



July 2009

ONTARIO FATALITIES AND CRITICAL INJURIES

	(January 1 st to June 30 th)	
	2009	2008
Fatalities	5	8
Critical Injuries	61	63

Note: these figures represent preliminary data and are not to be considered official statistics from the Ministry of Labour. Official statistics will be issued quarterly by the Occupational Health and Safety Branch of the Ministry of Labour.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR

While fatalities continue to track lower than last year, critical injuries remain comparable, and it is disturbing that 10 critical injuries involved young workers, during May and June alone.

Lack of proper orientation, may be a factor, but the underlying suspected causation line is inadequate supervision.

Young workers are most likely to be injured during their first 30 days at a new job.

Critical injuries included 4 falls, 1 ladder, and one electric shock from ladder connecting with hydro wires.

6 "critical's" occurred in the residential sector. Particularly troubling was a case where a worker who had fallen related to the investigator that they did not wear the full body harness because the supervisor thought it slowed down the workers and actually removed all harnesses from the project when he left.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Ministry of Labour (MOL) inspectors are looking for some of the ladder-related hazards on jobsites. Last month, the MOL provided further clarification on how they plan to deal with ladders. Here are a few of the main points.

- 1) According to the Construction Regulation, ladders are not work platforms. They are a means of access. In situations where you can use a scaffold or other type of approved work platform, use it. You may only work from a ladder when it is not possible to use a proper work platform.

- 2) If working from a ladder is your only option, remember that ladders are more hazardous than work platforms. Fall protection rules apply to ladder use. If your feet are more than three meters from the ground, you must use fall protection.
- 3) The MOL will allow “short duration” work from ladders—less than 30 minutes. Therefore, a worker may not work from a ladder for more than 30 minutes at one time. Workers may work from a ladder multiple times throughout the day, as long as there is an adequate rest period or alternative work in between. The amount of rest required depends on the task and the worker’s physical condition. This differs slightly from an earlier interpretation of the rule, which was that the 30-minute maximum applied to the *entire* day.

Don’t forget: if you are doing short duration work from a ladder and your feet are more than three meters from the ground, you must use fall protection.

- 4) You must keep your centre of gravity between the sides of the ladder and have two feet on the rungs at all times while working.
- 5) Carrying equipment or material up or down a ladder is not permitted. Inspectors will look for 3-point contact.
- 6) Ladders must be set up at proper angles, which is one foot out for every three to four feet up.
- 7) Ladders must be set up on firm, level surfaces and the area around the base must be free of material and debris.

For a detailed chart explaining how MOL inspectors will enforce ladder use on jobsites, download the MOL ladder enforcement chart or email Sajida Jiwani at sjiwani@ohba.ca

MINISTRY OF LABOUR - BLITZES

CENTRAL REGION TOWER CRANE BLITZ

The MOL will be conducting a blitz in central Ontario (GTA, York Region, Simcoe County) on tower cranes and mast-climbing scaffolds. If you have a tower crane, expect inspectors to show up on your site.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR – HEAT STRESS

Hot and humid summer days bring an added danger - heat stress.

When heat is combined with other stresses like hard physical work, fluid loss, fatigue or some medical conditions, it can lead to heat-related illness, disability and even death.

Heat stress can affect anyone, including the young and fit, and can be a concern in many workplaces. Symptoms of heat stress can include: excessive sweating, headache, rashes, cramping, dizziness and fainting.

QUICK FACTS

- Workers most at risk for heat stress include those in hot environments, such as smelters, furnaces, bakeries and out of doors during the summer.
- Prolonged exposure to heat stress can lead to heat stroke, a life-threatening condition.
- The victims of heat stroke are often unable to notice the symptoms, and their survival may depend on co-workers' ability to identify symptoms and to seek immediate medical assistance.

WSIB – NEW SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

The New Service Delivery Model

As part of the goal to achieve zero workplace injuries, illnesses and fatalities in Ontario, the WSIB is implementing a New Service Delivery Model (NSDM) to improve prevention, return to work and recovery outcomes for workers and employers. Read about the significant areas of improvement with the NSDM on the WSIB website. NSDM transition is well underway across the province.

WSIB – UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORTS

TORONTO, May 7, 2009 – Ontario's Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) has released its unaudited financial report for the fourth quarter of 2008, available today on the WSIB's website. The report shows the financial status of Ontario's workplace safety and insurance system at the conclusion of a year of unprecedented global financial downturn.

CSAO – FLUKE DIGITAL CLAMP METER RECALL

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Fluke is voluntarily recalling certain 333, 334, 335, 336 and 337 Digital Clamp Meters that were manufactured between January 29, 2008 and February 27, 2009. The models and serial numbers affected are listed in the table below.

If you own one of these clamp meters, please stop using it and send it back to Fluke for replacement. If you are not the primary user of the Fluke 33X Series Clamp Meter, please pass this notice along to the appropriate people within your organization

Model Family	Starting Serial No.	Ending Serial No.
Fluke-337 (All models including 337A)	96070000	98890607
Fluke-336 (All models including 336A)	96220000	98900400
Fluke-335 (All models including 335A)	97010000	98860104
Fluke-334 (All models including 334A)	97010000	98870101
Fluke-333 (All models including 333A)	97010000	98880240

Please note: Serial numbers with the suffix "R" or the prefix "S" are NOT included in this recall.

Description of the problem

Through quality assurance tests, we have discovered a potential short circuit connection on the circuit board. This may lead to inaccurate voltage readings including a low or no voltage reading on a circuit energized with a hazardous voltage. This finding could create a hazardous situation if the user were to contact live voltage based on an erroneous instrument reading.

Actions

1. Stop using your affected 33X series clamp meter(s) even if you have not experienced problems
2. Verify your clamp meter is affected using the serial numbers provided in the table.
3. Please do not send test leads, cases or other accessories.
For more information, call (888) 98-FLUKE (35853) 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday-Friday.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OHBA HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Our next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday August 10th at 1:00 p.m. at the OHBA office at 20 Upjohn Road Suite 101, North York. You are invited to attend our meeting. For further information please contact Sajida Jiwani, Manager of Operations at the OHBA office (416) 443-1545, sjiwani@ohba.ca

THE BULLETIN - KEEPING MEMBERS INFORMED

The Bulletin is not a comprehensive document, but the Committee believes you will find value in receiving a monthly update to health and safety related issues that will affect the residential construction industry and your business.

E-SCRIPTION LIST

The Bulletin is automatically distributed to all 29 local associations. Individual members can be added to the e-scription list by request through email to healthandsafety@ohba.ca .

Ontario Home Builders' Association
20 Upjohn Road #101, North York, Ontario M3B 2V9 (416) 443-1545 Toll Free: 800-387-0109
Fax: (416) 443-9982