

Health and Safety Matters

A. Worksafe Orders - Wood Shop

A WorkSafe BC Officer had investigated the dust collection system at a secondary school and issues a Compliance Order which orders the district to comply with provincial health and safety Regulations.

The order can be found at: http://www.ktta.ca/images/Worksafe_Report_Shop_2017.pdf (in the KTTA website under "Health and Safety" and the section "WorkSafe BC Orders", and is also attached to this email).

*"A dust collector having an internal volume greater than 0.6 m³ (20 ft³) and being used to control combustible dusts is not located, or is not constructed, so that no worker will be endangered in the event of an explosion inside the collector. The Torit Model 20-5 FB cyclone with attached 4-bag filter manifold is located in a wood framed enclosure attached to the woodworking shop. The total volume of the enclosure is greater than 20 cubic feet (0.6 m³) and the enclosure has not been designed to prevent danger to workers in the event of an explosion inside the collector. **This is in contravention of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation Section 5.71 (3).** A dust collector having an internal volume greater than 0.6 m³ (20 ft³) and being used to control combustible dusts must be located and constructed so that no worker will be endangered in the event of an explosion inside the collector."*

The district is ordered to consult with a qualified person to do an assessment of the explosion hazard related to this enclosure and appropriate measures must be taken to eliminate the risk of injury to workers in the event of an explosion within the dust collector.

Part of the order issued also noted that no hardwoods were to be used in the shop and the back planer could not be used as the dust collector.

If you are aware of similar situations occurring in your schools, please advise the KTTA (250-554-1223 or office@ktta.ca) as these need to be reported to WorkSafe BC. The WorkSafe BC officer stated that they would be looking at other wood shops but advising us can speed up that process.

B. Violence Prevention

For the past two years, violence prevention has been regularly raised at the district Health and Safety Committee and with Worksafe BC Officers.

This year, a Worksafe BC Officer issued orders regarding Violence Prevention which resulted in a district program to ensure compliance around reporting and training of Health and Safety reps.

The orders can be found at: http://www.ktta.ca/images/Worksafe_BC_Order_Nov_2016_A.pdf and http://www.ktta.ca/images/Worksafe_BC_Order_Nov_2016_B.pdf. These are also attached to this email.

The orders state:

"The employer is to conduct a risk assessment that includes consideration of previous experience in the workplace, occupational experience in similar workplaces and the location and circumstances in which the work takes place. Pursuant to section 194 (1) of the Workers Compensation Act, the employer must prepare a Notice of Compliance report. In accordance with section 194 (2), this report must detail what has been done to comply with the order, and where compliance has not been

achieved by the time the report has been submitted, include a plan of what will be done to comply and when compliance will be achieved."

and

"Following the recommendations of the risk assessment, establish policies, procedures or work environment arrangements to eliminate or minimize the risk of injury from violence to workers. Pursuant to section 194 (1) of the Workers Compensation Act, the employer must prepare a Notice of Compliance report. In accordance with section 194 (2), this report must detail what has been done to comply with the order, and where compliance has not been achieved by the time the report has been submitted include a plan of what will be done to comply and when compliance will be achieved."

If you are involved in an violent incident or a near miss, please complete a Worksafe BC Report through: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/claims/forms/workers-report-of-injury-or-occupational-disease-to-employer-form-6a?lang=en&origin=s&returnurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.worksafebc.com%2Fen%2Fsearch%23q%3D6a%2520Form%26sort%3Drelevancy%26f%3Alanguage-facet%3D%5BEnglish%5D&highlight=6a+Form>. We encourage you to follow this up with Worksafe BC (250-371-6003) and to contact the KTTA office if you have any concerns (250-554-1223).

A Question and Answer was also provided earlier in the year :
http://www.ktta.ca/images/Violence_Prevention_2017.pdf.

C. Water Quality / Lead

The district had been testing drinking water at school sites since last year for the presence of lead. The Interior Health Authority has mandated the testing and if the results demonstrate a level of lead that is above the allowable limit, then the district is required to inform and initiate a plan that would either close off the fountains or another plan that would ensure lead levels are below the acceptable limits.

That means that bottled water has been provided at certain schools. We were informed that some schools are also flushing the fountains (for one minute) in the morning to bring lead levels below the limits.

We had contacted Worksafe BC to check on whether the latter is an acceptable plan, and they indicated that it was.

We were also provided with information from a Worksafe BC Officer about how to deal with the presence of lead in drinking water. That information is attached for your information - it is from Health Canada.

If you would like to know what the water tests were for your schools, we encourage you to contact Michelle Marginet (mmarginet@sd73.bc.ca) and request that information.