



# Health and Safety Committee Newsletter

## Welcome New Health & Safety Team

We are happy to welcome Lorne Smith and Mary VanWells to the Health and Safety Committee. We had our first meeting as the new group on February 25, 2009. Also on the Health and Safety Committee are Kyla Tinham and Ernie Baatz.

Here's a little bit about the duties of the H&S Committee member:

## Health and Safety Duties

- meet once per month
- improve safety within the organization
- educate about safety within the organization
- review safety issues
- provide feedback on safety issues
- represent employees within safety related issues
- review of incidents (Worksafe claims)
- Review Unsafe Working Conditions reports
- provide awareness to people regarding safety issues

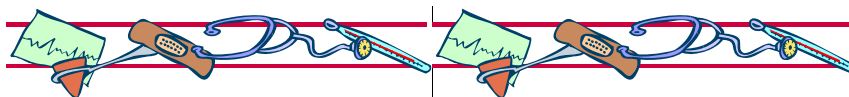
Health and Safety members will review any Worksafe claims within the company; if you happen to have a Worksafe claim please be aware one of our members will be following up on the incident. One of the main goals of the H&S Committee is to ensure that the same Worksafe claim does not happen to some one else. We review the incident, come up with recommendations and then follow up with the Program Managers as a way of decreasing the chance that the same incident will happen again.

Every H&S member will receive training throughout their time on the committee as part of guidelines for an Occupational Health and Safety team. Some of the training provided in the past has been on topics such as:

Preventing Musculoskeletal Injury  
Infection Control in the Community  
Violence in High Risk Communities  
Accident Investigation

Claims Injury Management  
Injury Prevention  
Risk Assessment  
Young/New Worker Orientation

A big thank you out to Steve Goodsell and Dave Phillips who have been H&S representatives for the past 2 years!



# Universal Precautions

Universal precautions are guidelines that promote a safe and healthy work environment. Staff will be expected to follow these guidelines at all times both for their own protection and for the protection of individuals receiving services.

## A) Personal contact

Note: All open skin lesions on staff and individuals should be covered.

### Handwashing

Wash for 60 seconds with soap and warm running water.

- i) before and after close personal contact;
- ii) After contact with articles soiled with blood or body fluids (bedding, towels, clothing)

### Latex gloves / vinyl gloves: Wear disposable gloves:

- i) When handling blood and body fluids, i.e.: fecal material, urine, respiratory secretions (from coughing, spitting, or nasal discharge), wound drainage, sanitary napkins or tampons;
- ii) When performing mouth care;
- iii) When cleaning contaminated supplies or areas;
- iv) If you have a burn blister, broken skin or open areas on your hands;
- v) When applying topical ointments;
- vi) When administering first aid

**\*\* A pair of gloves should only be worn for one personal care task with one person.**

### Masks (NOT ROUTINELY USED)

Use of masks is recommended only if a staff is in constant contact with individuals who are coughing, with copious amounts of sputum. Advise the person to cough into a tissue with their head turned away from other people. Dispose of tissue immediately.

## B) Household environment

- i) Clean kitchen counters with scouring powder to remove food particles. Cloths used in the kitchen should NOT be used to clean the bathroom.
- ii) Clean all spills as they occur, and dispose of all body wastes in the toilet.
- iii) Clean the bathroom weekly using bleach. Cloths used to clean the bathroom should NOT be used in food preparation areas.
- iv) Wash dishes in hot water only (hot enough to require gloves, preferably a dishwasher)
- v) When cooking, do not taste from the mixing spoon or lick fingers to test food
- vi) Towels and washcloths should not be shared without laundering in between uses by different people. Toothbrushes, hairbrushes and razors should not be shared.
- vii) Items soiled by blood, saliva and other bodily fluids should be cleaned with detergent and water before re-use, or discarded.
- viii) Keep living quarters well ventilated. Airborne diseases are less likely to be a problem when diluted with lots of air.