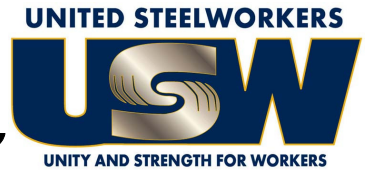


SafeTalk



300 Delegates Attend 2011 National Health, Safety & Environment Conference

Coming Events

June 12-16 Prairie School for Union Women, Waskesiu Sask.
June 21 Aboriginal Awareness Day



Over 300 delegates from North and South America came together at the Westin Bayshore hotel in Vancouver BC, for the recent USW National Health, Safety and Environment Conference. Above left to right are; National Director Ken Neumann, Charley Richardson, University of Massachusetts, District 6 Director Wayne Fraser, International President Leo Gerard, District 3 Director Steve Hunt and District 5 Director Daniel Roy.

The conference lead off with a memorial to workers killed by work. Delegates participated in a number of sessions including making our jobs greener and healthier, The Hazards and Impacts of Restructuring, Engaging Young Workers in Health and Safety Union Strategies for Better Health and Safety – An interactive session of strategic planning

One day was set aside for workshops to explore issues such as ergonomics, hours of work, international strategies, risk assessments, harassment and violence prevention, the environment, and other themes.



South American guests; Javier Castillo Julio, Presidente CUT Provincia Copiapó from Chile, Vicente Sotomayor, Federación Nacional de Trabajadores Mineros y Metalúrgicos de Perú and Elvis Alvarez, Secretario General Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Mina Condestable Mala, Perú.

Two Fallers Fatalities in Less Than Three Weeks

After USW forest industry members went almost 2 years without a fatality we have tragically had two members fatally injured in less than 3 weeks. Both of the members were fallers.

On May 6th Local 1-1937 member Luke Stoner, age 30, was fatally injured when an adjacent tree to the one he was falling broke off at approximately 15 feet and “barber chaired” back towards him striking him.

On May 26th Local 1-85 member Stacey Hadikin, age 42, was fatally injured when the windfall tree which was still attached to the root wad rolled back on him when it was bucked.

Both of these young men had young families and our hearts go out to the families, friends and coworkers of Luke and Stacy.



Above left Dayna Sykes, the District 3 Education Coordinator lead a session of health and safety strategies. Above right Ken Neumann and Leo Gerard welcomed the recently elected leader of the BC NDP Adrian Dix.

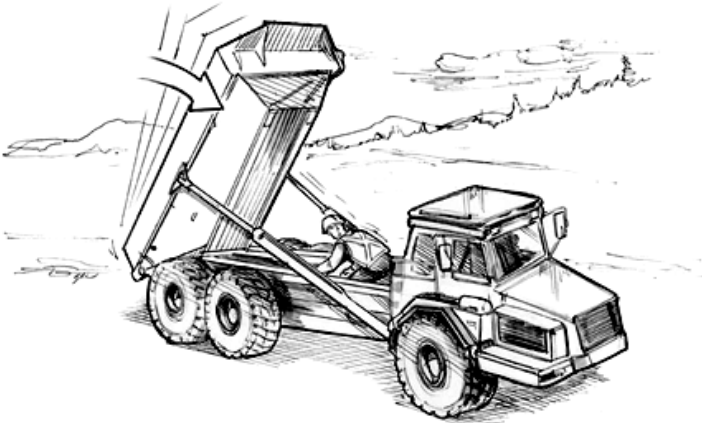
Below are Carl Ross Fields of local 8740 and Southern Manitoba Area Council health and safety chair Ian Graham from local 7913.



More on page 2

HAZARD ALERT

Worker Fatally Crushed Under Dump Box



A logging access road was being improved by bulldozing loads of rock onto the wet and muddy stretches. A rock truck driver dumped one of these loads so that a bulldozer could spread it out. He then drove the truck forward and pulled over to investigate why the rock truck's warning buzzer was sounding off yet again. He thought that the mid-axle brake pod reservoir and switch were the problem. At the time of the incident, the driver was sitting on the truck frame, with the dump box raised, so that he could reach the brake assembly to repair it.

A WorkSafeBC investigation found that before the driver exited the cab and went under the dump box, he had inadvertently shifted the control lever for the dump box from the "hold" position to the "float" position. And because the dump box locking bar was not engaged, the dump box began to fall slowly. It lowered onto the driver before he noticed it and could escape.

Safe work practices:

- DO NOT work under any elevated equipment unless it has been securely blocked against inadvertent movement.
- Train operators of mobile equipment how to conduct and document daily pre-shift inspections. Ensure that they know what specific items—for example, brake assemblies—need to be inspected and how to inspect them safely.
- Provide workers with a suitable area for using blocking devices for dump boxes when these devices are difficult to access. To engage certain kinds of locking bars, drivers have to lie on the ground under the truck.
- Provide workers with adequate training that relates directly to the particular model or type of equipment—including its safety features as well as specific controls and their functions.

National Health, Safety & Environment Conference Continued



Left to right Wolfgang Zimmerman, executive director, National Institute for Disability Management and Research, Ken Neumann, Scott Fraser, NDP MLA Alberni-Pacific Rim and Leo Gerard. Wolfgang spoke about Pacific Coast University, which features equal labour and management representation on its board of governors. Pacific Coast University has already been chartered through provincial legislation. The university is primarily focused on distant learning, training and certifying human resource managers in disability management. Standards set by PCU have been adopted by 14 nations and are rapidly being accepted as a world standard.

Teck Cominco recently signed a five-year sponsorship agreement with Pacific Coast University, which opens its doors next year. The agreement will see the company provide \$300,000 each year for the next five years



A special presentation of the play "That's Danger" was made at the conference. Members of the Alberta Workers' Centre Theatre Troupe are Kevin Flaherty, Jared Matsunaga-Turnbull, Gia Anne-Marie Felicitas, Scott Shepley, Gina Puntil. The play was sponsored by SAFER. THAT'S DANGER! is a professional theatre production written by Dave Clarke that has been developed specifically to introduce students their rights and responsibilities in the workplace. The play is fast-paced, funny, thought-provoking, and features real stage magic. The play is designed so that the audience can analyze and identify moments and actions in the play where rights are infringed upon with reference to Employment Standards, Human Rights and Occupational Health and Safety legislation, including the Right to Refuse Unsafe Work.