



# SafeTalk



## National Health, Safety & Environment Conference Held In Toronto



International President Leo Gerard addresses conference delegates. To Leo's right are; Canadian National Director Ken Neumann, District 5 Director Daniel Roy, District 3 Director Steve Hunt and District 6 Director Wayne Fraser. Among other things Leo reminded the delegates of the important role they play in keeping their workplaces safe and healthy and on how important it is that we continue to lobby government for legislation that protects our members.



Clockwise from above; Mexican mine and metal workers president Napoleon Gomez, on the left (seen with the union's secretary treasurer Jose Barajas) spoke on the Mexican miners struggles, District 3 Rep Scott Lunny described the illegal logging that is occurring around the world and the environmental damage that ensues, Tom Lindsey from local 7106 discussed the Flin Flon soil study and some of the 300+ delegates that attended the conference. A big thank you goes out to the conference organizers, the panelists and workshop facilitators.



## Coming Events

June 3 MFL Stress presentation, Winnipeg Manitoba  
June 8-13 District 3 Summer School. Kimberley BC

### Fatality in Local 7386

On May 8th while servicing a lift truck at a customer's site in Brandon Manitoba, Calvin Craig Turner was accidentally killed when the machine fell on him.

Craig was born June 4th, 1972 and had two children Cole and Hayden Turner. Craig started working for Toromont Lift January 28th, 2008.

There is an ongoing investigation by the local and Manitoba Labour and Immigration (Workplace Safety and Health Division in Brandon).

Our sincere condolences go out to Craig's Family, friends and co-workers.

Over 300 Steelworkers from across Canada attended the national HS&E conference in Toronto from May 11-14.

The first evening panel discussion was titled "The toxins within us" among the panelists for that session was former Ontario environment minister Ruth Grier who did a presentation on breast cancer.

Day 2 panelists discussed three topics: environmental issues; including climate change, the Bali Climate Conference, Flin Flon soil study and illegal logging. The afternoon discussed International issues; including the impact of altitude and sleep patterns on high-altitude miners and the Mexican mine and metal workers unions struggles. The third topic was fatalities at work; including the BC forest campaign, the Texas City British Petroleum explosion, local 1005 member Jeff Turner's fatality and Harjinder Badial spoke about his father's preventable death.

Day 3 was dedicated to workshops including accident investigation, workplace violence, ergonomics, effective HS&E committees, occupational disease investigation, winning H&S campaigns, workers compensation issues and new jobs in a sustainable economy.

Day 4 panels discussed two topics, injured workers; which included injured workers groups, WCB committees, injured workers programs in Ontario and Quebec and occupational disease clinics. The second panel was on occupational disease which included local 5795 member Frank Hammonds fight for justice, the manganese file in Quebec, asbestos victims from Trail and widow Carol Butterfield's story.



# HAZARD ALERT

## Sawmill worker dies while unplugging waste wood in hog chute

At a sawmill in 2004, the vertical chute of a hog machine became plugged with waste cedar (log ends, bark, and sawdust). Workers opened the bottom access doors to unplug the machine. One worker went inside the chute and stood on the rotor to clear the plug. Other workers removed waste wood through the doors. The worker inside the chute was later found surrounded by waste wood and could not be revived.

A large piece of wood had probably wedged itself on one side of the chute, allowing waste wood to build up above it. The worker was able to stand in the space on the other side of the chute to clear the jam. The unstable build-up of waste wood eventually collapsed onto the worker and engulfed him.



A cutaway view showing the inside of the hog chute.

### Safe work practices:

- Identify engulfment hazards - loose, unstable materials that could collapse on workers and trap, bury, or injure them.
- Do not enter any space with a danger of being trapped or engulfed in loose materials without proper precautions.
- Develop written safe work procedures for unplugging machines that contain waste wood. Train workers to follow these procedures.
- Supervise workers to ensure they follow safe work procedures. If the engulfment hazard is in a confined space, do not allow workers to enter unless a qualified person has developed a written confined space entry program and all program requirements are followed.

## Safety Bulletin

### Changes to BC Occupational Health and Safety Regulation

#### Part 26 – Forestry Operations and Similar Activities

##### Major Changes

This major amendment to the health and safety regulation for forestry is focused on reducing the high number of serious injuries and fatalities in the sector.

The regulation was reorganized, and major changes were made, relating to:

1. Prime Contractor: Making the requirement for having a qualified prime contractor on multi-employer sites clearer and more detailed (section 26.1.1);
2. Planning: Stepping up the requirements related to “planning and conducting” (section 26.2);
3. Equipment Operations: Introducing specific requirements identifying hazards and safe work areas around equipment (section 26.14.1);
4. Manual Falling and Bucking: Making the requirement to have a qualified supervisor for hand fallers more specific and detailed (section 26.22.1);
5. Hauling: Logbook requirements for log haulers (section 26.71.2), and changes regarding climbing on bunks and trailers;

There are also a number of other changes relating to training, initial safety meetings, highly visible clothing and other parts of the regulation.

All of these changes came into effect on May 1, 2008

### Former President Of Local 1-324 Bill Benson Retires



Left to right; Local 1-324 president Chris Parlow, Bill Benson and former local financial secretary and now NDP' governments northern economic development coordinator Gord Landruelt. This picture was taken when Bill retired from the local and the forest industry.

Brother Bill Benson retired in May from his position with the Manitoba Gov't as a worker advisor. Brother Benson has dedicated the better part of his life to workers. As the first president of the then IWA in The Pas (1972-1982) and as a worker advisor, working out of the Provincial Offices in The Pas. He was responsible for assisting many of our members interests when dealing with WCB, and other matters. Whether working on behalf of workers or the NDP, Bill has been a true champion of workers. We wish Bill a long and happy retirement.