

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Focused Inspection Project: Young Workers

Inspection data timeframe: May 11, 2011 to June 10, 2011

This report includes inspection data up June 21, 2011.

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Prepared by OHS Delivery

**Government
of Alberta** ■



1.0 INTRODUCTION

Alberta Employment and Immigration (AEI) Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) identified *Young Workers* as one of the key areas for focused inspections in the 2011-12 fiscal year.

The purpose of the focused inspections was to raise awareness of known workplace hazards, and ensure compliance with the *OHS Act*, Regulation, and Code.

The overall goal of the project was to enhance employers' awareness of their responsibility to protect the health and safety of their workers by identifying and controlling known hazards associated with their work. OHS has developed a number of educational tools specific to Young Workers including:

- Extreme Safety document
- Bloody lucky website: <http://www.bloodylucky.ca>
- Work Safe Passport
- Tips for Employer/Supervisor of Young Workers
- Tips for Parents of Young Workers
- My Health and Safety Questions eLearning Program
- Assorted educational and information posters

2.0 OVERVIEW OF FOCUSED INSPECTION PROJECT

2.1 Young Workers

Young Workers are identified as workers between the ages of 15 and 24 years.

2.2 Inspection Focus

Two specific industry sectors were identified as inspection focuses for the purpose of the project:

63100 Food Convenience Stores

58107 Restaurant/Take Out Food Services

OHS conducted focused inspections at work sites where young workers are frequently employed and exposed to known hazards that may result in traumatic injuries and disorders, sprains, strains and tears, open wounds, surface wounds and bruises, and burns.

OHS Officers focused their inspections on, but did not limit their inspection to, parts and Sections of the OHS legislation that address hazards that young workers may be exposed to, and measures that adequately control those identified hazards:

- *OHS Act*, Section 2 – Obligations of Employers, Workers
- OHS Regulations, Section 13 – General Protection of Workers
- OHS Regulations, Section 15 – Safety Training
- OHS Code, Part 2, Section 7 – Hazard Assessment, Elimination and Control

Officers completed the following during their inspection:

- Determined compliance with applicable sections of the Alberta *OHS Act*, Regulation, and OHS Code.
- Addressed additional hazards observed during their inspection. If the OHS Officer identified an imminent danger situation, a Stop Work Order or Stop Use Order would be issued to the employer as required.
- Issued a written Client Contact Report to the employer, documenting the results of the Officer's observations, and any Orders issued to correct observed deficiencies.
- Completed a re-inspection of the worksite with the employer to verify compliance with any issued Orders.
- Ensured the initial inspection report, along with the follow-up re-inspection report were posted in a conspicuous location readily accessible to the affected workers.

3.0 RESULTS OF INSPECTION ACTIVITY

3.1 Number of Inspections

The project took place between May 11, 2011, and June 10, 2011. Follow-up inspections continue to ensure compliance is validated with Orders issued. For the purposes of this report, inspection and re-inspection data is included up to and including June 21, 2011.

OHS Officers conducted 118 inspections and 90 re-inspections for a total of 208 initial and follow-up inspections of 107 employer worksites in Alberta.

Thirty six (36) of the 118 initial inspections conducted resulted in no observed violations of the legislation, and no Orders were issued in these cases. This represents approximately 31% of the initial inspections conducted.

Many young workers are engaged in work activity in the evenings and on weekends. As part of the project, Officers inspected 21 work sites after regular business hours. This represents approximately 10% of all inspections conducted (21/208).

Observations during the inspections conducted did not reveal the need for an Employment Standards referral.

3.2 Orders Issued

A total of 181 Orders were issued during the Young Worker Focused Inspection Project across the province within the two industry codes.

A total of 11 Notices to Produce health and safety information were issued to employers. Notices to Produce documents are not viewed as Orders in the legislation.

No immediate danger situations were observed that required the issuance of a Stop Work or Stop Use Order to an employer.

Table 1: Orders Issued by Part or Section of OHS Act, Regulation or Code

Part of OHS ACT, Regulation or Code	Total	Percent of Total
<i>OHS Act</i> , Section 2 – Obligations of Employer, Workers, Etc.	4	2%
OHS Regulations, Part 1, Section 12 – Equipment	1	0.5%
OHS Regulations, Part 1, Section 15 – Safety Training	1	0.5%
OHS Code, Part 2 – Hazard Assessment, Elimination & Control	28	16%
OHS Code, Part 3 – Specifications and Certification	4	2%
OHS Code, Part 4 – Chemical Hazards, Biological Hazards and Harmful Substances	14	8%
OHS Code, Part 7 – Emergency Preparedness and Response	18	10%
OHS Code, Part 8 – Entrances, Walkways, Stairways and ladder	5	3%
OHS Code, Part 10 – Fire and Explosion Hazards	7	4%
OHS Code, Part 11 – First Aid	34	19%
OHS Code, Part 12 – General Safety Precautions	8	4%
OHS Code, Part 15 – Managing the Control of hazardous Energy	1	0.5%
OHS Code. Part 18 – Personal Protective Equipment	2	1%
OHS Code, Part 19 – Powered Mobile Equipment	2	1%
OHS Code, Part 22 – Safeguards	4	2%
OHS Code, Part 27 – Violence	6	3%
OHS Code, Part 28 – Working Alone	1	0.5%
OHS Code, Part 29 – Workplace Hazardous Material Information (WHMIS)	41	23%
TOTAL	181	100%

As highlighted in Table 1, a total of 181 Orders were issued under the *OHS Act*, Regulation, or Code.

The breakdown of Orders and related sections of the legislation that were an established focus for OHS Officers are as follows:

- Section 2 of the *Act* – Obligations of the Employer and Worker, accounted for four (4) Orders.
- Section 13 and 15 of the Regulation – General Protection of Workers and Safety Training, accounted for one (1) Order.
- Part 2 of the OHS Code – Hazard Assessment Elimination and Control, accounted for 28 Orders. This accounts for approximately 15% of all Orders issued.

Parts of the OHS Code most frequently contravened are as follows:

- Part 29 – Workplace Hazardous Material Information (WHMIS) (41 Orders)
- Part 11 – First Aid (34 Orders)
- Part 2 – Hazard Assessment, Elimination and Control (28 Orders)
- Part 7 – Emergency Preparedness (18 Orders)
- Part 4 – Chemical Hazards, Biological Hazards and Harmful Substances (14 Orders)

These five Parts of the Code accounted for 135 of the 181 Orders issued or 75% of all Orders issued. These findings indicate that hazard assessment elimination and control, the general protection of workers, worker training, and adequate supervision remain key issues relative to ensuring the health and safety of Young Workers.

The remaining 46 Orders were related to 13 different areas of the *OHS Act*, Regulation, or Code as highlighted in Table 1.

4.0 OHS FOCUSED INSPECTION PROJECTS

OHS focused inspections projects are part of AEI's OHS operations and are designed to raise the profile of known workplace hazards, promote employers becoming self reliant in achieving compliance with the *OHS Act*, Regulations, and Code, and to enforce these legislated OHS standards.

Inspection results will be used to determine future inspection areas, frequency of inspections of individual workplaces, and to track the progress and trends related to the control of workplace hazards within specific industries.

Next Steps

OHS Officers will continue to conduct inspections to ensure OHS compliance on an on-going basis. OHS will continue to implement OHS focused inspection projects directed at industries where specific hazards are known to exist, and where OHS observes non-compliance.

A Residential Construction OHS focused inspection project is planned for later this year. Additional focused inspection projects will be undertaken in 2012.