



History of North American Occupational Safety and Health Week

NAOSH Week was first launched in June 1997, marked by an agreement between Canada, the United States and Mexico. CSSE's Canadian Occupational Health and Safety Week (COHS) had been observed from 1986-1996.

During the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) talks between the governments of Mexico, United States, and Canada, workplace safety within the boundaries of all three nations was discussed by government labour department representatives. Canada's representative suggested to his Mexican and American counterparts that their countries may wish to become involved in a similar endeavor to COHS Week.

Subsequently, CSSE was approached for permission and support to expand the COHS Week format and experience to Mexico and the United States. After many meetings between Labour Canada and the CSSE COHS



Committee in 1995, the proposal to expand the COHS format into the North American arena was formalized with the CSSE Board of Directors at their spring 1996 meeting.

It was agreed that CSSE would adopt the North American concept and implement it in place of the Canadian Week. Labour Canada agreed to ensure that CSSE was the officially recognized safety organization responsible for NAOSH Week.

In September 1996, the agreement was taken to the NAFTA meeting and all parties agreed to the proposal. NAOSH Week was established.

The goal during Safety and Health Week is to focus employers, employees, partners and the public on the importance of preventing injury and illness in the workplace, at home, and in the community.



*Have a Safe Work Week,
your family depends on you.*

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Understanding Occupational Health and Safety in Saskatchewan

Most workplaces in Saskatchewan are provincially regulated. The legislation that deals with occupational health and safety in these workplaces is as follows:

- The Saskatchewan Employment Act (the Act); and
- The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 1996; The Mines Regulations, 2003; and The Radiation Health and Safety Regulations, 2005.

The Act outlines the general, legislated safety standards and requirements for occupational health and safety in Saskatchewan, whereas the regulations give detailed provisions about how to meet the requirements of the Act.

OHS legislation is designed to protect workers from being injured on the job or suffering illness from unhealthy

work environments.

Workers have three basic health and safety rights. They are:

- the right to know the hazards at work and how to control them;
- the right to participate in identifying, assessing, eliminating and controlling workplace hazards; and
- the right to refuse work they believe is unusually dangerous to themselves or others.

An unusual danger could be:

- a danger that is not normal for the job;
- a danger that would normally stop work; and
- a situation that a worker isn't trained, equipped or

experienced to deal with properly and safely.

Workers have the right to know about the hazards of their job and how to control and handle them safely. A hazard is any activity, situation or substance that could harm a worker. Workers should ask about the hazards at their workplace.

Remember to make safety a priority, not only during OH&S Week, but all year round!

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Office Hours:
Monday thru Thursday
9 a.m. - 12 noon
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY WEEK

I support the goals of North American Occupational Health and Safety week.

Remember to make safety a habit!



Dr. Robert Kitchen
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