

Workplace Safety Group

December 2008

Monthly News e-Letter



With Christmas just around the corner, this may not be the month to emphasize the following tagline: **DEMAND MORE. DEMAND BETTER. DEMAND US;** however, I saw it and decided to put my twist on the thought.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if companies could make this claim and live up to its' hidden promise? While I would like to take credit for the line I'll admit I read it and must thank Toronto Hydro for its genesis.

DEMAND MORE

I challenge employers to **demand more** safety compliance of their workers but only if they in turn are willing to provide the tools, training and equipment to enable those workers to work more safely.

I challenge supervisors to **demand more** and enforce safety policies and procedures that have been decreed by management and the law. When management demands more, then supervisors have the support to demand more and the backing to enforce consequences to unsafe behaviours.

I challenge workers to **demand more** of their employers and supervisors. Workers have the right to refuse unsafe work and working conditions but often fail to do so believing their jobs to be at risk. If workers understand that employers cannot dismiss or let them go for bringing forth a legitimate safety concern, there would be fewer incidents and accidents.

DEMAND BETTER

What if employers were to **demand better** compliance of their workers? Would it be very expensive to enforce? What would it cost to provide the training and equipment to ensure that their workers perform their jobs safely? Better to ask what it would cost if a worker was injured and the employer had to answer to the Ministry of Labour and WSIB!



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A Christmas Carol

'Twas just starting the Holiday Season and all through the streets, busseling shoppers, cars going beep beep.

Safety both personally and professionally the farthest from their minds. Feelings of warmth and good tidings-family and friends, during this time.

When what to their wondering eyes should appear? A workplace accident, causing death and despair.

The employer? While visions of fines danced through his head, looked at the family left behind and new they had lots to dread.

Please remember at this time of season, Safety Practises should be on your list of reason.

We here at Workplace Safety Group extend to all Health, Safety and good cheer. Look to us for our expertise in the New year.

Supervisors are sandwiched between employer and worker and thus must **demand better** of both; better policies and procedures from above and better worker compliance to use the tools (training and equipment) provided by management. Most importantly, they must **demand more** training for themselves to develop an understanding of their roles and responsibilities in the supervisory capacity.

And finally workers must **demand better** protection for themselves; they must understand their rights and responsibilities within the Internal Responsibility System (IRS)

DEMAND US

This is a bold call to action to place your trust in a company that provides health and safety solutions customized to meet your corporate needs. Demand more of us and demand better health and safety guidance to become a safe and compliant company that doesn't have to worry about surprise Ministry of Labour worksite inspections!

At this time of year I urge everyone to reflect on the gifts in their lives. Recently I acted a role in an historically based play about the hardships of settler life and the tenuous hold pioneers had on life. They existed with bare necessities yet they had an appreciation for the lives they led and the most important blessings, good health, work and loving families. Reflect on those things that are truly important in your lives, and be grateful!

My best wishes for a blessed and family centred Christmas and for a safe and prosperous 2009!

