



Executive Director's Report

PROMPT PAYMENT UPDATE

FEDERAL UPDATE



crossed.

We have been informed that Federal Prompt Payment Legislation, Bill S-224, has made it through the committee review stage and awaits third reading by the Senate. Once third reading has been completed, it will go back to the House of Commons for vote. Fingers are

PROVINCIAL UPDATE

We continue to wait for the CLA (Prompt Payment) legislation to be introduced by the government. As indicated in our last newsletter, Attorney General Naqvi has indicated he is committed to introducing fair and balanced legislation this Spring and appears eager to have the legislation passed into law before the end of 2017.



On May 15, 2017, COCA is having their **COCA 2017 Welcome to Construction Season Reception** at Queen's Park. The Reception will be held between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and brings the industry and key government representatives together.

Attorney General Naqvi will be the featured speaker at the reception. AAO will be in attendance. This is an opportunity to keep our industry, organization and issues top of mind with government officials.

Prompt Payment Ontario (PPO) continues to engage with the Minister and staff. The date however has passed in which PPO put forth a date to the Ministry for having draft legislation ready on April 18, 2017, which would allow for the legislation to be introduced before **PPO has its second lobby day at Queen's Park on May 17, 2017.**

This has not however discouraged members of PPO. PPO plans for their Lobby Day are in place. AAO Board Director Steve Creces (our seasoned lobby day member from last year), President Bob Grassing and myself will be in attendance that day to meet face-to-face with various MPP's. Minister Naqvi will be on the agenda as well as MPP's from all parties. We must keep the momentum going and encourage the government to do the right thing.

*Executive Director's Report (continued)***MOL 2017 – 2018 INSPECTION BLITZES**

Each year the MOL schedule inspection blitzes and initiatives in specific sectors to protect workers' rights under both the Occupational Health and Safety Act and the Employment Standards Act, and enhance employers' awareness of their responsibilities. The following blitzes have been announced for construction:

**Provincial blitzes 2017-18**

New and young worker	Employment standards	Sectors known to employ young and new workers	May 1, 2017 – August 31, 2017
Hours of work	Employment standards	Construction	May 1, 2017 – August 31, 2017
Supervisor awareness and accountability	Health and safety	Construction	June 1, 2017 – July 31, 2017
Residential projects	Health and safety	Construction	September 1, 2017 – November 30, 2017
Falls – ladder safety	Health and safety	Construction	October 2, 2017 – November 24, 2017

Provincial initiatives 2017-18

Noise	Health and safety	Construction	April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018
Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)	Health and safety	All sectors	April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018
Ergonomics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workplaces with a high rate of musculoskeletal disorder • Food processing / manufacturing • Tire handling and storage • Ladder use & access for manual materials handling 	Health and safety	All sectors	April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018
"Struck by" hazards	Health and safety	Construction	May 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018
Fall protection	Health and safety	Construction	May 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018

Regional initiatives 2017-18

Western	Health and safety	Construction: Electrical contact	April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018
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Executive Director's Report (continued)


SafetyTalk

Silica—Installing and finishing drywall

Some drywall tasks can release dust with high concentrations of silica particles into the air. These tasks include

- Cutting drywall (e.g., making holes for light fixtures, plugs, switches, etc.)
- Sanding drywall joint compound
- Cutting cement board
- Disturbing settled dust

When inhaled, silica particles travel deep into the lungs. Over time, these particles can cause the following health issues:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Respiratory problems | 3. Lung cancer |
| 2. Silicosis | 4. Scleroderma |

Explain dangers

Respiratory problems—Inhaling silica particles can cause

- Irritation to the throat and airway
- Persistent coughing
- Breathing difficulties
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD)—a combination of chronic bronchitis and emphysema that is often fatal

Silicosis—Silicosis is caused by an inflammation and buildup of scars on the lungs, which makes breathing extremely difficult. Once silicosis starts to develop, it continues to get worse even if exposure to silica stops. This disease is often fatal. Many people who have silicosis develop other health problems, such as heart disease, tuberculosis, and lung cancer.

Lung cancer—Many scientific organizations have confirmed that exposure to silica causes lung cancer, a debilitating disease that is often fatal.

Scleroderma—Scleroderma is a disorder of the connective tissue that holds various body parts together. The skin becomes tight and thick, making it difficult for a person to move. It can cause serious problems, such as damage to the kidneys, lungs, digestive system, and heart.

Identify controls

- Educate workers on the health effects of silica exposure and controls for preventing exposure during drywall cutting and sanding tasks. Workers

must be trained on WHMIS (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System) and know where to find Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) for hazardous products.

- Turn off heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning units to reduce the spread of dust to other parts of the workplace.
- Warn other trades about the risk of silica exposure, and limit entry into the work area.
- Ventilate the work area while cutting and sanding. Open windows and doors and use mechanical fans to dilute contaminated air.
- Always wash your face and hands before eating, drinking, or smoking and before going home.
- Use an electric shrouded ventilated rotary sander (SVRS). It can reduce silica dust levels by about 96%. This type of sander draws air through the rotating pad into a shroud and passes it through a vacuum collection system with a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter (see image right).



- Vacuum the workspace with a HEPA vacuum attached to either a manual sander or an electric SVRS. Because silica particles are extremely small, a conventional vacuum will blow the dust back into the air.
- Use respiratory protection whenever you are working with materials containing silica. Silica particles are so small that you may not even see the hazardous dust in the air. For most drywall sanding and cutting applications, use an elastomeric half-mask air-purifying respirator with P100 filters. Before using a respirator, every worker must have a fit test and a user seal check performed and be trained to select, use, and care for a respirator.

Demonstrate

- Show your crew an elastomeric half-mask air-purifying respirator.
- Demonstrate how to put on and wear the respirator. Perform a seal check.

*Executive Director's Report (continued)***IHSA**

The IHSA is available to all construction employers who pay premiums to the WSIB. They are a leader in health and safety education and valuable to our industry. AAO encourages all members to make use of this association. Much of the information they produce is free or for a nominal charge. You can visit their website at www.ihsa.ca.

One of the products it produces is the IHSA Health & safety Magazine. You can check out the latest issue by going to their website. This magazine is produced four times each year. All AAO members can receive printed copies at no charge by filling out the IHSA subscription form on their website. Multiple copies can be ordered and they make an excellent handout for employees and staff.

In their latest issue, there is a safety talk on silica in our industry. The talk was developed by the IHSA Acoustical and Drywall Trade Labour-Management Health and Safety Committee, which AAO Co-Chairs. A copy follows. AAO encourages all members to review this safety talk with their employees.

UPCOMING MAY 2017 EVENTS**IHSA Drywall Labour-Management Committee Meeting**

May 4, 2017 (Paul Gunning attending)

COCA COO/Board Meeting/Queen's Park Reception

May 15, 2017 (Paul Gunning attending)

PPO LOBBY DAY AT QUEEN'S PARK

May 17, 2017 (Bob Grassing, Steve Creces and Paul Gunning attending)

UPCOMING Mathews Dinsdale Seminars/Webinars

Copy the following URL to your browser to register for new sessions or review archived session videos:

<http://www.mathewsdinsdale.com> (see right side)

Medical Terminology & Disability Management for Non-Medical Professionals

Thursday, May 11, 2017

If you have any questions, please call me at 519-671-5930.

Paul Gunning
Executive Director

The Mathews Dinsdale Minute

While not the happiest of news, we wanted to use this month's Mathews Dinsdale Minute to highlight some recent convictions under the Occupational Health & Safety Act and the fines that resulted. Our purpose is to emphasise the fact that it is essential that your on-site crews are always well trained, equipped and prepared for the health and safety needs of their jobs and the potential of a visit by a Health and Safety Inspector.

In one case, a roofing contractor was subject to an MOL inspection at a site in Milton. On his arrival the inspector observed workers on a roof working without fall arrest, helmets or safety footwear. Further, once they observed the Inspector the workers fled the worksite and subsequent correspondence to the Company was disregarded. Following a trial the roofing company was fined \$40 000.00 on charges of obstructing a Ministry of Labour inspector and for the lack of fall arrest, protective headgear and safety footwear.

In another case, a shoring company was preparing a rebar cage for insertion in a caisson as part of the reinforced concrete installation. Workers were standing inside a 25 foot long and 11 foot diameter cylindrical rebar cage which was positioned horizontally on the ground. They were removing internal braces prior to the installation of the cage. After removing certain braces the cage collapsed causing minor injuries and temporarily trapping the workers. After pleading guilty, the contractor was fined \$50 000.00.

The point of noting these articles is this: the obligations under the OHSA are substantial, and issues can arise at any time. This occurs with contractors that aren't prepared as well as those that are taking many reasonable precautions. Vigilance and constant preparation and training are necessary, both to avoid accidents and to be prepared should a Ministry of Labour Inspector visit your site. The financial implications of not meeting the requirements under the OHSA are substantial.