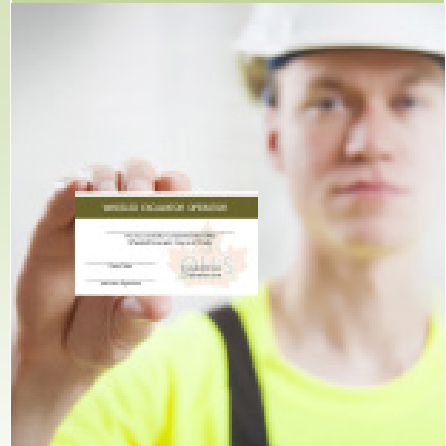




OH&S Safety Matters

June Issue 2020



Extensions to OFA Certificates

If you're an employer, you are responsible for first aid assistance being available at your workplace. This includes having the right number of first aid attendants on site who have a first aid certificate at the required level issued from a WorkSafeBC approved agency.

It is important to return to safe operations as business starts up. Due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak, WorkSafeBC has granted extensions on any occupational first aid, or equivalent certificates, that are due to expire. These certificates will now be acceptable in the workplace beyond their original expiry date. Certificates will not be reprinted. First Aid Attendants and employers do not need to take any actions to qualify for the extensions.

As British Columbia begins to reopen its doors, access to first aid training will increase across the province. WorkSafeBC expects first aid attendants with expired certificates will seek recertification as soon as training is available.

Meanwhile, to further accommodate physical distancing and safe practices, **WorkSafeBC has extended first aid certificates that have expiry dates between March 1, 2020 and August 31, 2020. These first aid certificates will now be acceptable in the workplace for 180 days beyond their original expiry date.** Keep in mind that certificates will not be reprinted, and no further action is needed from either first aid attendants or employers to qualify for this extension.

WorkSafeBC has announced that they will continue to monitor the COVID-19 outbreak and recommendations put forth by federal and provincial agencies. Should an additional extension be required, WorkSafe BC will release further information and direction at that time. Businesses are facing unique challenges in maintaining healthy and safe workplaces. Continue to engage in worksite inspections focusing on controls to limit exposure, including maintaining distance between workers and ensuring adequate hygiene facilities.

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Defensive Driving Basics Safety Program



If an employee is required to drive a company vehicle, the employer must first determine the worker is in fact qualified to operate the vehicle.

A **qualified driver** is an individual that has received training in the inspection, application, and operation of a company vehicle including the recognition and avoidance of hazards associated with their operation.

In order for a fully licensed driver to operate a company vehicle, they must in addition to licensing, complete defensive driver safety instruction, and knowledge testing.

Every driving situation has potential hazards and to protect company vehicle drivers, they not only need to know what they are doing, but they must be aware of what is developing around them. It is important that a driver remains alert and consciously search for hazards as they drive. The earlier a potential hazard is detected, the more time a driver has to avoid any problem that may develop.

According to safety experts, there are some important best practices to remember if a driver needs to take evasive action to avoid a collision. Evasive action to avoid a collision is simply the exercise of



fundamental driving manoeuvres under conditions of stress, a limited amount of time, space and distance.

The **Defensive Driving Basics** training program has been designed by for those with an occupational requirement to safely undertake work activities that involve the driving of a company vehicle on highways and remote access roads to and from the job site.

During this program, emphasis will be placed on safe driving principles, hazard identification, assessment and hazard handling controls as they relate to an effective **Driver Safety Program**.

The OH&S Defensive Driving Basics program will provide an orientation to defensive driving best practices that allow the driver to make quick calculated decisions to avoid conflict. The defensive driver is always working to gain better information from their operating environment so that they can best decide how to deal with upcoming interactions and still maintain a safe zone around their vehicle.

This program aims to provide the participant with an understanding of the following elements;

- regulations and legal obligations of company owners, managers, supervisors and employees;



- new worker and new work-site orientation;
- working (driving) alone;
- workplace violence;
- incident reporting, investigations and disciplinary process;
- emergency preparedness and vehicle emergency kits;
- driver qualifications & confirming training;
- vehicle licensing and insurance;
- driver licensing requirements;
- job hazard assessment and hazard handling controls;
- work location specific hazards and worker PPE;
- vehicle safety equipment;
- driver radio communications;
- pre-operational inspection check;
- management of travel to and from the job-site;
- safe vehicle operation and safe driving principles;
- distracted driving ;
- fatigue management;
- implications for vehicle road safety;
- procedures for shut down; refuelling / recharging; cleaning and maintenance.

Drivers of a company vehicle must operate the vehicle safely and comply with the laws governing the vehicles operation.

OH&S Safety has qualified driver training materials available.

COVID-19 Safety Plan

All employers are required to have a COVID-19 safety plan that assesses risk of exposure at their workplace. The safety plan must provide the means for implementation measures to keep their workers safe. **If a formal plan is not already in place prior to reopening of operation, you are expected to develop it while protecting the safety of your workers.**

WorkSafeBC will be reviewing plans of individual employers during their inspections of your workplace.

Please be reminded that in accordance with the order of the Provincial Health Officer, this plan must be posted at the worksite.

Responsibilities

Employers, workers and all other people at the workplace have a responsibility to prevent exposure to COVID-19.

Employers are responsible for the health and safety of their workers, and all other workers at their workplace. Employers must complete and post the COVID-19 Safety Plan and provide training to everyone at the workplace about the contents of that plan. Employers are also responsible for having a system in place to identify the hazards of COVID-19, control the risk, and monitor the effectiveness of the controls.

Workers are responsible for taking reasonable care to protect their own health and safety and

and the health and safety of other people at workplace. In the context of COVID-19, this means workers are responsible for their own personal self-care, which includes frequent hand washing and staying home when sick. Workers are also responsible for reporting unsafe conditions to their employer, and following the procedures put in place by the employer to control the risks associated with COVID-19.

Owners or prime contractors are responsible for coordinating health and safety at a workplace where workers of two or more employers are working at the same time. This includes doing everything that can reasonably be done to maintain a system or process to ensure compliance with WorkSafeBC laws and regulations generally, including ensuring an effective system to control the risks associated with COVID-19.

Employers are required to develop a COVID-19 Safety Plan and they must involve frontline workers, joint health and safety committees, as well as supervisors in identifying protocols for their workplace. You do not need a formal plan in place to begin operation, but you are expected to develop it while protecting the safety of your workers.

Employers are not required to submit plans to WorkSafeBC for approval, but in accordance with the order of the Provincial Health Officer, this plan must be posted at the worksite.



Respirator Fit Testing

When engineering and or administrative controls have not adequately reduced the amount of airborne hazard a worker could be exposed to, then respirator protection is required.

Respirators are to be suitably fitted to the individual worker and every worker who may be required to wear a respirator must be trained in its proper use.

If respirators are to be used by workers the OH&S legislation requires that an employer establish a respirator program that includes **fit testing** and respirator equipment training in accordance with procedures found in the CSA Standard CAN/CSA-Z94. 4 - Selection, Use and Care of Respirators.

Fit testing is required on an annual basis.

OH&S Provisions Now Part 2

The Workers Compensation Act establishes WorkSafeBC as an entity and sets out their mandate. The Act provides the legal authority and framework for all their activities, including the **occupational health and safety** activities.

On April 6, 2020, *a revised Workers Compensation Act* took effect. The revisions are not substantive in content, but reorganize the Act's components, provide some new wording in various sections, and deletion of provisions that have been repealed.

The occupational health and safety provisions, formerly in Part 3 of the Workers Compensation Act 1996, are now primarily in Part 2 in the Workers Compensation Act.

The occupational health and safety provisions of the Act address matters such as the rights and the responsibilities of workplace parties,

joint OH&S committees and worker representatives, the right to refuse unsafe work, accident reporting, investigations, enforcement, offences, administrative procedures, and regulation-making authority.

In addition to the occupational health and safety provisions now found in Part 2, to improve clarity, the revised Act has been divided into eight parts.

The Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (OHSR) contains OHS legal requirements that must be met by all workplaces. Some sections of the OHSR have associated OHS Guidelines and OHS Policies. The defined term "OHS provisions" is a term under the Act, which means a provision of Part 2 [Occupational Health and Safety].

If you need to reference the OH&S provisions, formerly in Part 3, well now they are primarily in Part 2

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 enforces legislation related to confined spaces 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 industrial 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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