

What's the hazard?

There are many hazards on construction sites, some of note are:

- Electric Shock
- Exposure to asbestos
- Heat Stress
- Heavy equipment
- Lack of personal protective equipment
- Noise
- Repetitive motion
- Slips, trips, and falls
- Working at heights

If you aren't familiar with these hazards, and others, you could be seriously injured.

How do I know if I am at risk?

Are you:

- Lacking the necessary training for the work you are asked to do?
- Working with inadequate or poorly maintained equipment?
- Working with young or new workers?
- Not having regular safety discussions with others at the worksite?

If you answered **YES** to any of these questions, then you are at risk.

What precautions can be taken?

The Internal Responsibility System (IRS) is the foundation of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) legislation on Prince Edward Island. Simply put, it means everyone is responsible for workplace safety.

It places responsibility for controlling hazards on

everyone in the workplace, but also recognizes that those closest to the work can provide valuable input in maintaining a safe workplace. On construction sites, everyone shares the responsibility for working together to identify and control hazards that could cause harm.

When properly implemented, the IRS promotes cooperation among employers, supervisors, workers, safety committees, and safety representatives. The ultimate objective of the IRS is to make sure everyone understands their role in maintaining a healthy and safe workplace to reduce the potential for work-related injury or occupational disease.

Do not wait for the worksite's safety coordinator or an OHS Officer to tell you to follow the required safety procedures. You are responsible for your own safety and to help others identify the hazards at your workplace.



Responsibilities:

Worker

- Comply with company rules and safe work procedures
- Wear personal protective equipment as required
- Report hazards, incidents and unsafe conditions to the supervisor
- Use machinery, equipment, and materials only as authorized
- Arrive at work "Fit for Duty." This means that you must show up for work prepared to do the tasks required of you, and avoid being impaired by alcohol, drugs (either recreational or pharmaceutical) or being fatigued

Employer

- Provide necessary orientation and training
- Provide and maintain equipment, machines and materials in a safe manner
- Cooperate with the safety committee or safety representative
- Provide a psychologically healthy work environment

Supervisor

- Conduct orientation and training of employees.
- Enforce safe work practices
- Correct unsafe conditions
- Investigate workplace accidents and address employee concerns

Safety Committee/Representative

- Hold monthly meetings; record and post minutes
- Make recommendations on health and safety issues
- Participate in inspections and investigations
- Participate in developing the OHS Program, policies and safe work procedures

Discussion topics:

- Are there recent examples of the Internal Responsibility System in action at this worksite?
- What actions are you going to do today to create a safer worksite?

Here are examples of IRS in action:

- Immediately cleaning up a spill
- Picking up a tripping hazard as soon as it is noticed
- Noting a leak on a piece of equipment that may be a fire hazard and putting the proper protocols in place to make sure everyone's remains safe



**To report a serious workplace injury, contact the
24/7 Occupational Health and Safety Emergency Line at 902-628-7513**



WCB Occupational Health and Safety Division
902-368-5680 or toll-free 1-800-237-5049
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