

HEALTH & SAFETY

TORONTO CHAPTER

LANDSCAPE ONTARIO MEETING

DANA GREENLY, WSPS
DANA.GREENLY@WSPS.CA



FEBRUARY 2015

Slips, Trips and Falls MOL Safety Blitz February 2 - March 15

- MOL inspectors will be conducting an enforcement blitz to check that employers are protecting their workers from slip, trip and fall hazards
- The blitz will focus on the following areas:
 - Falls from ladders, mobile and permanent platforms
 - Falls from heights
 - Same level slips and trips
 - Safe work practices
 - Access and egress
 - Ergonomics



Slips, Trips and Falls MOL Safety Blitz February 2 - March 15

In partnership with the MOL, WSPS recorded a webinar to help employers prepare for the blitz. **Topics include:**

- Why the focus on slips, trips, and falls
 - What inspectors will look for during the blitz
 - Which industry sectors will be targeted
- To learn more visit WSPS website:

[Training and Products](#) > [Webinars](#) > Are You Ready for the MOL Industrial Sector Slips, Trips and Falls Blitz?



Slips, Trips and Falls MOL Safety Blitz February 2 - March 15

- Also an article about the blitz in the December 2014 Issue of Network News
- Includes some seasonal prevention tips
- To learn more visit WSPS website:

[Resources](#) > [Articles](#) > Slips, trips and falls: 7 steps to prevent them and prepare for the February blitz



Labour ministry issues 15 orders related to Burlington workplace accident

Burlington Post
By Tim Whitnell

The Ontario Ministry of Labour has slapped 15 work orders on two companies in connection with a workplace accident in Burlington that resulted in serious injury to a man working at a condominium build site.

RELATED STORIES

Worker seriously injured on...

Halton Regional Police said last week that a 47-year-old Toronto man

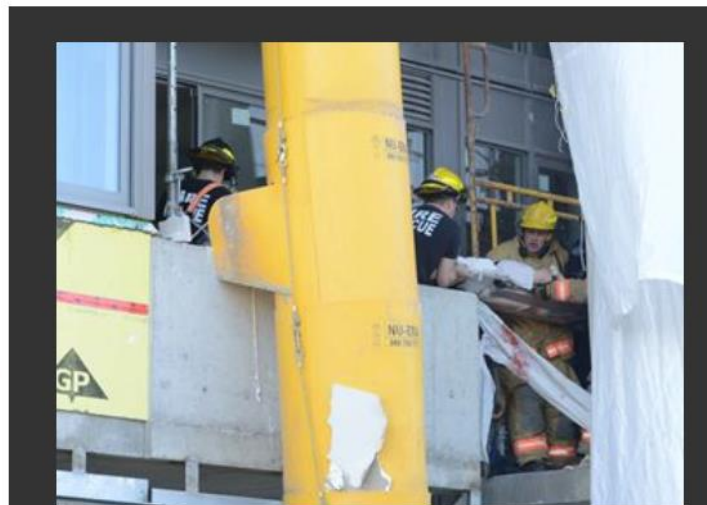
working on scaffolding fell from the fourth floor to a second-floor balcony.

The incident occurred Jan. 22 around 11:20 a.m. at 1284 Guelph Line, just south of Mount Forest Drive. The site is a 76-unit condo building under construction, says Halton police.

The man, in just his second day on the job, say police, was taken to Hamilton General Hospital with serious but not life-threatening injuries.

Labour ministry spokesperson William Lin told the Post on Tuesday that the worker suffered a spinal injury. He would not disclose other details about the injured worker's condition or his identity, citing privacy laws.

Lin said the ministry has laid nine orders against the site's contractor, LCL Builds of North York, including stop work orders related to guardrails and scaffolding, as well as for issues with paperwork related to workplace policies and procedures.



Labour ministry issues 15 orders related to Burlington workplace accident

Photo by Andrew Collins — Special to the Post
The Ministry of Labour has placed 15 orders against two companies following a serious workplace injury at a construction site on Guelph Line in Burlington on Jan. 22.

Jan 22, 2015

Innisfil Company Fined \$30,000; Worker Not Using Safety Equipment - January 27, 2015

BARRIE, ON - Jebco Industries Inc., a company that operates a coatings, linings and moulding facility in Innisfil, has pleaded guilty and has been fined \$30,000 after a worker was observed working on top of a flatbed trailer without using a safety harness or other fall protection equipment as required by law. No one was injured.

- On February 13, 2013, a Ministry of Labour inspector attended Jebco's industrial workplace located at 3270 Clifford Court to follow up a previous inspection. Upon arrival, the inspector saw that in the yard outside, the load of a flatbed trailer was being covered with a tarpaulin and secured. There was a forklift on the passenger side of the truck; the forks of the forklift were raised in the air and loaded with a platform, upon which stood a worker.
- The worker on the platform was adjusting the tarp or straps at the top of the load on the flatbed trailer. The worker left the platform and climbed on top of the load, about 13 feet from the ground. The inspector saw the worker perch on the edge of the load on the flatbed truck while trying to tarp it. The worker was not using fall protection such as a safety harness. The Occupational Health and Safety Act and Ontario Regulation 851 require that any worker exposed to the hazard of falling more than three metres must wear a safety belt or harness and lifeline (a fall arrest system).
- In addition, the inspector also saw two workers standing under the load of the forklift. This contravenes a section of the regulation that states that a lifting device must be operated so no part of the load passes over any worker.

Worker Fined \$1,500 for Not Using Fall Protection

- March 12, 2014
- TORONTO, ON - Christopher Schwaemmie, a Toronto hoist worker, was fined \$1,500 for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act.
- On October 12, 2011, Christopher Schwaemmie was on a hoist tower at a construction project located at 717 Sheppard Avenue West in Toronto. He jumped from the tower to a nearby roof. The jump was seen by a Ministry of Labour inspector. The inspector saw that Mr. Schwaemmie was wearing a fall protection harness and lanyard, but the lanyard was not tied off to anything. The hoist tower he jumped from was approximately 15.24 metres (50 feet) above the ground.

Town of Bracebridge Fined \$50,000 After Young Worker Injured

- One of the workers was operating a tractor with a front-end loader attachment and carrying a load of gravel. While driving the tractor down an incline, the worker lost control of the tractor and its load. The tractor rolled over and pinned the worker by the leg, resulting in multiple fractures.
- A Ministry of Labour investigation found that the worker lost control of the tractor and its load because of the weight being carried by the raised bucket and the incline it was travelling on. The Town of Bracebridge pleaded guilty to failing to provide information, instruction and supervision to a worker on the safe lifting capacity for the tractor.

Walinga Inc. Fined \$20,000 For Failure to Report Injury

- On July 19, 2013, a worker was stacking parts onto a skid. The worker was walking away when the last part stacked caused the load on the skid to tip and fall toward the worker. The worker's lower leg became trapped under the parts.
- Once freed, the worker left the scene, proceeding to a health care facility to have any injuries assessed. At the hospital, the injured worker was diagnosed with a fracture of the fibula, a bone in the lower leg. Under the OSHA, a fracture is defined as a critical injury.

Critical Injury

A "critical injury" is an injury of a serious nature that,

- places life in jeopardy,
- produces unconsciousness,
- results in substantial loss of blood
- involves the fracture of a leg or arm but not a finger or toe,
- involves the amputation of a leg, arm, hand or foot but not a finger or toe,
- consists of burns to a major portion of the body, or
- causes the loss of sight in an eye.



Critical Injury

- Must report to the MOL immediately
- Must preserve the scene
- Must submit a report to the MOL within 48 hours
(Reference: Section 51 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act.)



Work-related Injury Rates on the Decline in Ontario, Non-work Injury rates not Changing

- Work-related injury rates in Ontario fell 30% from 2004 to 2011 - in sharp contrast to non-work injury rates, which did not change
- According to a study by the Institute for Work & Health (IWH), the overall decline in total injuries during this period can be almost entirely attributed to a decline in occupational injuries
- If injuries due to leisure, recreation or other non-work activities had fallen at the same rate as work-related injuries, there would have been 200,000 fewer injuries in Ontario in 2011

Work-related Injury Rates on the Decline in Ontario, Non-work Injury rates not Changing

- The study concluded that a decline of 30% in work-related injuries in just 8 years is evidence that prevention efforts can have an impact
- For a few types of injuries, the researchers found parallel declines in both work-related and non-work injuries - included injuries due to motor vehicle collisions, natural or environmental causes, and intentional self-harm

Work-related Injury Rates on the Decline in Ontario, Non-work Injury rates not Changing

- What could be reasons for the diverging trends between work-related and non-work-related injuries?
- Study suggests one possible reason is the level of investment in injury prevention
- Some estimates suggest that employers may spend as much as a \$1,000 per worker/per year, to prevent work-related injury and illness among their employees

Ontario to Implement Working-at-Heights Training Standard

- Falls are the number one cause of critical injuries and fatalities of workers at construction projects in Ontario
- MOL has announced a new training standard focused on the construction sector and workplaces with construction activity
- Aimed at preventing injuries and fatalities associated with those who work at heights
- Takes effect on April 1, 2015 and will be mandatory for all provincial worksites that fall under the *Regulations for Construction Projects*



Ontario to Implement Working-at-Heights Training Standard

- Standard would be a two-part requirement: one part to ensure that workers are trained properly, the other sets out requirements for companies who train employees
- Although the new standard will be mandatory only for the construction industry, the MOL is considering expanding it to other sectors
- Visit the MOL's [Working at Heights Training](#) webpage for more information

Are You Ready for Bill 18?

- [Bill 18, the Stronger Workplaces for a Stronger Economy Act, 2014](#) received Royal Assent in November 2014 and is currently being phased in
- The new act supports Ontario's [Poverty Reduction Strategy](#), and is designed to further increase protections for vulnerable workers
- Amends the law to ensure OHSA coverage for unpaid co-op students and other unpaid learners, which will give them protection under the OHSA, including the right to know about workplace hazards and the right to refuse unsafe work



AODA Update: January 1, 2015 was the Deadline

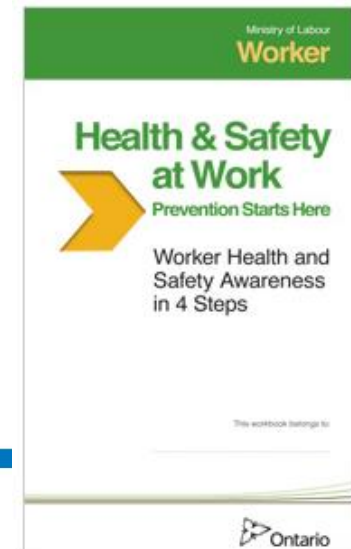
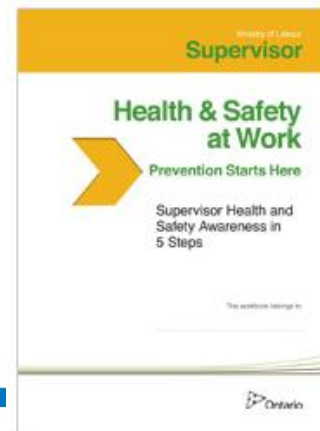
- If your workplace has 50 or more employees in Ontario, you had until January 1, 2015 to comply with a training requirement under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*
- Workplaces with 50+ employees in Ontario must train employees and volunteers on the requirements of the *Integrated Accessibility Standards* and the parts of Ontario's *Human Rights Code* pertaining to people with disabilities

AODA Update: January 1, 2015 was the Deadline

- Training available online at no cost from the [Ontario Human Rights Commission](#)
- Workplaces with less than 50 employees must comply by December 31, 2015.
- To learn what requirements apply to you, visit ontario.ca/aodawizard

Mandatory Awareness Training

- Awareness Training for Workers and Supervisors
 - Deadline was July 1, 2014
 - Were all your workers and supervisors trained?
 - How are you training your new workers and supervisors? Are these requirements now part of your orientation training?



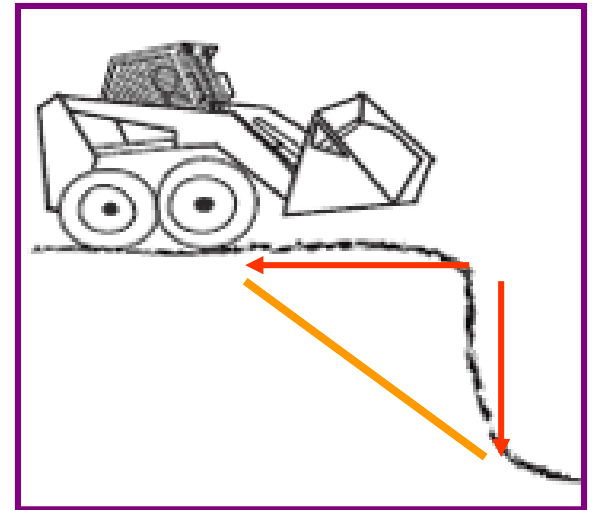
Training

- You are the employer of a small landscape company. What do you think your responsibilities are for training?

Training

- You work for a small landscape company.
- Do you have any responsibilities with respect to health and safety training?

- Stay as far away from creeks, gullies and ravines as the banks are deep. Otherwise, the earth could shear and send the skid steer crashing to the bottom.



- **Take care when backfilling. The trench wall could collapse under the skid steer's weight.**



- **Never lift, swing, or otherwise move a load over anyone. In fact, you should insist that all bystanders leave the area before you start work.**



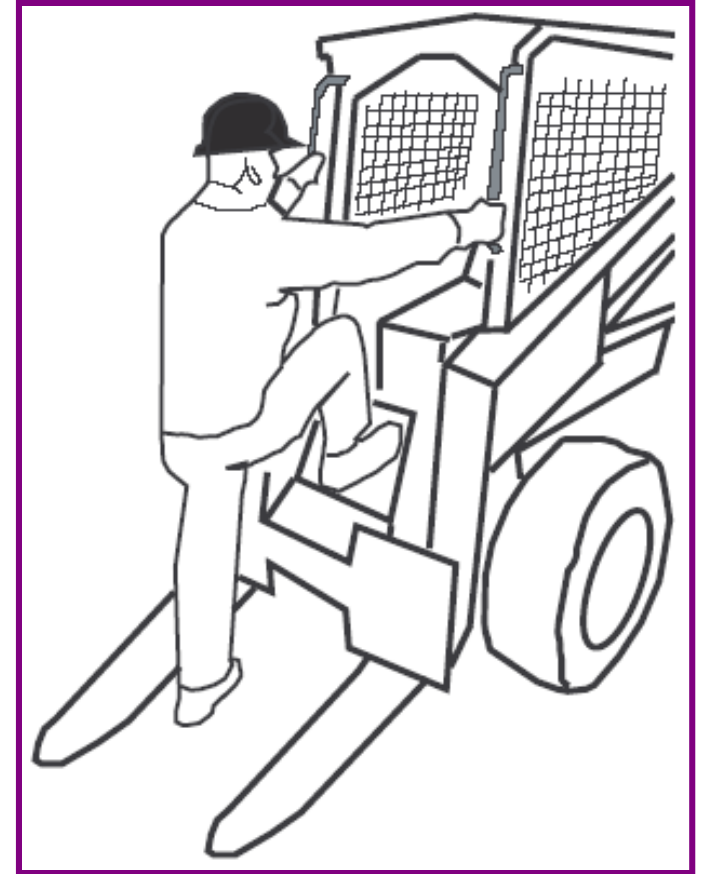
- Adjust speed to suit working conditions and terrain. Avoid sudden stops, starts, or turns. Focus on what is occurring.



- Never use a skid steer as a work platform for personnel. Carrier-hydraulic failure is always a possibility.



- Enter only with the engine off, lift arms down and attachments on the ground.
- Face the seat with both hands on the grab bars.
- Never use the control levers as grab bars.
- Use the steps made for entering.



- Check for overhead power lines
- Locates



- Check for obstacles, slip, trip and fall conditions in the work area.



Winter

- Fatigue
- Stress
- Driving conditions change
- Vehicle capabilities change
- Reaction time changes
- Correct footwear
- Clothing







New MOL resources



Protecting Outdoor Workers from
Tick Bites and Lyme Disease

- What is the health hazard?
- What is Lyme disease?
- Examples of occupations at risk
- Prevention
- How can workers avoid ticks?
- Treatment and removal of ticks
- Resources

What do these plants have in common?



New MOL Resources

Protecting Outdoor Workers From Hazardous Plants

- What is the health hazard?
- Examples of occupations at risk
- What hazardous plants can be found in Ontario?
 - Giant hogweed
 - Wild parsnip
 - Poison ivy
 - Poison sumac
 - Stinging nettle
- Prevention
- What to do if exposed to hazardous plants?
- Resources

WSPS Resources

- [Using Landscaping Equipment](#)
- [Using Backhoes or Loaders](#)
- [Using Chainsaws](#)
- [Closing the Loop: Setting Up a Health & Safety System in Your Small Business \(Landscaping & Growers\)](#)
- [Landscape Ontario Workplace Safety Tailgate Talks for the Landscaping Industry](#)
- **Safety Awareness in the Landscape Industry (Training program delivered onsite)**

Discussion and Questions



For all your health and safety solutions, contact:

Workplace Safety & Prevention Services

1 877 494 WSPS (9777)

www.wsps.ca