



# SafeTalk



## Coming Events

- March 2, 3 local 1-417 H&S Conference, Kamloops BC
- March 6 BC Fed Basic OH&S, Powell River BC
- March 10,11 District 3 H&S Conference, Edmonton Alberta

### Longer work day cutting into family time –As work hours rise, family time falls

That's the key conclusion of a study released by Statistics Canada that shows workers spent an average of 45 minutes less per day with family members in 2005 than they did 20 years earlier.

The Statistics Canada study found that workers in 1986 spent on average 4.2 hours, or 250 minutes, per day doing activities with their family members. In 2005, that time had dropped to 3.4 hours, or 205 minutes, a decline of 45 minutes.

According to the study, entitled "Time spent with family during a typical workday, 1986 to 2005," the decline can clearly be attributed to more time spent in the workplace. On average, Canadians worked 536 minutes or 8.9 hours on a working day in 2005, an increase from 506 minutes or 8.4 hours 20 years earlier.

"In general, the more time spent in paid employment on a given day, the less time there is remaining to devote to family," Martin Turcotte, author of the study, writes. "However, other factors may considerably influence time with family members."

These factors include spending more time watching television alone, eating alone and spending less time on family meals, the study says.

Based on a 260-day work year, the decline in family time amounts to 195 fewer hours a year, or nearly five 40-hour work weeks.

Clarence Lochhead, executive director of the Vanier Institute of the Family in Ottawa, said the findings are not surprising. The institute promotes the well-being of families in Canada. "There are considerable financial pressures on families. Levels of spending are on the increase. Levels of debt are higher. It's not surprising that we are spending more time at work," he told CBC News Online on Tuesday.

"There is also ongoing economic pressure that is pushing us to spend a greater amount of time at work. There is a lot of talk about shortages of labour. There is pressure on retiring members of the baby boomer generation to keep working." Lochhead said the study is timely, given the emphasis on work and family balance in the workplace. "It makes us ask important questions. Should we be concerned about this and does it matter? Yes, time matters. Families do all kinds of important things, including raising kids, looking after elderly people and nurturing relationships with the family," he said. "If we are going to put pressure on people, then something has got to give. If what gives is family time, then we are looking at potentially serious issues."

On February 23rd Steelworker representatives met with members of the BC Auditor General's audit team who are auditing safety in the forest industry. The independent review was one of the demands from the Steelworkers Stop the Killing campaign. The audit is independent from government and the recommendations will be presented to government in the first week of June. The Auditor General's recommendations are considered very strong advice and usually followed by government.

The Steelworkers reiterated their position that the "Culture of Desperation" is one of the main reasons that we have seen the increase in serious and fatal injuries in recent years. District 3 Director Steve Hunt pointed out in the new "dog eat dog" forest industry, the common denominator is who can do it the cheapest. Steelworkers pointed out that the shifts and the hours workers are working are also contributing to the injury rate. One example was the logging truckers hours of work; (see below) while the new regulation is an improvement on the maximum number of hours one can drive in a week, the hours are still very extreme and will lead to crashes. The old provincial regulation allowed for truckers to drive 15 hours a day to a maximum 105 hours in a week. The new federal regulation came into effect January 1, the new provincial regulation comes into effect March 1.

HOURS-OF-SERVICE RULES	
Loggers	
<p><u>Day</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a 24-hour period that begins at the hour designated by the carrier</li> <li>maximum 13 hours driving</li> <li>no driving after 15 hours on-duty</li> </ul> <p><u>Cumulative Hours</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>no driving after 65 driving hours in 7 days</li> <li>no driving after 80 on-duty hours in 7 days</li> </ul> <p><u>Off-Duty</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>driver must take at least 24 consecutive hours off at least once every 7 days</li> </ul>	<p><u>Work-shift</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>total elapsed time between 2 off-duty periods of at least 9 consecutive hours</li> <li>maximum 13 hours of driving</li> <li>no driving after 15 hours on-duty</li> <li>no driving after 15 hours of total elapsed time</li> </ul> <p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>must use a log book</li> <li>no reset provision</li> <li>no ability to defer off-duty time</li> </ul>
- Provincial Regulations only -	
Further information can be located at <a href="http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/cvse/national_safety_code.htm">www.th.gov.bc.ca/cvse/national_safety_code.htm</a>	
Ministry of Transportation Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement Branch	

**HAZARD ALERT****Manitoba has most work injuries  
Auditor blames failure to fine companies**

By Mary Agnes Welch

**Type of Injury:** Non-Injury**Type of Occurrence:** Tree falling incident**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**

A fir tree that was felled by a certified faller, once it landed on the hillside, the tree ran down the slope (approximately 350 ft.) and came to a stop on a highway.

**Type of Injury:** 2 Injuries**Type of Occurrence:** Explosion**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**

An explosion in a stainless steel vessel containing an aqueous pulp slurry ruptured the vessel and adjacent pump, injuring two workers who were in the immediate area.

**Type of Injury:** 1 Fatal**Type of Occurrence:** Struck by object**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**

A supervisor and a blaster were in the process of loading explosives in a rock quarry when a 29 inch diameter by 107 feet tall cedar tree, located on a steep slope 85 feet above the quarry, blew over and struck the supervisor.

**Type of Injury:** 1 Serious**Type of Occurrence:** Equipment failure**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**

The lifting molly on the log truck trailer failed when the loader lifted the trailer, allowing the trailer to fall striking the door of the truck and the worker, knocking him from the step of the truck to the ground.

**Type of Injury:** 1 Serious**Type of Occurrence:** Explosion**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**

A worker had remounted a log truck tire and was attempting to inflate the tire when it exploded in his face. No restraint being used.

**Type of Injury:** Non - Injury**Type of Occurrence:** Crane/Hoist Failure**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**

The bottom pin of the Crane main boom was sheared, dropping the entire boom onto the log deck.

**Type of Injury:** 1 Serious**Type of Occurrence:** Struck by object**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**

A contract logging truck driver was struck by two logs that fell from the trailer as the loader was re-adjusting some unsafe logs. The radio in the loader was not functioning at the time of the incident - the loader operator and driver were using hand signals at the time.

MANITOBA still has the highest rate of workplace injuries in the country, in part because inspectors have failed to fine a single company for violations of the revamped health and safety act, the provincial auditor said Thursday.

Auditor General Carol Bellringer, who studied how well the new act was working to shrink the number of on-the-job accidents, found the rate of injuries dropped only 9.6 per cent between 2002 and the end of 2005.

That's well below the government's promise to cut workplace injuries by 25 per cent by 2007.

"We certainly found there's still opportunities to work at ways that can be done," said Bellringer.

To reach that goal, Bellringer said the government needs to crack down on companies that ignore "improvement orders" issued by inspectors.

Ignoring those order should come with a maximum \$5,000 fine, but none was levied against any one of the 606 companies that ignored those order between 2002 and 2006.

Labour Minister Nancy Allan said she welcomed the outside analysis of the province's workplace health and safety regime and said she takes the recommendations seriously. Specifically, she said the province will review the way it decides whether to fine companies that fail to comply with workplace rules.

But Allan and other government officials said the lack of fines doesn't mean the province is lax in its enforcement. Education and even temporary stop-work orders prompt compliance in most cases. "You want that stick in your legislation but it's also really important to do education and public awareness," she said.

In her audit, Bellringer noted that the province has forgone as much as \$9.4 million in revenue from fines that could have been plowed back into public awareness campaigns.

Allan said her staff are reviewing those numbers because they may be overstated.

Manitoba still has an unimpressive workplace safety record.

Its injury rate has dropped over the last several years -- 19 per cent since 2000. But it is still the highest of any province in Canada, about 85 per cent higher than the national average.

And the average time off an injured worker takes is on the rise, in part because of an aging workforce. In 2001, hurt workers needed 44 days to recover. In 2005, the average worker needed nearly 49 days, according to the audit.

In her 70-page report, Bellringer recommended the province's health and safety office beef up its inspection schedule, follow up on complaints in a more timely manner and keep a more complete database of all employers in the province.

She also noted that the province wasn't keeping tabs on the number and outcome of serious workplace accidents that end up in the courts. Those are cases where administrative penalties aren't deemed severe enough and charges under the act are necessary. That includes cases such as the accidental death of Robert Kusch, who was crushed by bailing machine at a scrap metal yard. His death netted Western Scrap Metal Inc. a \$27,600 fine.