

EHS Headlines

March 2000

Placing Clients First in Environment, Health and Safety



Resource Environmental Associates

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Listowel Employer Fined \$100,000 for Machine Guarding Deficiencies

Yarn manufacturer Spinrite Inc. of Listowel, Ont., was fined a total of \$100,000 on Feb. 23, 2000 for two violations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act in connection with two separate incidents that resulted in injuries to two workers. The first incident occurred on November 13, 1997. On that date, a worker suffered four crushed fingers as a result of her hand being caught by squeeze rollers located at the end of a machine. The second incident occurred on May 12, 1999. On that date, another worker was operating a baller and bander machine, when her wrist was caught and badly cut in the machine's moving yarn holder. Spinrite pleaded guilty to two counts of failing to ensure that a machine was equipped with a guard to prevent access to a moving part, contrary to Section 25(1)(c) of the Act. In connection with the 1997 incident, two Spinrite supervisors also pleaded guilty to one count each of failing to ensure a machine was equipped with a guard, contrary to Section 27(1)(a) of the Act. The supervisors were fined \$1,500 and \$3,000.

Environmental Health and Safety Consultants Professional Engineers Certified Industrial Hygienists Certified Safety Professionals Environmental Project Management Asbestos and Mould Abatement	Indoor Air Quality Industrial Process Safety Regulatory Affairs Management System Development Environmental Site Assessments Training and Education
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New Course "Fundamentals of Machine Safeguarding"

While we may be in the age of the internet, the fact remains that inadequate machine guarding is one of the most common causes of serious workplace injuries in Ontario. It is also one of the most common reasons for prosecution under the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

In our practice, we have found that changes to Section 7 of the Industrial Establishments Regulation have had the effect of focusing employer attention on machine guarding. This has revealed gaps in the state of knowledge and practice relating to machine safeguarding.

In response to this, we have created a new course, "Fundamentals of Machine Safeguarding". The goal of this course is to increase understanding of proper safeguarding strategies, technologies, design practices, standards and applications. As such, this is an excellent follow-up course for persons who have already taken our "OHS Predevelopment Review for Professionals" course.

Our first public scheduled session for this course is April 28, 2000, in Toronto. We expect demand to be strong, and space is limited, so we would encourage early registration.

For the interest of CRSP holders, the course has been awarded 1/2 certification maintenance point by the Association of Canadian Registered Safety Professionals.

Upcoming Courses

- March 14 + 15: Toronto - Joint Health and Safety Certification
- March 16 + 17: Kingston - Joint Health and Safety Certification
- March 16 + 17: Kitchener-Waterloo - OHS Competent Person
- March 20: Toronto - Pre-Development Review
- March 21 + 22: London - OHS Competent Person
- March 30/31: Ottawa - Construction Safety Management
- April 11/12: Toronto - Construction Safety Management
- April 13/14: Toronto - OHS Competent Person
- April 28: Toronto - Fundamentals of Machine Safeguarding
- May 3/4: London - OHS Competent Person

The REA Intensive Occupational Hygiene Short Course is scheduled to be held in Toronto on May 31 to June 2, 2000.

MANY NEW COURSES AVAILABLE FOR Y2K.
VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.rea.ca or www.rea4ehs.com