as well as the tools injured workers need when working with the organization.
- WCB for Employers - a section devoted to helping employers understand their role and the strategies they can use to manage their performance and costs.
- WCB for Health Care Providers - a section that gives health care partners information to work effectively with WCB in helping injured workers return to work.
- WCB Information - a section aimed at education and general information about WCB's system and organization.



Online services will be available from your new, stakeholder-specific home page and WCB will link your authenticated online services via myWCB - the first step in enhancing your online business experience.

As of January 1st your WCB web experience will change but the online services will not — just remember to update your bookmarks!

Upcoming AMHSA Courses – Please check our website for full course listings

COURSE	DATE	LOCATION	FEE
Auditor Recertification/Update	Feb 10	Strathcona County	\$50 / \$70
Defensive Driving	Jan 20	Strathcona County	\$65 / \$90
	Apr 29	Sturgeon County	
	May 13	Sturgeon County	
	May 27	Wood Buffalo	
Disability Management	Feb 19	Calgary	\$0
	Feb 19	Edmonton	
	Mar 5	Calgary	
	Mar 5	Edmonton	
	Mar 23	Lethbridge	
	Apr 22	Grande Prairie	
	Other dates also available		
Formal Workplace Inspections	Jan 22	a.m. Canmore	\$40 / \$50
	Jan 26, 28	a.m. Peace Wapiti	
	Jan 28	a.m. Strathcona County	
	Mar 24	p.m. Wood Buffalo	
Hazard Identification, Assessment & Control	Jan 21	p.m. Canmore	\$40 / \$50
	Jan 27	a.m. Peace Wapiti	
	Jan 27	p.m. Strathcona County	
	Mar 24	a.m. Wood Buffalo	
Health & Safety Management Systems	Feb 17-18	Strathcona County	\$90 / \$145
	Mar 30-31	Wolf Creek School Division	
Health & Safety Management Systems - Audit	Feb 24-25	Strathcona County	\$90 / \$145
	Apr 2-3	Wolf Creek School Division	
Incident Investigation	Jan 22	p.m. Canmore	\$40 / \$50
	Jan 27	p.m. Peace Wapiti	
	Jan 28	p.m. Strathcona County	
	Mar 25	a.m. Wood Buffalo	
Joint Health & Safety Committees	Feb 2	p.m. Medicine Hat	\$40 / \$50
	Mar 25	p.m. Wood Buffalo	
Leadership for Safety Excellence	Jan 21-22	Canmore	\$90 / \$145
	Jan 22-23	Tri-County	
	Jan 27-28	Strathcona County	
	Feb 3-4	Kneehill County	
	Feb 4-5	Tri-County	
MSI Prevention (Office Environment)	Mar 12	Wood Buffalo	\$40 / \$50
MSI Prevention (Physically Demanding)	Mar 12	Wood Buffalo	\$40 / \$50
Prime Contractor	Mar 23	Wood Buffalo	\$50 / \$70
Supervisor's Role	Jan 21	a.m. Canmore	\$40 / \$50
	Jan 27	a.m. Strathcona County	
	Feb 2	a.m. Medicine Hat	
	Mar 26	a.m. Wood Buffalo	

To register, contact Lorraine.

1-800-267-9764

or

To schedule an onsite course, contact Susanne.

(780) 417-3900