



OH&S Safety Matters

Investment in Mining

Mining is one of BC's largest and oldest industries and new spending was announced by the provincial government that will improve mine safety for workers and the environment. The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources will now be home to two expanded divisions: the **Mines Health, Safety and Enforcement Division** and the **Mines Competitiveness and Authorizations Division**.

"We are putting additional resources in place to enable more frequent inspections and upping enforcement to keep mines safe, for workers and for our environment," said Michelle Mungall, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

The Mines Health, Safety and Enforcement Division will include a greater number of mines inspectors and a new auditing function to increase industry safety. The division's priorities will be focused on health, safety, compliance management and enforcement activities. A new compliance auditing and effectiveness monitoring team within the division will function as an independent oversight unit.

The provincial government's increased investment will create significant new opportunities. "A year ago, the Mining Jobs Task Force was formed, and we have reached consensus on how to strengthen this vital resource industry through a comprehensive set of actions," said Edie Thome, president and CEO of the Association of Mineral Exploration. "Through our discussions with First Nations, industry, stakeholders and people working in mineral exploration and mining throughout B.C., we gained a sense of what was needed and are pleased to see the resources being committed in the latest budget."

The Province is investing \$20 million over three years to support these changes, which help foster a healthy, thriving and responsible mining sector with high-paying jobs. The ministry is creating 30 additional positions in 2019-20 in the two new divisions, with up to 35 additional positions added next year and the year after.

For more information, visit: news.gov.bc.ca

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Vacuum Excavation

Vacuum excavation utilizes a high velocity air or water stream to penetrate, expand and break up soil. The loosened soil and rocks are then removed through the use of a powerful vacuum. Many compressed air vacuum excavation systems now come equipped with a water tank and water heater allowing for hydro excavation in difficult conditions.

Hydro Vacuum Excavation

The primary benefit of hydro vacuum excavation is the ease and speed of excavating. The higher density of water produces a powerful stream which pulverises the soil. Water acts as a lubricant during excavation and can be heated for excavating in frozen ground.

Hydro vacuum excavation units require larger trucks, or trailers of sufficient capacity to handle the volume and weight of water. Hydro vacuum excavation units usually have a tank for "clean" water and another in which to store the slurry. Hydro excavation is limited to the supply of water in the holding tank. When that supply is exhausted, the unit must be refilled.

In cold or freezing temperatures, working with water can be difficult. Equipment can freeze and conditions at the truck tank discharge points can be challenging. Environmentally friendly antifreeze solutions are often required. Many units have heaters that provide hot water in the wintertime, making short work of frozen ground.

The force of the water that hydro vacuum excavation systems produce can damage underground utilities. Water is also a very good conductor of electricity which introduces a safety consideration when working near buried electric facilities. Hydro vacuum excavation systems work best in moderate temperatures when there is a lot of vacuum excavating to be done, there is a nearby location to dispose of the slurry and a place to obtain refill water.

Air Vacuum Excavation

Air vacuum excavation systems penetrate and expand porous soils, blowing the particles apart so that they can be vacuumed up. On-board compressors generate a limitless supply of air for the vacuum excavation. The spoils of an air excavation system can usually be used for backfill or are easily disposed of.

Although air excavation may not be as quick as hydro excavation, air vacuum excavation units are quite often smaller lighter and more economical. Air vacuum excavation systems work best in sandy or gravel soil types. These units will also require greater operator effort in clay and harder, or dense soil conditions. Because air is a gas, it will compress and flow around a utility without

damaging it, or abrading the utilities surface. The nature of this compressive action may also, in very dry conditions, produce a dust cloud which could be detrimental to the immediate environment surrounding the excavation. An added advantage to the use of air excavation to locate utilities is that it is non-conductive, lessening the hazard to excavators.

Vacuum excavation is an important technology used on job sites across Canada to save time and to improve worker safety. Vacuum excavation has transformed how digging around underground utilities takes place, or how municipal operators are cleaning up sanitary sewer systems and debris from stormwater catch basins after the winter melt.

The earth-shattering growth of the vacuum excavation industry has prompted OH&S regulators to focus on responsible practices. New innovations and machine designs continue to support damage prevention to utilities and to offer more precise control.

Call OH&S Safety to get the instructor training you need to deliver programs at your job site Today !



May 5th to the 11th 2019 is **NAOSH** week



North American Occupational Safety and Health Week

May 5 - 11 2019 is NAOSH week. Every year, the first full week in May is celebrated as “North American Occupational Safety Week”. NAOSH Week began in 1997 as a mutually agreed-upon, annual initiative between Canada, Mexico and the United States, to bring attention to safety in the workplace.

Each country has since decided to dedicate the first week in May toward supporting — and toward recognizing — healthier, safer workplaces across North America.

The goal during Occupational Safety and Health Week is to focus employers, employees, partners and the public on the importance of preventing injury and illness in the workplace.

Have you heard about the 2019 NAOSH Week Launch Event happening in your area! There are so many events taking place across the country that it's easy for companies and communities to get involved.



People are talking about Noise Induced Hearing Loss, are you listening?

According to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation and Guidelines, employers are required to provide hearing-loss prevention programs, monitor noise levels and conduct annual hearing tests for workers exposed to hazardous noise levels to prevent permanent hearing damage. Hazardous noise levels are defined as 85 decibels in the A scale for eight hours or the equivalent; the A scale is used for measuring environmental noise.

All workers are responsible for wearing appropriate hearing protection and taking part in their employer's hearing-loss prevention program. Since 2006 there have been more than 41,000 accepted claims for noise induced hearing loss (NIHL) in B.C.

WorkSafeBC says employers can take measures to prevent noise induced hearing loss by ensuring all workers who are at risk are wearing hearing protection that fits, and that workers understand how to properly wear it.



Make sure workers insert or wear the correct hearing protection prior to entering a noisy environment and wear it until after exiting the noisy location.

Rotate workers to different positions so they spend less time in noisy environments.

Identify potential engineering controls to mitigate risk of exposure.

Ensure workers have their hearing tested and are aware of their hearing-test results.



Industry Trainer Standards

National Occupational Standards (NOS) establish clear, objective benchmarks of the skills, knowledge and competencies that a fully experienced worker performs on the job. The Mining Industry Human Resources Council (MiHR) develops and maintains the (NOS) National Occupational Standards for the Canadian Mining Sector.

The development and maintenance of each National Occupational Standard is led by a stakeholder committee called the National Occupational Standard Development Committee (NOSDCs) which is made up of subject-matter experts from various groups across Canada, including industry, labour, and education.

OH&S was invited by Audrey McNeill Senior Manager, National Occupational Standards Mining Industry Human Resources Council

(MiHR) to participate in work sessions held in Ottawa and in Calgary that focused on Industry Trainer Learning Outcomes. During the working sessions a review of the learning outcomes took place and the resulting information would then be used by MiHR to start developing a framework for a training standard.

National Occupational Standards (NOS) also form the basis for workforce development, driving curriculum development within educational institutes, and the alignment of company training programs by establishing learning outcomes and thereby contributing to the attraction, recruitment and retention of a skilled and safe workforce.

It was a privilege for OH&S to participate in the MiHR work sessions in support of the Canadian Mining Sector.

OH&S Safety Training Solutions 778.471.6407

Classroom Based - Instructor Led Safety Training



ATV and LTV Operator
Our ATV and LTV Operator course has been developed for those with an occupational requirement to be trained to safely undertake work activities that involve the operation of an All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and/or a Utility Terrain Vehicle (LTV). The goal of this course is to help you better understand what an ATV and LTV Operator responsibilities are and how to manage those responsibilities to protect your health and safety and the health and safety of your co-workers.



Boom Trucks, Ladders and Aerials
This training program encompasses activities that involve the operation of Light Duty Booms (trucks with a rated capacity of less than five tons with a boom length of less than 25 feet based on the manufacturer's rated lifting capacity), ladders and the rigging of loads. Only qualified persons trained in the inspection, application, and operation of a crane or hoist, including the recognition and avoidance of hazards associated with their operation, shall operate the equipment.



Confined Space Entry - General Industry
Confined spaces are potentially one of the most dangerous of all workplaces. However, the goal of this course is to prepare you to safely perform work in a confined space. By the end of this course you will be able to describe a confined space, describe various hazards and know how to handle hazards that are identified, you will understand the confined space permit system and about something going terribly wrong, you will know how to effect a non-entry rescue.



Confined Space Entry - Mining Industry
The Mines Act and the accompanying Health, Safety and Rehabilitation Code for mines in British Columbia is the Code that protects workers health and safety and the enforcement legislation related to confined space activities. This legislation obligates the mine manager to ensure that written procedures are developed and each person who is assigned duties or responsibilities related to entry into a confined space is adequately trained. This course will provide you with the information that is used to implement a Confined Space Entry Program.



Confined Space Rescue Basics
The occupational health and safety regulation requires the employer to prepare a written confined space entry program that includes procedures for rescue. This course will provide the information used to establish an initial or confined space rescue response and the training that is needed to prepare individuals to implement rescue operations. It takes a mix of prevention, planning, preparation, training and communication to create and sustain an effective Confined Space Rescue response.

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Staying in Touch

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



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