

# LIAlSON

A Newsletter for the Users of CCINFO

Spring 2005

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**Forum Survey  
deadline extended to  
May 13, 2005**

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French surveys now also available at [forum05.ccohs.ca/fr/survey/](http://forum05.ccohs.ca/fr/survey/)



## CCOHS e-Learning

### A Plus for Safety as Well as the Bottom Line

**Goderich, ON:** Sky Harbour Aircraft is a full-service aircraft refinishing facility with a wide range of services, including chemically stripping paint from aircrafts, treating corrosion and repainting. The company's staff encounters a variety of chemical substances and materials as they do their jobs.

In this environment, being up-to-date with the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) is essential to keeping workers healthy and safe on the job.

Bruce Tanner, Building Maintenance Manager at Sky Harbour, chose WHMIS for Workers, an e-learning course offered by CCOHS, to provide WHMIS training for the plant's 85 workers.

"What attracted me to the CCOHS course is that the online format enabled us to train a large number of people quickly without cutting into production time. We were able to save money as well as offer greater flexibility for our workers to take the course at their own pace.

Giving workers the chance to complete their WHMIS training online was not only convenient – it also impacted the bottom line. "We used the course to train our staff with a minimal loss of person-hours. It was very cost-effective compared to the alternatives that we looked at. It saved us from having to pull groups of people off the job for training", says Tanner.



#### Flexible, user-paced training

Purchasing the WHMIS for Workers course provides online access for a desired number of workers. These workers can then log in individually to complete the course – anytime, anywhere. The workers are led through an interactive course followed by an exam to assess learning outcomes. Successful trainees receive a certificate to document that they have completed their training.

The course takes an average of 1.5 hours to complete, but this can vary depending on the students' abilities and learning style. Tanner appreciates the fact that faster learners can proceed at their own pace, while those who need extra time to complete the course can do so without impacting others. To accommodate different learning styles, the course gives learners the choice of listening to an audio track as they progress from screen to screen.

"This course is more pleasurable to take than traditional WHMIS courses", says Tanner. With straightforward language, illustrations and examples, the course is designed to be engaging and interesting for learners. It's easy to use - the vast majority of Sky Harbour's staff members have completed the course, without assistance, in their own homes or offices.

*continued...*

### Exceptional value

Tanner has found CCOHS e-learning to be so beneficial to his training program that he's enrolling his health and safety committee in another CCOHS training course, Health and Safety Committees. In addition, he has recommended the WHMIS for Workers course to other organizations. "I'm very happy with CCOHS online training so far. It has proven to be the easiest and most effective WHMIS training solution for Sky Harbour Aircraft", says Tanner.

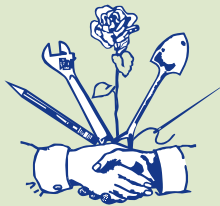
### Meeting training needs

WHMIS for Workers is one of several e-learning courses offered by the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety. CCOHS is continually developing and launching new courses to meet the needs of its clients.

**For a complete listing of course offerings or for more information about WHMIS for Workers, visit CCOHS on the web [www.ccohs.ca](http://www.ccohs.ca) or call CCOHS Client Services at 1-800-668-4284 or 1-905-570-8094.**

# Life...or a Living?

*A History of Occupational Health and Safety in Canada*



Workers Arts &  
Heritage Centre

**T**he Workers Arts and Heritage Centre (WAHC) launches a dynamic new travelling exhibition *Life...or a Living? A History of Occupational Health and Safety in Canada*, on 28 April 2005 in Hamilton, Ontario.

The exhibition and its supporting arts programming is based on a subject that matters to all Canadians but has never before been the focus of an exhibition: the turbulent history of how Canadian workers and their unions have struggled to make workplaces safer. It illustrates their victories, but acknowledges that these gains are fragile and incomplete, as the continuing toll of workplace injuries and disease show.

Targeting women, youth and families, the exhibition presents women's oral histories and includes stories about their recent health and safety experiences in diverse occupations – x-ray technician, entertainer, baby-sitter, factory worker, and student. It shows archival images, such as young girls working in an 1880's New Brunswick factory, and a boy breaking up asbestos in Quebec in the 1940s.

Visitors will discover the relationship between work and occupational injuries and disease through interactive exhibits and games, and from listening to voices of the past and present.



Woman sorting vegetables in a processing plant. Iva Žimová

Some of the amazing artifacts and archival documents include: canisters of McIntyre Aluminum powder (a dubious Canadian invention intended to protect miners from silicosis), ordinary objects of which the manufacture was hazardous to workers (a fur-felt hat – remember the phrase 'Mad as a Hatter?') and some of the hazardous materials found in workplaces (coal from Nova Scotia, quartz from Ontario, and asbestos from Quebec).

An educational kit that accompanies the exhibition will assist in raising wider public awareness of health and safety issues and stimulate discussion about why health and safety is not a central focus in the workplace.

**For more information, call WAHC at 905-522-3003 or check the website [www.wahc-museum.ca](http://www.wahc-museum.ca).**

[www.wahc-museum.ca](http://www.wahc-museum.ca)

# North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week – May 1-7, 2005



The theme for NAOSH Week 2005 is **Equip, Educate, Empower**. As part of the celebrations, CCOHS is presenting something completely new – a series of complimentary Webinars during NAOSH Week 2005.

The CCOHS Webinars will be live web presentations using both phone-based teleconferencing for audio and Internet technology for delivering PowerPoints® or other visual file formats. CCOHS' expert staff will be delivering presentations on a variety of topics live, May 2-5 2005 inclusive! There are limited "virtual" seats available so we recommend you register early to avoid disappointment.

The Webinar topic schedule is listed on the CCOHS website and includes the following:

**May 2/05**     **Driving Safety**

**May 3/05 & May 10/05**     **Global Harmonization System (GHS): An Introduction**

**May 4/05**     **Occupational Disease Resources on the Internet**

**May 5/05 & May 9/05**     **e-Learning in Health and Safety Management – The CCOHS Experience**

We encourage you to view and participate as groups in boardrooms and venues throughout Canada. This is an efficient and easy way to share the information with your Joint Health and Safety Committee Members, Managers, Supervisors and related Health and Safety Professionals!

## Registering is easy!

Go to <http://ccohs.webex.com> to register for the webinar of your choice and you will receive full instructions via email on which website to log into PLUS a toll-free number to listen to the audio!

## Other NAOSH Activities

To coincide with this year's theme, the Ontario NAOSH Network, a group representing many of the province's prevention partners, has developed a brief, 10-item checklist to help workplaces test their organization's health and safety "fitness." The checklist is intended to get workplaces thinking about basic requirements and workplace injury and illness issues. It also provides information on resources that are available so that employers can make improvements where necessary.

NAOSH week is also an ideal time for organizations to enhance their knowledge of workplace safety by holding or participating in a health and safety event. These events can range from training sessions to contests to community events – anything designed to raise awareness. The NAOSH Week website is chock full of ideas and resources that can be downloaded.

Download the Checklist from the web: [http://www.naosh.ca/english/documents/ontario\\_naosh\\_checklist.pdf](http://www.naosh.ca/english/documents/ontario_naosh_checklist.pdf)

**To find out more about NAOSH Week visit [www.naosh.ca](http://www.naosh.ca)** 

## Heat Stress in the Workplace Can Be Controlled – and CCOHS' New Pocket Guide Can Help

Whether you work in an office without air conditioning or in a foundry, surrounded by vats of molten metal, working in a hot environment can be more than just unpleasant. It's a potential danger to your health.

How the human body responds to hot environments depends on several factors, including air temperature, relative humidity and air movement. How much heat is exchanged between the body and the environment also depends on our clothing, our general state of health and acclimatization, and our level of physical exertion — all of which are explained in detail in **Working in Hot Environments: A Health and Safety Guide**.

This 96-page pocket-sized guide by the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) serves as a handy resource for health and safety committee members and representatives as well as supervisors, managers, engineers and other health and safety professionals.

Heat exposure can be controlled. The guide outlines how to use engineering and administrative controls for improving thermal comfort in the workplace, as well as recommended personal protective equipment and sample safe work practices.

A section on the different heat related illnesses, including heat strain and heat stroke, explains the seriousness of these potentially fatal conditions, how to recognize symptoms, and what to do if someone is exhibiting those symptoms.

The book guides the reader through health and safety law, outlining the employer's and the employee's rights and responsibilities when it comes to preventing heat stress. The reader will gain a good





# Health and Safety Committee Training Made Easy with New e-Course

**R**epresenting the interests of your fellow employees or fellow managers as a member of the Health and Safety Committee (HSC) is an important responsibility. The committee works together to deal with occupational health and safety issues and helps develop and implement programs to protect the workers. Among other things, it shares responsibility for investigating accidents, reviewing the company's occupational health and safety program, conducting workplace inspections, controlling work hazards, and resolving issues – such as an employee's refusal to perform unsafe work – as they arise.

Health and Safety Committees, a new e-learning course from the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS), teaches you the roles and responsibilities as a committee member. It explains how to establish a new committee, how a committee can perform its functions and how to be effective. Helps you learn how to respond to workplace concerns and assist in resolving workplace issues.

Whether you're a new committee member or a seasoned professional, you can benefit from this online course and the convenience

of learning at your own pace, and at your own computer. Learning is made easy, with features such as links to supporting information and documents, quizzes to test your knowledge and sample checklists and an accident report form that can be adapted for your own use. The course takes about 40-60 minutes to complete.

Employers are responsible for setting up a HSC and ensuring that it complies with the occupational health and safety law. The committee must represent a wide range of employees. Above all the committee must be effective, and have access to the time, money and equipment it requires to do its job. The Health and Safety Committees e-course is a flexible, easy and cost-effective way to get your committee off to a great start.

**To register or learn more about the Health and Safety Committees e-course visit <http://www.ccohs.ca/products/courses/hsccommittees.html>**



## Other New Releases

French version of WHMIS for Workers – «SIMDUT à l'intention des travailleurs»

**Health & Safety for Managers & Supervisors in the Canadian Federal Jurisdiction**

**Coming Soon!**

**Office Ergonomics  
Emergency Response**

**WHMIS for Managers & Supervisors**

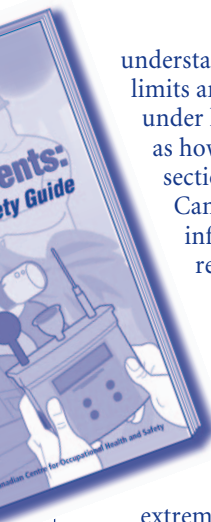
understanding of occupational exposure limits and thermal comfort guidelines under heat exposure standards, as well as how heat exposure is measured. A section on legislative authorities in Canada and the US lists contact information and web links for easy reference.

“The main purpose of this guide,” say the authors, “is to emphasize the importance of developing safe work practices and implementing preventive measures to prevent and or minimize worker exposure to extreme heat.”

A French-language edition of the guide is scheduled for release later this year.

The sixteenth in CCOHS' series of easy-to-understand, pocket-sized health and safety guides, **Working in Hot Environments** costs just \$10 plus shipping and handling (USD outside of Canada), with discounts available for bulk purchases.

**Obtain more information about this and other CCOHS pocket guides by visiting <http://www.ccohs.ca/products/publications/guide.html>.**



# Prevention Strategies Emerge From Occupational Disease Forum

In early March 2005, the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) hosted the first ever, pan-Canadian, tripartite forum on occupational disease in Toronto. The goal – to raise awareness of the issues of occupational disease and generate recommendations that could help improve the recognition and prevention of these illnesses and diseases in our country.

Experts from across Canada and around the world, as well as more than 350 representatives from Canadian employers, labour and government, gathered to discuss and share ideas, and recommend strategies to prevent occupational disease and control exposures to hazardous agents.

The active participation of the delegates and facilitators generated meaningful dialogue and ultimately produced more than 115 recommendations. CCOHS consolidated the recommendations into a web survey that invites all Canadians to participate by voting for the recognition and prevention strategies they believe to be most important. Canadians have until April 29, 2005 to cast their votes.



The final results from the survey will be posted on the website in June 2005.

In addition, the CCOHS Forum website has become yet another valuable resource, dealing specifically with occupational disease. The site features a rich

webliography of Internet references and abstracts from the poster sessions, and will soon have the presentations, workplace studies and film clips shown during the Forum for all to reference.

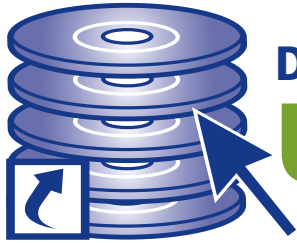
CCOHS President and CEO S. Len Hong remarked, “This is the start of a continuing national initiative on occupational disease – one that will eventually help lead to a focused and concerted effort to end work-related illnesses in Canada.”

Visit [forum05.ccohs.ca](http://forum05.ccohs.ca) to add your voice to the survey or view the results.

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## Disc Information Service **USER TIPS**

### Accessing the Disc Information Service

Each disc collection must be installed separately using the setup.exe file. As a collection is installed, it is added to the Home Page for the Disc Information Service. This page serves as the Home Page for all disc collections installed on your computer/network.

### TIPS!

When viewing the contents of long database records, e.g. CHEMINFO, the **Show Contents** button in the toolbar allows you to easily move through the contents of a long record using the list of available sections. You can select only the sections you wish to view. To hide the list of sections, click on the **Show Contents** button to toggle this feature off.

You can mark records between databases and disc collections. The marked records are retained between search sessions and system shutdowns. When you exit the Disc Information Service, the marked records are not cleared. You can clear them from the **Marked Records** folder at any time by clicking on the **Clear Marked** button.

You can also create a custom display format to display only the sections you select. This feature is session specific – any custom format you create will be cleared when you exit the disc. This feature is only available for a database with long records, such as CHEMINFO, RTECS®, CESARS, and HSDB®.

See [Help – Results & Toolbar](#) in the sidebar to find out more about using the **Show Contents** toolbar button.

**Extensive Help is available right in the Disc Information Service. However, Client Service Representatives are ready to answer any questions you may have! Contact them at 1-800-668-4284 or [clientservices@ccohs.ca](mailto:clientservices@ccohs.ca).**

## HRSDC Disc Gets New Name and New Look!

The HRSDC disc was renamed the **National Labour Operations Resources** disc in March of 2005.

It's the same great comprehensive resource with a new name and look!

To learn more about National Labour Operations Resources visit <http://www.ccohs.ca/products/cdrom/hrd.html>



## National Day of Mourning for Workers Killed and Injured on the Job

April 28, 2005

## Visit Us at these Upcoming Events

The 2005 Canadian Environmental  
Conference & Tradeshow  
(CANECT 2005)  
May 11-12, 2005  
Toronto, ON  
[www.esemag.com](http://www.esemag.com)

American Industrial Hygiene (AIHce)  
Conference & Expo : Celebrating  
Innovation  
May 21-26, 2005  
Anaheim, CA  
[www.aiha.org](http://www.aiha.org)

American Society of Safety  
Engineers (ASSE) Annual Conference  
and Exhibition  
June 12-15, 2005  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
[www.asse.org](http://www.asse.org)

Occupational and Environmental  
Exposures of Skin to Chemicals  
June 12, 2005  
Stockholm, Sweden  
[www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/skin/OEESC2/  
conference\\_info.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/skin/OEESC2/conference_info.html)

Health & Safety Training for  
Managers and Supervisors Course  
June 13-14, 2005 &  
September 12-13, 2005  
Hamilton, ON  
[www.ccohs.ca](http://www.ccohs.ca)

15th World Conference on  
Disaster Management  
July 10-13, 2005  
Toronto, ON  
[www.wcdm.org](http://www.wcdm.org)

### LIAISON

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