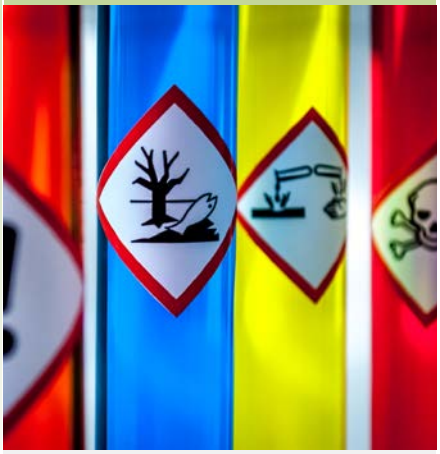
February Issue 2019

OH&S Safety Matters



WHMIS 2015 and SPILLS

A multi-year transition plan has now been completed and as of December 2018 the WHMIS 2015 legislation is fully in force. The Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) has been aligned with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS).

The Workers' Compensation Board administers the requirements of the Hazardous Products Act in British Columbia under section 114 of the Workers Compensation Act, and WorkSafeBC officers enforce the federal requirements on suppliers under the Hazardous Products Act.

Hazardous Products Inventory

The employer has the responsibility to know, at all times, what hazardous products are in the workplace and in what amount. A good chemical or product inventory system and corresponding procurement procedures are essential. For example, part of the procurement process for WHMIS is to make sure the supplier has provided the correct and most current labels and SDS's for hazardous products.

Hazard Identification

When a product is brought into the workplace, it is essential to know the hazards of the product. A summary of the hazards is found on the product's SDS. Review the SDS to make sure the information is complete. Knowing the hazards will help management make informed decisions about use, storage, disposal, emergency response, education, and training.

Education and Training

All workers who work with a hazardous product (or who may be exposed to a hazardous product) must learn about the hazards associated with these products. The hazard information should include the information received from the supplier, as well as any other information that the employer is aware of about the use, storage, and handling of each product.

- Education refers to general information such as how WHMIS works. For example, the new ***OH&S WHMIS 2015 training program*** is considered to be education. Participants learn general information about hazards, safe work procedures, inspection criteria, WHMIS legislation and guidelines used to identity and control worker exposure to hazardous products.

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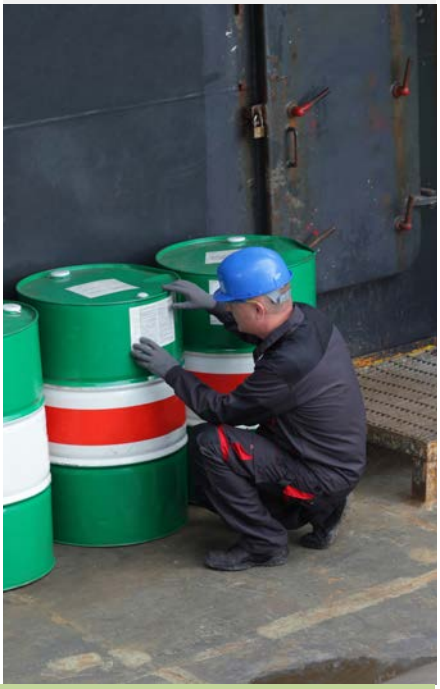


- Training refers to the site and job specific information for workers that will cover the workplace's procedures for storage, handling, use, disposal, emergencies, and what to do in the event of a spill.

Minor Spill Response

The fundamental principles for guidance during a minor spill, leak or emergency consist of:

- Polluter-pay principle

Industrial and commercial sectors that pose a risk to the environment and public safety must internalize the risk and redress impacts.

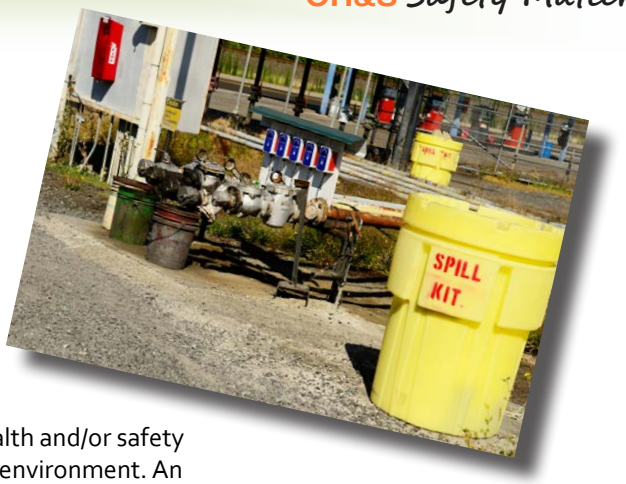
- Emergency management is a shared responsibility

Businesses and governments whose interests are directly affected by a spill (or threat) and have a capability to respond have a shared role in emergency preparedness and spill response. The level of emergency preparedness by industry and the government is to be commensurate with the degree of threat / risk for which it creates. Risk needs to be assessed and managed; these risks include the physical risks to people, property and the environment as well as institutional risks (political, financial, legal).

Spill response usually begins with the responsible person (spiller) and escalation occurs if necessary. The provincial government is prepared to take over an incident should the responsible person be unknown or be unable to fulfill its response obligations as set out in the OH&S regulation and the Environmental Management Act.

Three levels of Spill Response

The term emergency is defined as an accidental situation involving the release or imminent release of dangerous goods or substances that could result in serious adverse



effects on the health and/or safety of persons or the environment. An emergency may be the result of man caused or natural occurrences such as, but not limited to, process upsets, uncontrolled reactions, fires, explosions, threats, structural failures, earthquakes, floods, and storms. The emergency coding that defines the severity and potential impact of an emergency may be identified as follows:

- **LEVEL 1:** minor spills requiring an on-site worker to respond and take necessary collective actions.
- **LEVEL 2:** intermediate level spills requiring response by on-site or off-site trained staff but posing no danger to the public.
- **LEVEL 3:** a major incident beyond the resources of a single facility, assistance will be required from local, regional, and/or provincial organizations.

The ***emergency procedures*** should include instructions for dealing with leaks and spills and the ***spill control procedures*** should include:

- Spill containment to prevent the spread of the material to other areas. This may involve the use of temporary diking, sand bags, dry sand, earth or proprietary booms / absorbent pads;
- Spill containment to prevent the spread of the material to other areas. This may involve the use of temporary diking, sand bags, dry sand, earth or proprietary booms / absorbent pads;
- Wherever possible the hazardous product should be rendered safe by treating or diluting with chemicals;
- Hazardous materials in a fine dusty form should not be cleared up by dry brushing. Vacuum cleaners should be used in preference;
- Treated material are absorbed onto inert carrier material to allow the material to be cleared up and removed to a safe place for disposal or further treatment as appropriate;
- Waste should not be allowed to accumulate, procedure should be adopted.

Spills of hazardous substances are absorbed, neutralized or controlled at the time of the incident in order to maintain workplace safety. Depending on the severity of the spill, it may be important to first control the spread of the product. Containment berms are used to keep liquids confined. Once the spill has been contained, the next step is to work on cleaning it up.

OH&S has designed a **Minor Spills Leaks and Releases Level 1** worker response for general industry safety training program that provides general information to workers, members of JOSH committees, supervisors, and managers. The scope of this course is to convey the particulars of responding to a minor spill, leak, or release in the workplace.

New Innovative H2S Safety Training Program

Hydrogen Sulfide Risk of Exposure

Industries such as Pulp & Paper Production, Wastewater, Mining, Construction, Iron Smelters, Fertilizer Mfg., Chemicals, Food Processing, Sulphur Production, Tar and Asphalt Manufacturing and Landfill gas-to-energy generating facilities all have workplace conditions which pose a risk of potentially exposing workers to a release of hydrogen sulfide (H2S).

H2s is a risk when workers enter areas where the gas is present or when the gas is released from substances containing H2S that are heated, depressurized, or agitated.

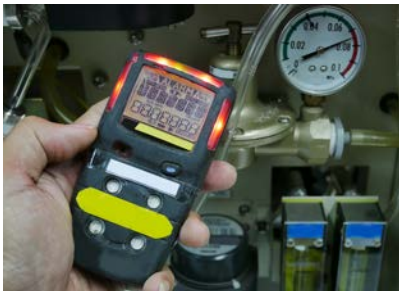
The Occupational Health Safety regulation and related OHS guidelines clarify employer requirements to protect workers from harmful effects of exposure to hydrogen sulfide.

Hydrogen Sulfide (H2S) safe work procedures must take into consideration elements such as risk assessment, exposure control plans, air monitoring, record keeping, house keeping practices, and worker instruction and training.

Hydrogen sulfide is a colourless, flammable, extremely hazardous gas with a “rotten egg” smell. Some common names for the gas include sewer gas, stink damp, swamp gas and manure gas. Hydrogen sulfide can also exist as a liquid compressed gas.

Hydrogen sulfide (H2S) is soluble in various liquids including water and alcohol. It can be formed under conditions of deficient oxygen, in the presence of organic material and sulfate. Most of the atmospheric hydrogen sulfide has natural origins. Hydrogen sulfide occurs around sulfur springs and lakes, and is an air contaminant in geothermally active areas. Human activities can release naturally occurring hydrogen sulfide into ambient air. For instance, some natural gas deposits contain up to 42% hydrogen sulfide.

In industry, hydrogen sulfide can be formed whenever elemental sulfur or sulfur-containing compounds come into contact with organic materials at high temperatures. Hydrogen sulfide is formed, for instance, during coke production, in viscose rayon production, in waste-water plants, in wood pulp production using the sulfate method, in oil refining and in the tanning industry.



All workers who are potentially at the risk of exposure to hydrogen sulfide gas must demonstrate training knowledge and ability in the following areas:

- Hazards related to exposure.
- The risks of exposure.
- Signs & symptoms of exposure.
- Safe work procedures.
- Use of respirators
- Use of control systems.
- How to seek first aid.
- How to report an exposure.

The foundation of behaviour based safety training promotes efforts to reduce the frequency and number of work injuries through the implementation of safe work procedures and the ongoing supervision and training of workers.

The ***Hydrogen Sulfide Risk of Exposure*** safety training program has been designed to provide the necessary general information to workers, members of JOSH committees, supervisors, and managers.

Call OH&S Safety to get the instructor training you need to deliver Hydrogen Sulfide Risk of Exposure safety training programs on your job site Today !

Winter related slips and Falls

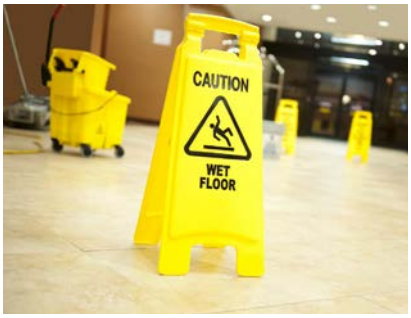
Winter related slips and falls have a significant negative impact on businesses each year, resulting in time off work, temporary-employee costs, overtime for existing workers and increased insurance costs.

Although we can't change the weather, we can do much more to prepare and keep workers safe.

The primary cause of slips and fall injuries is a problem with walking surfaces. Most people don't slip and fall on clean, dry floors.

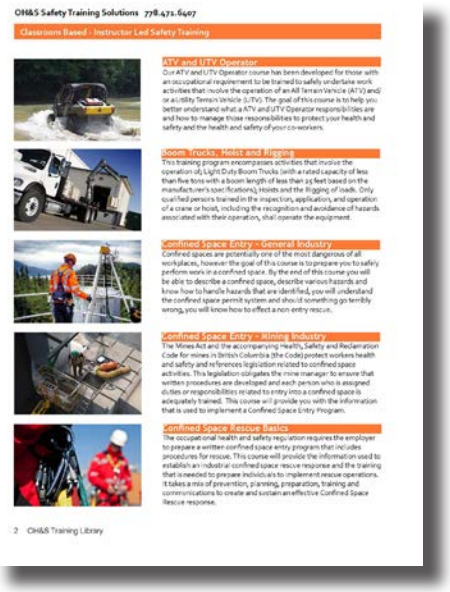
Slips and falls put workers at risk of sprains, strains, concussion, and fractures. Slips happen where there is not enough traction between the footwear and the walking surface.

Practise good housekeeping by ensuring floors are kept clean and plan for seasonal weather. Install suitable matting at entrances to help keep entrance floors dry.



Place "Wet Floor" signs to clearly identify areas where floors are wet and limit access through these areas until the floors are dry. Always leave a dry path through the area being cleaned. For example, clean half the width of a hallway at a time.

Risks must be managed in the workplace. This process is called risk assessment and it is something that is required to be carried out. Steps are probably already being taken to protect workers, but risk assessment will reveal whether or not there is a need to be doing more.



2019 e-Catalog is Available

Are you ready to tap into a wider network of training programs. Get access to 100% of the OH&S safety training programs by simply sending me an e-mail and asking for a FREE copy of the training course library !

markh@ohandscanada.ca

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Safety Matters

Staying in Touch

We want you to be aware that you always have the opportunity to opt-out from receiving OH&S Safety Training Solutions electronic communications. To opt-out, simply call OH&S Safety Training Solutions at 778.471.6407 and ask to be taken off the OH&S registry membership email list.

OH&S will never sell or rent your email address or information, and should you decide to no longer receive electronic communications from OH&S we will accommodate your decision to "unsubscribe".

We trust you will choose to continue to receive the OH&S Safety Matters newsletters and other promotional materials so you can stay up to date on new programs, best practice tips, and other OH&S Safety Training Solutions news.

We appreciate your business, and look forward to working with you to achieve your safety training goals. Thank you!

OH&S Safety Consulting and Training Solutions

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