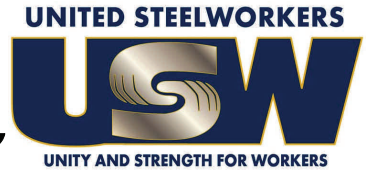




SafeTalk



USW Local 1-423 Annual Health & Safety School



Many of USW local 1-423's health and safety activists attended the recent two-day health and safety school in Kelowna, BC. In his opening speech local union president Pat McGregor stressed the importance of having well trained health and safety committees.

Local 1-423, one of the most diverse local unions in District 3 with members working at waste removal, modular homes, pellet mills, saw manufacturing, insulation makers, value-added wood products, HVAC control modules, forestry, road construction, electric motor manufacturing, oxygen delivery, and sawmills and plywood plants, recently had 75 committee members from 25 operations attended the local's annual health and safety school. Local union president Pat McGregor opened the school, then local 1-1937 activist Shelley Siemens gave some background on the Rudychuck scholarship that is funding the work she is presently doing for the District. This was followed by District 3 HSE Coordinator Ron Corbeil giving a year-end review of health and safety events in the District. Harbinder Hara then sent greetings on behalf of local 1-417 and Kevin Birnie from WorkSafeBC gave a presentation on Bill 9. The afternoon saw Amanda Swoboda from the Canadian Mental Health Association



Local union president Pat McGregor presents retiring District 3 HSE Coordinator Ron Corbeil with a gift from the local union.

make a presentation called Responding With Respect—Mental Health in the Workplace. Day two saw the participants take one of four workshops being offered: H&S Level 1, facilitated by Marty Gibbons, president of local 1-417; H&S Level 2, facilitated by Al Biekse from the BC Federation of Labour; Violence Prevention, facilitated by Brian Campbell from the BC Federation of Labour; and Incident Investigations, facilitated by Ron Corbeil.

Coming Events

January 27-28, USW H&S Level 1, Regina, Sask.
Feb. 19-20 RDLC Equity & Human Rights Conference, Regina, Sask.
Feb. 23-34 Bottom Line Conference, Vancouver, BC

PotashCorp Fined \$280K After Local 7458 Member Killed at Cory Mine

The Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan has been fined after a workplace fatality last year.

On Feb. 17, 2014 at 3:30 am, 31-year-old Jason Shulist succumbed to injuries he received from a rock fall while working in the Cory Potash Corp mine, just outside of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Co-workers tried to resuscitate the worker, but he later died in hospital. Another worker was also taken to hospital, but was not seriously injured.



Jason Allan Shulist

Jason was 31 years old, married and the father of a two-year-old son. He was a miner operator and was working alongside the borer when he was struck by ground fall. Jason had worked at the mine for three years.

PotashCorp was charged under The Mining Regulations for failing to take effective steps to control the movement of strata in all underground excavations to protect the health and safety of workers.

On Wednesday, the company pleaded guilty to the charge and was fined \$280,000 in Saskatoon provincial court. In a release, provincial workplace safety officials said that, while everyone at a workplace is responsible for workplace safety, employers carry a greater responsibility due to their authority and control over the place of employment.

Serious Injury at Local 8407

A employee at the AMSCO foundry in Selkirk, Manitoba received serious burns to his hands, chest area and internal organs as the result of his attempts to unthaw a frozen air line on a "picker" stored outside at the shop.

He is in the Health Science Centre Burn Unit in Winnipeg and is being maintained in an induced coma while being treated. Workplace Safety and Health have attended, and a "stop-work" order had been issued until completion of some storage and equipment concerns.

Workplace Safety and Health are now to re-attend and further investigate, due to the severity of the incident.

Criminal Charges Laid in Deadly Sarnia Plant Explosion

Criminal charges laid against a Sarnia company more than a year after the death of one worker and serious injury to five others is proof that a campaign to enforce a law passed more than a decade ago is resulting in the appropriate response by law enforcement and the courts, says Marty Warren, Ontario/Atlantic Director of the United Steelworkers (USW).

Criminal charges have been laid in relation to a deadly explosion at Veolia Environmental Services in Sarnia last October where Veolia worker Jason Miller, 37, died in hospital following the explosion at the industrial cleaning shop. The blast was powerful enough to damage the wall and roof of the shop.

Manager Anthony Lavoratore and Veolia Environmental Services face one count of criminal negligence causing death and five counts of criminal negligence causing bodily harm, according to a Sarnia police release issued Friday.

Lavoratore, 44, is the division manager of the North American corporation, police say.

Veolia and one of its supervisors were charged earlier this fall under the Occupational Health and Safety Act for failing to take reasonable precautions to protect Miller.

Charges included failing to provide workers with information about safe operation, cleaning and maintenance of the dust collector; failing to cease operation of a metalizing process after being warned by engineers; and failing to ensure the dust was suitable for the metalizing process.

The company and its supervisors are expected to respond to those charges in Sarnia provincial offences court in early January.

“Positive Workplaces Are More Productive”—Harvard Business Review

New research suggests companies play the long game and opt for strategies that foster well-being over cut-throat office cultures.

Many businesses rely on a cut-throat culture to drive success—there’s no time to be nice.

But the costs over time are beginning to show: sick days, disengagement at work, and lack of loyalty. Researchers Emma Seppälä and Kim Cameron, writing for Harvard Business Review this week, outline how each of these areas are harmful to productivity over time. “Well-being comes from one place, and one place only—a positive culture,” Seppälä and Cameron write. They suggest four research-based ways for bosses to create a more positive culture at work: foster social connections, show empathy, go out of your way to help, and encourage people to talk to you (read about each in [“Proof That Positive Work Cultures Are More Productive”](#)).

Being empathic is key to fostering a positive work culture and maintaining resilience when the grind gets stressful. “As a boss, you have a huge impact on how your employees feel,” Seppälä and Cameron write. “A telling brain-imaging study found that, when employees recalled a boss that had been unkind or un-empathic, they showed increased activation in areas of the brain associated with avoidance and negative emotion while the opposite was true when they recalled an empathic boss.”

B.C. Workplace Safety Agency Doubles Number of Fines for Infractions

Roofing companies and asbestos-removal firm among those targeted by WorkSafeBC

By Gordon Hoekstra, Vancouver Sun

WorkSafeBC has handed out nearly double the amount of fines for industry safety infractions this year and 2014 over the previous two years, part of a new approach to use penalties as deterrents.

In 2014, 433 penalties were issued totalling \$6 million. As of last week, already 509 penalties have been handed in 2015 out with a total value of \$6.4 million, according to figures provided by WorkSafeBC at the request of The Vancouver Sun.

In 2013 and 2012, 233 and 260 penalties were issued respectively. The total value of penalties handed out in those two years was less than \$6 million.

The shift to issue more penalties has come, in part, from a recommendation from a report by former civil servant Gordon Macatee, who was commissioned by the B.C. government to find ways to increase workplace safety after two deadly, wood dust-fuelled sawmill explosions in northern B.C. in 2012...[More](#)

Truckers Salute One of Their Own



A convoy of trucks descended on Chilliwack Saturday as a show of solidarity with a trucker who was killed in a logging incident recently. Picture: Greg Knill

A convoy of trucks descended on Chilliwack BC recently in a show of solidarity with a trucker who was killed in a logging incident several weeks ago.

Bruce Magnus died when his logging truck went off the road and down a steep embankment north of Hope during the major storm that hit the region Nov. 17.

It took RCMP and search and rescue volunteers from Hope, Kent and Chilliwack two days to free the body of the 62-year-old from the wreckage. The rig slid 2,000 feet down the embankment, taking with it boulders and debris that made access difficult.

A small excavator was eventually airlifted to the site after a geotechnical survey of the hillside determined it was safe. Magnus had been a trucker for 40 years and was well-liked within the logging community.

A celebration of life was held at the Coast Hotel in Chilliwack, bringing the convoy of trucks.