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North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week 2002: "Prevention is the Cure"

REGINA, Saskatchewan -- North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week is May 5-11. In Saskatchewan, the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering, the Saskatchewan Safety Council and safety associations, the Labour Program of Human Resources Development Canada, Saskatchewan Labour and the Workers' Compensation Board are partnering to encourage occupational health and safety. To officially launch NAOSH Week in Saskatchewan, the partners are holding a kick-off event today in Regina. The event features a fall protection demonstration which will showcase the importance of using the proper safety precautions on the job.

The goal of NAOSH Week is to focus the attention of employers, employees, the general public and all partners in occupational health and safety in North America on the importance of preventing injury and illness in the work place. This continent-wide event is an excellent opportunity to reinforce and strengthen commitment to occupational health and safety by increasing public awareness. This year marks the 30th anniversary of occupational health and safety legislation in Saskatchewan.

At this time of the year, when many young people are starting summer jobs, it's especially important to remember workplace safety. Young workers have a higher rate of work-related injuries than other age groups, often because of their general inexperience in the workplace. Workplace injuries and illnesses not only affect the worker; they also affect family, friends and community. So during NAOSH week, and throughout the year, it is important to remember that everyone is a partner in safety.

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