



OH&S Safety Matters

Classroom Safety Plans

Just as the pandemic has changed the dynamics of learning for students, it has also impacted methods of teaching. Occupational Safety Instructors have been shaken up overnight and now require a *COVID-19 safety plan for use in all classrooms* to directly support in-person safety teaching.

When you invite employees into the classroom, employers and instructors need to follow the guidance of federal and provincial authorities in implementing risk mitigation measures to keep the risk of exposure to COVID-19 as low as reasonably achievable. One or more steps under the following controls can be taken to further reduce the risk, including:

- **Physical distancing measures – measures to reduce the density of people**

In person teaching is best done in a large classroom with an instructor and a small group of students. The students will be physically distanced and discouraged from moving about the classroom in order to minimize contact with other students. All employees and instructor staff are to be aware that they must maintain a physical distance of at least 2 meters from each other at all times.

- **Engineering controls – physical barriers or increased ventilation.**

Furniture must be moved to create the highest occupancy limit while maintaining the 2m distancing and sufficient aisle space for moving into and around the classroom.

- **Administrative controls – clear rules and guidelines.**

Classrooms with more than 1 door may be marked for “enter” or “exit” and room occupancy limits are to be posted. Instructor area at the front of the room should be marked with tape and any directional traffic flow should be marked. There must be a detailed cleaning and hygiene plan, and the cleaning regimen required to be completed for common areas/surfaces. Do not touch your eyes/nose/mouth with unwashed hands and when you sneeze or cough, cover your mouth and nose and then wash your hands.

- **Personal protective equipment – like the use of respiratory protection.**

Instructors and students wearing non-medical masks are to be aware of the risks and limitations of the face covering they wear.

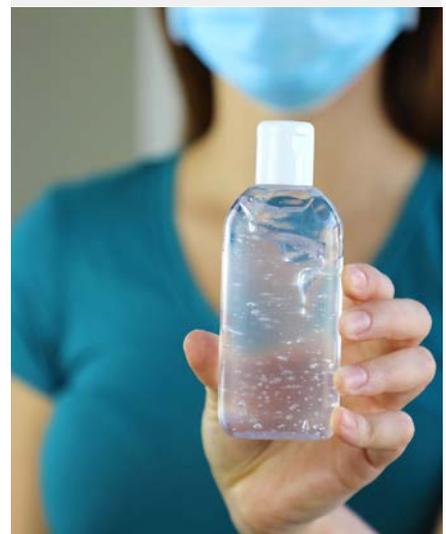
As an educator, you have to remain in the know about the coronavirus as it will directly impact your classroom. You have an obligation to help prevent the spread this virus. *Be Safe and let's beat COVID together.*

September Issue 2020



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Chainsaw Worker Safety Training

Chainsaws are used in varied occupational settings ranging from construction to civil engineering and some chainsaws are put to work on farms or on the ranch. When it comes to farming, land clearing, tree service and big wood cutting jobs, chainsaws cut the job down to size. Chainsaws are also specifically designed and made for fire crews to fight wildland fires and by urban rescue personnel to ventilate structural fires.

The OH&S Registry has developed a one day **Chainsaw Worker Safety** program designed for those with an occupational requirement to safely undertake **Bucking, Limbing, Brushing & Slashing** work activities that involve the safe operation of a Chainsaw.

Only qualified personnel who have been trained in the inspection, application, and operation of a chainsaw, including the recognition and avoidance of hazards should be involved in the operation of a Chainsaw.

Forestry Operations have specific training requirements for a **forestry operation faller** who must receive training for falling by working one on one with a qualified faller for a period of not less than 30 days; and after completion of basic training must work as a trainee faller under the close supervision of a qualified faller for a minimum supervision period of 180 days. Needless to say the OH&S Registry Chainsaw Worker Safety program is not designed to qualify a worker for forestry faller operations.



In the beginning the first portable chainsaw to be developed and patented by a Canadian took place in 1918 by millwright James Shand. James was a farmer in Dauphin, Manitoba.

The idea came to him while he was fencing his quarter-section of land and discovered that the barbed wire, drawn by horses, had sawn through a seven-inch oak post.

Working in his shop and using his son's bicycle chain with cutting teeth inserted, Shand produced two working models. Shand used one saw for a short time while in the employ of Manitoba Bridge and Iron Works and in 1919 he took both models to British Columbia, with hopes to spark interest in chainsaw production.

Andreas Stihl, is the man most commonly credited with inventing the modern chainsaw. In 1926 Stihl patented his first invention the electric chainsaw. Three years later in 1929, he followed this up with a gas-powered version. The company that Stihl founded has gone on to become famous for producing big and powerful professional-grade gas chainsaws.

By the end of the 1920's gas powered chainsaws were in use, but required two men to operate them. These chain saws did make forestry work much easier, however they were heavy machines that were susceptible to breaking down.

The first two-man chainsaw was over 60 Kilos in weight and was still a long way from what our modern conception of a chain saw is.

After the second world war had ended, development of aluminum and magnesium alloys, combined with improved engine design, gave way to lighter one-man chainsaws.

McCulloch, which is now owned by Husqvarna, designed its first chainsaw using diecasting in 1948. The first one-man chainsaws were being produced by 1950, but they were still quite heavy weighing about 13kg (30 lbs).

At the end of the 50's there was a shortage of lumberjacks and the hope was that the chainsaw would

make forestry work more inviting for young people. As with the change over from the axe to the saw, the introduction of the chainsaw also had its opponents.

For instance in 1957, the sinking piecework rates which came about due to the increased efficiency of the chainsaw, led lumberjacks to return to the use of hand saws.

In the nearly 100 years since the first motorized chainsaws were made, obviously a lot has changed. One area that has evolved is the weight of chainsaws. In the '40s, two-man saws were in excess of 45 kg (100 lbs), and in the '50s, a one-man saw was easily a whopping 13 kg (30-40 lbs.) Today, one-man saws weigh around 8kg. (18 lbs) and some consumer and small pro saws can weigh as little as 3kg. (5 lbs.).

When it comes to chainsaws it is important to consider the bar and the chain which are the parts that do the cutting. Larger chainsaw bars work best with more powerful saws because it takes more energy to drive a chain around a long bar and that's why electric saws use bars 45cm (18") and shorter.



Chainsaws come in many sizes, from small electric saws intended for home and garden use, to large "lumberjack" saws. Members of military engineer units are trained to use chainsaws as are firefighters to fight forest fires.

If your company has workers who are in need of safety certification look to OH&S Safety for your continuing education needs.

Instructor Certification is available so that you can deliver the Safety Training your team needs !



Instructor Certification

When workers need to learn a safety skill, instructor-led training is the superior option. The benefit to workers participating in Instructor-led training is that it facilitates in-depth discussions of complicated safety issues allowing for direct response from a skilled, practiced and certified instructor.

Workers also benefit from their interactions with their fellow co-workers as questions and comments made about the training are discussed. When a specific safety skill set must be learned, instructor-led training and hands-on practice fulfills worker continuing education needs.

As always, we thank you for your continued dedication to safety training and we look forward to serving you!

<https://www.ohsregistry.com>

The OH&S Continuing Education Director has verified go for launch: 00:00:03: The website developer has commanded the launch sequence to start: 00:00:00: and here at the OH&S Registry we are thrilled to debut our new Registry website to our clients, referral partners, and instructor visitors who are looking to get a better understanding of the breadth of the OH&S Registry services. The OH&S Registry website is live.

The site includes dropdown menus for the registry services offered, information about how to become an instructor, teaching standards, frequently asked question, access to the safety programs catalog, current newsletters and we have also structured the content, so you'll get more from a quick read.

There's a whole host of small but impactful downloads such as



tool box talks and safety articles, all to make the experience much better for you. We encourage all OHS Registry Instructors to explore the growing resources available from the OHS Registry.

Who will you impact with your instructor certification? A safer future doesn't happen by chance. You can make a difference at your worksite Today!

The OH&S Registry resources are only a click away.



2020 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 an e-mail and asking for a FREE copy of the OH&S training course library !

markh@ohandscanada.ca

OH&S Safety Matters

Staying in Touch

We want you to be aware that you always have the opportunity to opt-out from receiving OH&S Registry electronic communications. To opt-out, simply call the OH&S Registry at 778.471.6407 or e-mail markh@ohandscanada.ca and ask to be taken off the OH&S email list.

The OH&S Registry will never sell or rent your email address and should you decide that you no longer want to receive further electronic communications from the OH&S Registry we will accommodate your decision to "unsubscribe".

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



OH&S Registry

Head Office 825 – J Laval Crescent Kamloops, BC V2C 5P2 **ph: 778.471.6407**