

Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development

Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD): COVID-19 Response & Construction Workplaces

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Introduction



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COVID-19 Response & Construction Workplaces

- Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in Ontario, the construction sector has been a leader for the province.
- An example of an essential sector that was able to remain open while preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace.
- The government has worked closely with its partners in the construction sector to ensure that workplaces have the information they need to keep workers healthy and safe.
- The following presentation will outline some of the actions the government has taken in collaboration with its partners in the construction sector to maintain healthy and safe workplaces in spite of COVID-19.

COVID-19 Health and Safety Resources for Ontario Construction Workplaces

Construction sector

✓ Tip sheet

📄 Guidance note



- With many parts of the construction sector deemed essential, construction was one of the first sectors in Ontario to produce [sector-specific guidance](#) to prevent the spread of COVID-19
- The ministry has worked with Ontario's health and safety associations to provide Ontario workplaces with [over 170 sector-specific guidance resources](#)
 - Resources include guidance notes, posters, tip sheets and videos
 - The page has been viewed more than **780,000** times since being released in March

COVID-19 Health and Safety Resources



- In June, Ontario released a general guide for workplaces to help them develop safety plans to protect workers, customers and clients during COVID-19
- Additional COVID-19 support has been provided for workplaces through the Stop the Spread Hotline for Ontario's essential workplaces list and MLTSD's health and safety contact center



Health and Safety System Support for Construction Workplaces

- In April of 2020, MLTSD and the Infrastructure Health and Safety Association (IHSA) worked together to help workplace parties understand the requirements of the Act and Construction regulations as they relate to protecting workers against spread of COVID-19
- IHSA visited Construction Projects to provide helpful resources to workplace parties
- To-date, IHSA has performed 512 in-person and 1246 phone consultations related to this initiative

Working at Height Extension

- On March 27, 2020, a regulatory amendment took effect that granted a one-year extension to WAH validity periods for workers whose training expired or will expire between February 28 and August 31, 2020.
- The extension will ensure over 120,000 workers whose training was due to expire can continue to work when possible. Construction will move ahead without interruption.
- A comprehensive plan is being developed to mitigate the effects of the one-year WAH training validity extension period on workers, employers and training providers during the COVID-19 outbreak.



Health and Safety Training is now open

1. JHSC Part 1 training is now available fully online
2. JHSC Part 1, Part 2, and Refresher training are now available via distance learning
3. Ontario's H&S training providers are able to operate in-person training so long as they comply with public health guidelines

While in-person training is permitted, providers are encouraged to continue delivering training remotely where it is possible to do so.

Free Online H&S Training

- The Ontario government is investing \$3 million to provide free online health and safety training for the first time.
- These virtual courses will make it easier for job seekers and workers to get essential qualifications, while practicing physical distancing and preventing the spread of COVID-19.
- Up to 100,000 job seekers can now take free online workplace health and safety training through Employment Ontario.
- 10 courses are offered:

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)	Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)
Conducting Investigations	Slips, Trips and Falls
Health and Safety Representative	Manual Material Handling
Infection Control	Workplace Inspections
Ladder Safety	Workplace Violence and Harassment

Fatality Statistics

- There were twenty one fatalities in the first six months of this year. Eight of these fatalities were in the construction workplaces.
- There were five fatalities in the second quarter of 2020 (April, May, June), none which were in the construction sector.

Data Snapshot: July 7, 2020 by the Prevention Office

All Sectors					
Year	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total
2018	14	16	10	14	54
2019	6	11	16	12	45
2020	16	5	-	-	21
Total	36	32	26	26	120

Construction					
Year	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total
2018	7	6	5	7	25
2019	3	2	6	7	18
2020	8	0	-	-	8
Total	18	8	11	14	51

COVID-19 & Ontario's Next Occupational Health and Safety Strategy

- In 2019, the Prevention Office (PVO) completed province-wide consultations (1000+ participants) and research and analysis to inform the development of the next strategy
- The strategy was scheduled for release in Spring 2020, however because most of the strategy's development took place prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, PVO is now planning for a Fall 2020 release to incorporate infectious disease and OHS in a post-COVID-19 environment

**Thank you for
your time**

Questions?