

Workplace Health and Safety Bulletin



Workplace First Aiders and Legal Requirements

This Safety Bulletin outlines the requirements of specific sections of Alberta's legislation that are relevant to work site first aiders. Anyone responsible for providing first aid services at the workplace needs to understand what is required by law.

Emergency Medical Aid Act

- The *Emergency Medical Aid Act* is the name given to the Alberta's "Good Samaritan" legislation. First aiders must understand that if they use reasonable skill and care to the level of first aid that they have been taught, they need not fear legal action.

Occupational Health and Safety Act

- The *Occupational Health and Safety Act* is the umbrella legislation for all occupational health and safety in Alberta.
- According to the *Act*, employers, workers, contractors and prime contractors are all responsible for ensuring health and safety at work.
- Although the *Act* outlines numerous requirements, subsection 18(2) pertains to first aiders. It allows the Director of Medical Services to ask for first aid reports and requires first aiders to provide them.



Occupational Health and Safety Code

Part 11 — First Aid

- The Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Code requires employers to provide first aid and have designated first aiders at work sites.
- The OHS Code defines minimum standards in services, equipment and supplies. The OHS Code stipulates the number of first aiders, the level of first aid training required, the type and number of first aid kits required and the type and quantity of supplies and equipment required. These requirements are based on the hazard level of the work performed at the workplace, the number of workers per shift, and the distance of the work site to the nearest health care facility.
- The OHS Code details record keeping requirements for designated work site first aiders.

For more information



http://employment.alberta.ca/documents/WHS/WHS-PUB_fa009.pdf

First Aid Records – FA009

- Employers must ensure a means of transportation is available for taking injured or ill workers to a health care facility. If a licensed ambulance service is not available, then the means of transport being used must provide protection against the weather, have a means of communication with the health care facility and be large enough to accommodate a stretcher and an accompanying person.

Part 29 — Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System

- Two sections in Part 29 of the OHS Code are relevant to work site first aiders.
- Section 407 requires employers to ensure that Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) are available to workers who may be exposed to controlled products. MSDSs contain information on proper first aid treatment and can be a valuable resource.
- Under section 413, physicians or nurses may ask for and are entitled to information on controlled products to diagnose or treat workers. Work site first aiders may be involved in providing the necessary information.


Workers' Compensation Act

- Section 37 of the *Workers' Compensation Act* allows first aid records to be inspected by the Board or a designate of the Board, and by the injured worker to whom the record(s) relates or to that worker's representative.
- First aid treatment that is provided by work site first aiders for minor injuries does not need to be reported to the Workers Compensation Board (WCB). However, workers and employers must report any workplace incident to the WCB where the injury disables or is likely to disable the worker beyond the day of the incident. Employers must also notify the WCB if the worker has medical aid treatment or other services provided by licensed medical practitioners.

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Workplace Health and Safety



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