



Forest City

LONDON CONSTRUCTION LABOUR MANAGEMENT HEALTH & SAFETY NEWS BULLETIN

Issue #16, Spring 2007

Electrical Safety Authority

Awareness campaign to use fused leads on all multimeters begins;

Use the right Meter - Use the Meter Right - Double check the settings before testing.

Follow the link for the brochure. http://www.esasafe.com/Contractors/ets_003.php?s=25

Electrical workplace incidents associated with working on live electrical equipment have increased by 30% in the past 6 years. The Electrical Safety Authority is encouraging electrical trades, and workers who do electrical maintenance work, to disconnect before working.

http://www.esasafe.com/Contractors/ets_002.php?s=25

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY TRAINING

For summer/fall 2007, safety-training courses can be found at the following web link:

http://www.csao.org/t.tools/t7.training/search_training.cfm

Additional safety training courses offered through the London District Construction Association:

http://www.ldca.on.ca/education/d/csao_courses.html

CSAO New Resources

Check out the Construction Safety Association website for new products and services. Remember the cost is often free for their products to members. The following are new and available from the website : <http://www.csao.org/t.tools/t6.news/index.cfm>

- SAFETY TALKS -- 2007 EDITION
- HEAVY EQUIPMENT SAFETY POSTERS
 - Stay clear of heavy equipment / make eye contact with operators
 - Wear your seatbelt (rollover protection)
 - Look out for powerlines.
- Traffic Protection/Control Planning Sheet
- Training Requirements Chart

CCA's GOLD SEAL CERTIFICATION

Canadian Construction Association will certify qualified persons in their Gold Seal Certification program. CCA is now accepting applications for the new Construction Safety Coordinator designation.

WSIB - EARLY AND SAFE RETURN TO WORK

The WSIB has revised its early and safe return to work (ESRTW) draft policies after stakeholder consultation. The WSIB was accepting written submissions until Feb 17, 2007. After that, the WSIB was to review the feedback and finalize the policies.

To read the drafts, visit www.wsib.on.ca/wsib/wsibsite.nsf/public/ESRTWconsult or call H el ene Guilmet-DeSimone at 1-800-387-0050

ASBESTOS

Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities is in the process developing a three day training program for the proper handling and disposal of Asbestos.

Ministry of Labour

In 2006 there were 11 construction related deaths in the Western region of Ontario. This is up from 4 in 2005. The provincial total construction related deaths in 2006 was 27. This represents a sharp increase over the previous 2 years. The MOL will be analyzing this information and targeting an enforcement plan.

NAOSH WEEK

. Start planning your events and activities to promote workplace health and safety during [North American Occupational Health and Safety \(NAOSH\) Week, May 6 – 12th, 2007](#).

Multi-meter Accidents Prevention Plan (excerpt from Steve’s Smith article ECAO vol. 44. NO 4 – Fall 2006)

Since the change in the 2002 Ontario Electrical Code requiring the mandatory reporting of electrical accidents to ESA, we have been able to do in-depth investigations, from a root cause perspective, focusing specifically on the electrical factors.

During these investigations, a trend involving multi-meter accidents emerged and alarmingly revealed that approximately half of the reported multi-meter accidents resulted in critical injuries to the victim.

Cause and determination analysis of these accidents pointed to “user errors”, in the majority of cases, as the source problem followed closely by internal component failure.

Users errors would include: wrong settings (i.e. ohms scale selected when testing voltage); wrong “cat” area application; wrong probe socket used (i.e. amps instead of volts); wrong use of the product; such as switching settings under power; wrong voltage applied, exceeding limits of meter. Adding to the user error problem was wear, tear and contamination within the meter that creates internal component failures. Another cause is associated with aging equipment. When a multi-meter has been in service for many years, it can begin to deteriorate or become compromised with contamination of dirt or moisture conductive material. Frequent transient spikes are another leading cause of meter failure and unfortunately the user has no idea when a spike has or will hit the meter.

It is clear that we must do a better job of protecting the worker from life threatening arc faults, initiated by multi-meter failures within a multi-meter. The options include: Part II Standard changes, for new equipment being produced; adding protection for existing field product and educational and behavioral changes at the user level. But don’t wait for these changes to take effect, take charge of your own safety now. **Never use a multi-meter without fused leads- your safety might depend on it. Remember to “fuse it” or “loose it”!**

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