
**Petroleum Safety Conference
Banff 2012**



Alberta Occupational Health and Safety
Neil Looker

**Occupational Health & Safety
Alberta Ministry of Human Services**



*Alberta has a fair, safe, and healthy
work environment*

- *Promote safe and healthy workplaces by educating employers and workers about legislated standards & ensuring compliance through complaint resolution, investigation and targeted inspections*

OHS Divisions

- Workplace Standards Delivery
 - OHS Compliance
- Workplace Standards Policy
 - Policy advice
 - Legal interpretation (Alberta Justice)
 - Best Practice Development
 - Inspection program development
 - E learning tools
 - Website

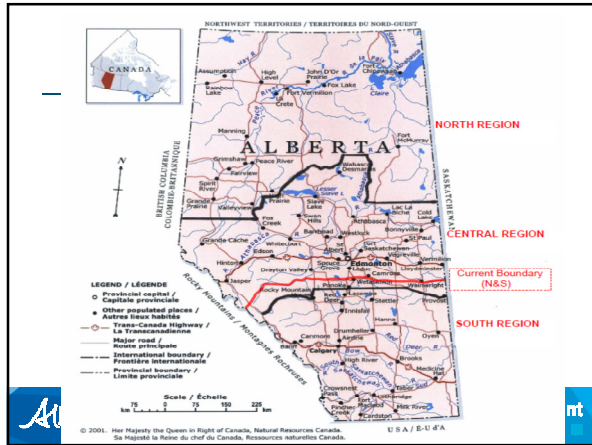
OHS Compliance

- 7 offices across the province
- Three Regions
 - New third region – New satellite office east central portion of province
- 112 Occupational Health and Safety Officers
- Technical Advisor Team
- Lead Investigation Team

- Over 140,000 Registered Alberta Employers
- Approximately 2 million workers



Government of Alberta



OHS Management Team

- Senior management
 - ADM Andrew Sharman
 - Exec Director Brent McEwan
 - Senior management
 - Karen MacDonald (South Region Director)
 - Joanne Garton (Central Region Director)
 - Chris Powell (North Region Director)



Government of Alberta

Updates

- OHS Regulation
 - Final stages completion
- New staff
- Occupational Disease Prevention Section
- Silica Project
- Ticketing Project



Government of Alberta

Occupational Disease Prevention Section

- Minister's Advisory Committee (2008)
 - labour, academia, other ministries and health (approx 31 committee members)
 - Chaired by David Xiao, Parliamentary Assistant for E&I
 - Alberta Occupational Cancer Prevention Strategy
 - In 2010 the strategy was revised to include all occupational diseases



Government of Alberta

Occupational Prevention Initiatives

- Occupational Health Surveillance
 - Notifiable Diseases
 - CAREX Canada
- Program Delivery – Inspections Project
 - Enhanced part of current operations
- Two New Project Areas
 - Occupational Respiratory Disease
 - Occupational Dermatitis
- Policy: Lead, Noise



Government of Alberta

Occupational Disease Prevention Section Goals

Desired Outcome: Improved our understanding of exposure incidence and type; improved knowledge of the incidence and types of occupational diseases.

Desired Outcome: Occupational disease causing agents are controlled; workers are not exposed to hazards causing occupational disease

Desired Outcome: Increased awareness and knowledge about occupational health and occupational disease prevention.



Government
of Alberta

Silica Project

- Result of 2009 Code change in OEL
- OHS assessed worker exposure throughout industry to review viability of OEL
- Exposure Assessments to date
 - 2009 Coal Mining
 - 2010 Construction
 - 2011 Construction and Abrasive Blasting
 - 2012 Other industries including Oil and Gas
- Common issues related to hazard awareness, compliance with work procedures and hygiene



Government
of Alberta

TICKETING AND ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES

- The department has been criticized for not fining companies on the spot for safety infractions
- Ticketing is one option that provides an immediate compliance tool when certain OHS infractions are noted by our officers.
- This will give OHS officers yet one more tool in their compliance toolbox.



Government
of Alberta

TICKETING AND ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES

- Implementation date April 2013
- OHS and Justice have completed reviewing the proposed ticketable offences. The initial approved list is 18. An additional 11 infractions could be ticketable with an amendment to the OHS Code.
- Tickets will be issued under the *Provincial Offences Procedures Act (POPA)* similar to the traffic violation tickets. Failure to pay will result in a warrant for arrest.



Government of Alberta

TICKETING AND ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES

- Its recommendation is to provide authority to OHS officers to ticket workers and/or employers for safety violations in certain common high-risk areas. The fines would be \$200 for workers and \$500 for employers.
- Administrative penalties are in the development stage with OHS policy .



Government of Alberta

Current OHS Activities

- New Data Handling system in place
- Recent investigations indicate contractor management a concern
- April 1, 2011- April 1 2012
– 334 Orders issued
- Bulk of inspections on Drilling/Service Rig Operations and Upstream Oil and gas



Government of Alberta

Orders by Industry Group

- Field production operators
 - 2 orders (powered mobile equipment)
- Oilfield Maintenance/construction
 - 3 orders (certification of equipment)
- Well Servicing with service rigs
 - 46 orders (hazard assessment, fall protection, etc.)
- Drilling Oil and Gas Wells
 - 102 orders (Act, Oil and gas wells, PPE, etc.)



Government of Alberta

Orders by Industry Group

- Vacuum Removal- wet/dry waste
 - One order issued (Hazard Assessment)
- Oil and gas upstream
 - 127 orders issued (Act, various sections of the code)
- Cleaning services/mobile pressure wash
 - 16 orders (confined space, Tools Equipment Machinery)
- Oilfield downhole Services
 - 26 orders (various sections of the code)



Government of Alberta

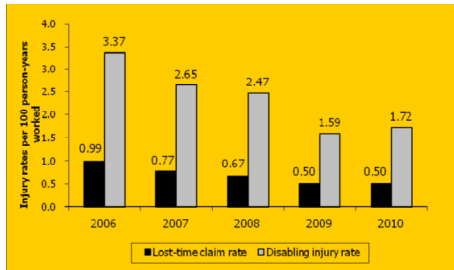
Orders by Industry Group

- Well Casing Services
 - 8 orders (various sections of the Code)
- Trucking Services- Oilfield
 - 3 orders (various sections of the Code)
- No inspection activity was completed in following industry groups
 - Seismic Exploration
 - Drilling – Shot Hole
 - Mud Logging Services
 - Drilling – Rathole/Rig Anchor
 - Oilfield Services – Christmas Trees
 - Oilfield Services – Sump Pit



Government of Alberta

Oil and Gas



Government of Alberta

Thank you and Enjoy the rest of the conference

www.whs.gov.ab.ca
Contact Centre
1-866-415-8690



Government of Alberta
