



# Occupational Health and Safety Division

***Officer Sheri Lynn Rees Tarrant***

15 Dundee Avenue, Mt. Pearl, NL, A1N 4R6

**General Enquiries: 790-729-2706**

**Toll Free: 1-800-563-5471**

**Accident Reporting ONLY: 709-729-4444**

# Mandate



Accident and illness prevention is the primary goal of Occupational Health and Safety Division.

We do this by promoting and enforcing the Occupational Health and Safety Act and associated Regulations to protect the workers of our Province.

# Enforcement Officers

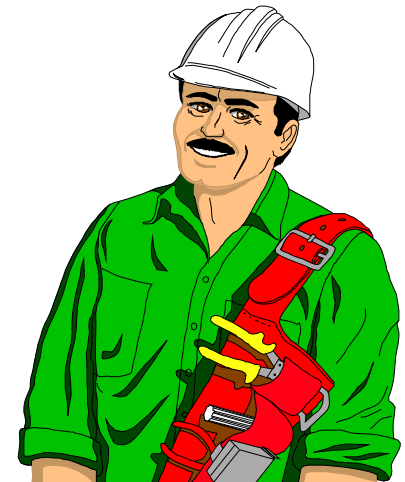


- OH&S Officer II ( 14 )
- OH&S Officer III ( 7 )
- Industrial Hygienists ( 5 )
- Hazard Materials Officers ( 2 )
- Ergonomist ( 1 )
- Radiation Personnel ( 2 )
- Engineer ( 1 )

# Responsibility of OHS Officer



- Inspect Workplaces to ensure compliance with OHS Laws.
- Respond to complaints.
- Investigate accidents.
- Investigate work refusals.
- Answer questions/clarify issues with respect to OHS Law.



# Legislation Administered by the Division



- The Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations
  - OHS First Aid Regulations
  - WHMIS Regulations
  - Asbestos Abatement Regulations
- The Radiation Health and Safety Act and Regulations
- The Smoke Free Environment Act and Regulations

# Why Do Accidents Occur?



- Lack of training
- Lack of experience
- Not wearing PPE
- Using incorrect tools
- Not following safe work practices
- Taking short cuts
- Fatigue/Concentration

{Ex. Water Tx Plant – splashed with sodium hydroxide (Caustic soda)}



# OHS and the Municipality



- A municipality falls within the definition of an “employer” under the Occupational Health and Safety Legislation
- Municipalities can and have been charged and found guilty of offences under OHS Act and Regulations.
- Section 4 of the Act - An employer shall ensure where it is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of his or her workers



## OHS and the Municipality (cont'd)

- This must include:
  - necessary equipment, systems and tools
  - information, instruction, training and supervision, including instruction on the use of devices or equipment provided for the worker's protection
  - ensure that workers and particularly supervisors are familiar with the hazards that may be met by them in the workplace





## Hazard...

An unsafe condition or activity that, if left uncontrolled, can contribute to an accident.

### **HAZARD ANALYSIS...**

Look at the job or task to find problems that can lead to an accident, in order to come up with a way to get rid of the problem or control it so it doesn't become an accident.

### **SAFE WORK PROCEDURE...**

A WRITTEN work practice or procedure that is based on your hazard analysis. It describes the safe way to complete a task or job by controlling the hazards associated with the job. It is the correct safe way to perform a job.

# Common Safety and Health Hazards for Municipal Workers



- Safety Hazards
  - Material Handling
  - Mobile Equipment
  - Electrical Hazard
  - Working at Heights
  - Slips, trips and falls
  - Trenching
  - Compressed gas cylinders
- Health Hazards
  - Chemical
  - Biological
  - Ergonomic
  - Physical
  - Confined Space Hazards

# Health and Safety Concerns With Water Treatment



- Chemical Hazards
  - » chlorine, corrosive materials, hydrogen sulfide
- Confined Spaces
  - » oxygen deficiency
- WHMIS
- Working Alone
- Asbestos Containing Pipes and Elbows
- PPE
- Malfunctioning equipment, ie. Leak Detection Monitors/Sensors
- Electrical Issues

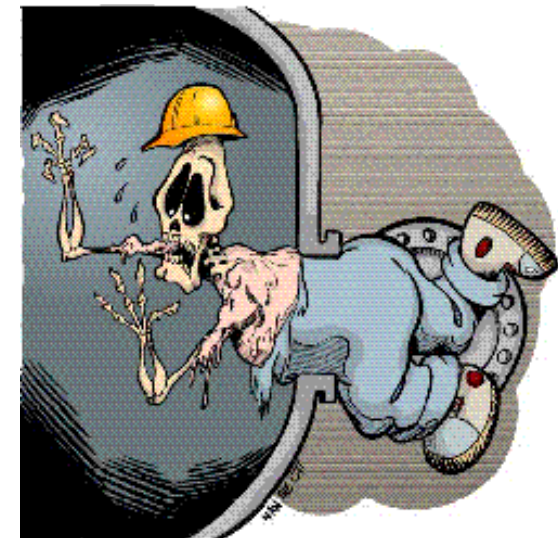
# Chlorine



- It is a corrosive material, and is also a very strong oxidizing agent. (Combines with O<sub>2</sub>)
- Chlorine gas, if mixed with a combustible substance, may cause a fire and/or explosion.
- Severe irritant of the eyes, throat, respiratory tract; will cause long term lung damage.
- May be fatal if inhaled at high concentrations.
- May cause blindness.
- Control measures to prevent exposure include: proper engineering controls, the use of monitoring or leak detection equipment, & the wearing of appropriate PPE.

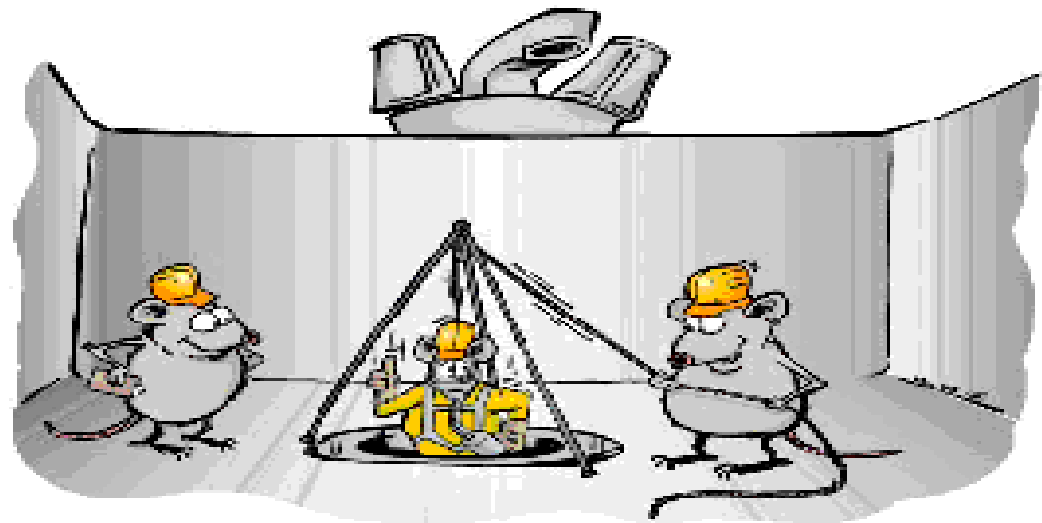
# Confined Space Entry

- A confined space may be defined as an enclosed or partially enclosed space that is large enough and so configured that an employee can enter and perform assigned work and have limited or restricted means of entry or exit and is **NOT** designed or intended for continuous human occupancy.



# Typical Confined Spaces

- Manholes, sewers, boilers, tunnels, fuel tanks, ballast tanks, storage tanks, tank cars, vats, process vessels, septic tanks, etc.



# Why People Die in Confined Spaces



- Do not recognize a confined space
- Do not test the air in a confined space
- Trust their senses
- Underestimate the dangers
- Do not realize how quickly they can become overcome
- Let their guard down
- Do not monitor conditions in the space, ie. Air, water
- Monitoring equipment broken or sensors not working
- They try to rescue other people
- Work alone

# WHMIS



***Workplace  
Hazardous  
Materials  
Information  
System***





# WHMIS Overview



- Purpose of WHMIS - right to know
- WHMIS is a Hazard Communication System



# Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)



WHMIS consists of three key elements:

- Labels
- Material Safety Data Sheets
- Worker Education

# MSDS



- MSDSs for all chemicals to be readily accessible onsite.
- Familiar with information on the MSDS, especially First Aid Measures and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required.
- Emergency equipment required onsite determined by MSDS...ie. For Chlorine usually an emergency eye wash station and emergency shower is required.

# Working Alone



- Are water treatment facility operators working alone?
- Are maintenance workers working alone?
- Are Town Clerks working alone?
- New Requirements under the OHS Regs for workers who work alone.



# Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs)

- Asbestos fibers can cause disease if they are disturbed and inhaled.
- Workers who handle Asbestos containing materials require asbestos abatement training.
- ACMs are found in:
  - Insulation, siding, ceiling tile, etc. in older buildings
  - Insulation in water reservoirs
  - Old water and sewer pipes(Any potential Source of Asbestos must be identified and a management plan developed for the handling of the asbestos containing products. Don't disturb it unless you know for sure it is NOT Asbestos!)



# Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

**Identify the hazards first i.e.  
Chemical Hazards...Chlorine**

**Eliminate or Reduce the  
hazards if possible.**

**Choose the correct PPE for  
the job...gloves, goggles,  
splash apron.**

**PPE is the last line of defense  
and only works if you wear it!**



# Personal Protective Equipment



<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Equipment</b>
Struck on head	CSA hard hat
Eye injury	Safety glasses
Hand abrasion	Gloves
Crushing of foot or puncture	CSA safety boots
Fumes/mists	Proper respirator
Traffic in proximity of work area	Highly visible barricades Appropriate traffic control
High noise levels	Hearing protection

# Conclusion



- Everyone is responsible for safety.
- Know your Hazards...Education and Training.
- Hazard Analysis is the first step.
- Safe Work Procedures keep workers safe as long as they are developed and followed properly.
- Keep Safety First

