



NSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

July 2018

Health and Safety Representatives

One of the primary purposes of the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) is to facilitate a strong Internal Responsibility System (IRS) in the workplace. The IRS means that everyone in the workplace – employers, supervisors and workers - has a role to play in keeping workplaces safe and healthy.

What is a Health and Safety Representative?

The Health and Safety Representative (HRS) acts as a link between workers and employers in supporting occupational health and safety at the workplace.

In workplaces, including construction projects, at which the number of workers regularly exceeds five and at which no joint health and safety committee is required, employers or constructors must ensure that workers select a health and safety representative (HSR). An HSR is selected by workers at the workplace from workers who do not exercise managerial functions. The Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) outlines the duties and responsibilities of the HRS in section 8 of the OHSA.

Key responsibilities of health and safety representative under the OHSA include:

- identifying actual and potential workplace hazards;
- inspecting the workplace regularly;
- being consulted about and being present at the beginning of health and safety related testing in the workplace;
- making recommendations to the employer about health and safety in the workplace;
- participating in investigation of work refusals



Employers have a general duty under the OHSA to co-operate with the HSR to carry out their legislative functions. In particular, employers are required to:

- respond to HSR recommendations in writing;
- give the HSR copies of all written orders and reports issued by the MOL inspector;
- report any workplace fatalities, injuries and illnesses to the HSR; and
- pay the HSR while they are performing their HSR duties.



Training Course Coming Soon

Northern Safety Solutions will be offering this 1-day (in class) Health and Safety Representatives Training as well as an Online Health and Safety Representative Training Module. Please contact our office for more details.

Northern Safety Solutions offers Working at Heights Training and Working at Heights REFRESHER Training! Please contact our office for more information



Northern Safety Solutions Inc.

955 Bancroft Drive, Sudbury ON P3B 1P8

Toll Free: 705.524.8189

www.northernsafetysolutions.com

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