



HEALTH & SAFETY NEWS

NOVEMBER 17, 2016

PRESENT:

MANAGEMENT: SHAYNE OLSEN, SHARLENE BOWERS, MICHELLE MARGINET, DARLENE DORICIC, TRISH SMILLIE
KTTA: DAVID KOMLJENOVIC, GREGG HAFELI
CUPE: MARILYN THOMPSON, CARLO SIA
PRINCIPALS: SHERYL LINDQUIST, MARK MCVITTIE
TRUSTEE: JOE SMALL

Call to Order

Chairperson Thompson called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Adoption of the Minutes

The minutes of the October 20, 2016 meeting were adopted as circulated.

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was amended to show Water Testing Update added to Old Business, and WorkSafeBC Orders added to New Business.

Old Business

Lockdown Procedures:

A KTTA representative advised this issue was raised at the last meeting, specific to doors in the Clearwater area. A workorder has been submitted which should correct the problem by December. The second issue was around TTOC keys. This issue was raised at KTTA Liaison. There are still reports of TTOCs not getting keys at schools. Management requested a list of specific worksites where it is an issue. If a school feels they need more keys they should speak with Maintenance.

Safety Plans for Violence in the Workplace:

A KTTA representative requested clarification on the protocol for the district. Director Smillie advised a Student Safety Plan form exists. Work is underway to develop the procedure, and will clarify how safety plans relate to WorkSafe procedures. Administration anticipates giving direction to one school as a pilot, and then to the rest of the schools in

January. Specifically, the KTTA wants to confirm that members have access to the safety plans in place, particularly for non-enrolling teachers. A KTTA representative advised there's an assumption that classroom teachers are informed, but there are a lot of people in larger schools that come into contact with students that are unaware of safety plans or triggers. Director Smillie offered to come back after the draft procedure has been developed to share with the group.

Air Quality:

Management advised they've followed up with Maintenance and no work orders have been received relating to air quality issues at Aberdeen. Management inquired if the committee at that site has discussed the issue. A KTTA representative stated they had followed up with the rep at the school who advised the classrooms where there is a concern don't have monitors in them.

Water Testing Update:

Management advised that water testing is proceeding. At TREC there was found to be lead in approximately 75% of the faucets. Drinking fountains have been taken out of service. One faucet has been replaced and re-testing is being done on that faucet. If that appears to have corrected the issue with the one unit maintenance will proceed with replacing all of the units. Bottled water has been supplied. Westwold Elementary is on a well system, which has never been registered with Interior Health. This has been taken out of service and bottled water has been supplied. A new well will be dug, and will be registered with the Ministry of Health and undergo regular water testing as required. Vavenby Elementary has a very high lead content. Fountains have been marked as "Do Not Use" and tap water is not being used for cooking or drinking. Testing is ongoing at worksites throughout the district.

NEXT MEETING:

December 15, 2016 in the Boardroom at the School Board Office.

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*New Business***Monthly Reports:**

The following reports were reviewed:

- Custodial Safety Inspection Checklist
- Incident Report Summary
- Worksite Safety Committee Minutes
- Automotive Hoist Checklist
- Secondary Science Safety Checklist

Fentanyl:

A KTTA representative stated this has become a public health issue and that the issue for the district is around the potential for fentanyl in schools and worksites. The representative inquired if the district has plans to obtain naloxone. Director Smillie advised direction was received from the Chief Medical Health Officer advising that schools are able to obtain naloxone kits if the administrator determines there's a high risk for overdose at the school. Procedures are being developed and will be reviewed with the board. If approved, the district would be the first in the province and naloxone would become part of the first aid supply. Specific training would be provided on how to recognize symptoms of an overdose and how to respond and administer. Only those trained would have the ability to administer. It is the administrator's responsibility to indicate to the district if it's a high risk population at the school, and not all schools would

be identified as high-risk. At this time schools are not considered a high risk setting and only one school has indicated they would like the training.

WorkSafeBC Orders:

A management representative advised there was a refusal of unsafe work. OHS Reg. 3.12 was followed. The refusal continued and as per the regulation 3.12(5), the employer called in WorkSafeBC to make a determination. The unsafe work was related to violence towards a worker by a student. WorkSafeBC issued three orders. These orders apply throughout the district, but will be initiated at one worksite as a pilot. The first order is that the employer is to conduct a risk assessment. As part of this risk assessment, a formal survey will be sent to all staff. Administration and site safety committees will review first aid reports, previous incidents, and student behaviour plans. If necessary staff members will be interviewed. A risk assessment of the physical space will be conducted. Each worksite in the district will be required to undertake this process.

The second order states that policies to eliminate or minimize the risk of injury from violence to workers need to be established. This will be a worksite specific undertaking. All materials will be provided to worksites to do that. Training will be

provided.

The third order involves lack of supervision in the worksite. The requirement under the act is that everyone has rights but everyone also has responsibilities, from the worker through to the Board of Education. It was determined that those responsibilities had not been met. There must be some system of supervision for all employees to ensure they're behaving in a safe manner. The employer is ordered to provide a response that outlines how the responsibilities of supervisors are communicated to supervisors and how compliance is monitored and assessed. This applies to all worksites in the district.

A notice of compliance must be submitted by December 2nd, which sets forward the plan of what the employer is intending to do. A significant part of the three orders will be undertaken with the pilot site by that time. Management is hopeful that by mid-February this will be concluded for every worksite.

A KTTA representative requested a copy of the orders, and management will share those. The orders have been posted at the worksite.

Adjourned 9:10 a.m.

*Monthly Safety Tip***Slippery boots: Most winter footwear fails test of walking on ice**

Of 98 models tested in Toronto lab, only 9 had enough grip for icy conditions

Before you step outdoors this winter, consider what's on your feet.

Did you do as much research buying your winter boots as you did when you last bought snow tires?

A team of researchers at the WinterLab of the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, part of the University Health Network, has found the majority of winter boots sold in Canada won't keep you upright in slippery conditions.

Of 98 models of boots the lab tested on ice and wet ice, only nine passed a slip test.

"You'd think winter boots would be adapted for winter, but they're not. Some of the boots are so bad that they couldn't stand up on level ice," says Dr. Geoff Fernie, research director at the rehabilitation institute.

Preventing injuries

Toronto Rehab's iDAPT program has a mandate to find

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ways of preventing accidents and injuries, particularly those associated with the Canadian winter, such as falling on ice.

To test the boots, researchers asked people to walk, first on a level surface covered with ice, then on an increasing incline, first of two to three degrees, and then up to seven to 10 degrees. Then they tested the same boots on wet ice. The boot testers wore a harness as they walked, so when they slipped they didn't fall.

Slipping on ice sent 21,000 people to hospital in Ontario alone last year, Fernie said, and sometimes the fractures people suffered affected their quality of life for years. The IDAPT lab published the results of the tests on the 98 pairs of boots at ratemytreads.com. The project is intended as a consumer research tool, as well as an incentive to the makers of winter boots to improve the performance of their products, Fernie said.

"We wanted to protect the consumer to an enormous degree and bring more competition into the industry, so they pay more attention to something beyond what [boots] look like," he said.

Single snowflake is best so far

The top-rated boots got a single snowflake out of three. That meant they gripped when walking up a seven-degree incline, while most of the boots failed to keep people from falling.

The scientists found that tread was helpful for walking on ice, but the key factor in the boots that passed the slip test was a specially adapted material on the sole of the boot.

The two materials that were successful were Green Diamond, a rubber sole with grit embedded in the material, and Arctic Grip, a different material that looked smooth, but had little crampons that could be seen with a microscope.

The boots that earned a single snowflake are:

- Caterpillar Men's Stiction Hiker Ice+ Waterproof TX Boots.
- Dakota Men's Oil-Resistant T-Max Anti-slip Transitional Boots.
- Dakota Men's 9800 CTCP PU Boots With Green Diamond.
- Dakota Women's CTCP Transitional Boots.
- Sperry Women's Powder Valley Polar Ice Grip Boots.
- Sperry Men's Cold Bay Sport Ice+ Boots.
- Wind River Men's Snow Leopard Boots.
- Wind River Men's Yoho Hiking Boots.
- Men's Wolverine Safety Boots.

Fernie said he wasn't surprised at finding just nine pairs of boots that held on ice.

"Several years ago we went out and we bought some footwear and tested a sequence of someone trying to walk up

a two-degree slope in these rather expensive boots and just sliding sideways off," he said. "We do a lot of work in prevention and trying to prevent injuries from falls."

What about snow?

The WinterLab has yet to test the boots in snow, or in the even more difficult conditions of snow covering ice, because of limitations in creating a winter climate indoors. Nor has it tested the durability of the new materials or whether they hold up over several seasons of use.

But the seven-degree slope that was the minimum to get the single snowflake is equivalent to the clear cut at the end of a sidewalk to take a wheelchair onto a road surface, something people might have to negotiate every day.

To get three snowflakes, the top rating, a boot would have to grip on a 15-degree incline.

Fernie is optimistic. "I don't want to be anything but enthusiastic for the ones with one snowflake. We're conservative and we believe there's going to be big improvements in the next year or two years," he said.

The [Rate My Treads website](http://RateMyTreads.com) will expand as more boots are tested. The first tests were on products widely available in Canada, but now iDAPT is inviting people to send in boots from anywhere in the world for testing.

The iDAPT lab had considered it might have to develop the materials that would make slipping on ice a thing of the past. Fernie said he's encouraged that there is already a commercial solution, though the lab is still working on developing a better material.

Researchers hope to find a way to test the boots in snow, rate them for durability and work with manufacturers on developing better materials.

The lab was not compensated by manufacturers for testing boots, though it does collaborate with industry to develop and test new technologies for use in winter.



The soles that gripped on ice had a gritty surface or minute crampons. (Toronto Rehabilitation Institute)

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Incident Reports | November 2016 (Public Version)

Incident Description	Injury Type	Recommendations
Worker was installing exhaust duct in the ceiling of the print shop. Worker reached across the duct to connect pieces and felt sharp pain in shoulder.	Sprain/Strain	Workplace did not provide investigation report
Worker was demonstrating a cut with a student using a ruler and utility knife. Worker caught an edge on the ruler, which redirected the knife slicing worker's finger.	Laceration	Workplace did not provide investigation report
Worker was helping student pack his/her bag. Student took off and worker redirected him/her into SETL room. Student scratched worker and slapped worker's chest. Student threw blinds at worker.	Bruising/Contusion	Workplace did not provide investigation report
Worker was traveling from HGEC back to school. Worker was stopped waiting to make a left turn when worker was struck from behind by another vehicle.	Stiffness	N/A
Worker tripped over speed bump walking to car after hours.	Bruising/Contusion	Work order to review lights. Suggest to move car to lighted area.
Worker lifted 2 heavy desks (approx. 35 lbs) 40 feet.	Sprain/Strain	Get help moving desks.
Worker was walking in to band room and missed the step down to the sunken part of the room. Worker fell forward, hitting knee on step and striking face on floor.	Break, Bruising, Sprain/Strain	Signage - "Watch step" to be added. Bright tape around first step of sunken floor. Work orders have been placed.
Student became non-compliant at end of day and did not want to go to daycare. Student ran to sensory room and was continuing to act out. After some time student approached worker and scratched worker. Student bit worker.	Bruising/Contusion	Review situation and build routine plan for transition to child's daycare
Worker was lifting bins onto a table and felt pull/twinge in shoulder. Worker went to desk to work on computer and noticed neck started to stiffen, range of motion was limited.	Stiffness, decreased range of motion	Advise supervisor when planning to move office content. Use a furniture dolly to move items. Wait for help from custodial or maintenance personnel.
Worker advises he/she was in the fridge/freezer. The door was closed. Worker was bending over checking on salad dressing and struck forehead on metal door knob.	Bruising/Contusion	Reminder to employee to slow down and pay attention to surroundings.
Worker was walking back to school from Sagebrush Theatre with class. Worker tripped in pothole and twisted ankle, falling.	Sprain/Strain	Ensure to watch in front of you when walking.
Worker tripped over a student and fell over another student.	N/A	Take care moving around room. Have students play in bigger area of the room.
Students were having gym period, working on passing and catching volleyballs. Worker went to help a student and got hit in the head.	Other	Stop students from practicing before helping a student in the play area. Move student out of the play area before helping or explaining to a student.
Worker was supervising a primary playground and was struck in the face by a soccer ball kicked by a student.	Sprain/Strain	When near the soccer field watch the gameplay as best as possible