



WorkSafeTM

S A S K A T C H E W A N

Work to live.

Safety and Prevention Report 2009

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The WCB's 2009 Annual report reports \$16.6M in spending on safety and prevention. This consists of the following:

Occupational Health & Safety	\$ 9.6M
Safety Associations	\$ 6.1M
WorkSafe Saskatchewan	\$.9M

Occupational Health & Safety (OHS)

The Occupational Health and Safety Act and The Workers' Compensation Act, 1979, require that the WCB fund the administration and activities of the OHS Division of the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour (AEEL). In 2009, the WCB provided \$9.6M to fund the activities of OHS, a \$1.3M (15%) increase from 2008.

The statistical information provided in this report is based on a twelve month period, April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010.

OHS programming focuses on the development of positive workplace cultures through five inter-related and complementary strategies:

1. **Taking Responsibility** – Supporting Workplace Responsibility Systems (WRS) to engage employers and workers in reducing workplace hazards.
 - Increased the percentage of Saskatchewan workers in provincially regulated workplaces (with 10 or more workers) covered by an Occupational Health Committee from 92% in 2008-09 to 95% in 2009-10.
 - Assisted with the establishment of 346 new committees bringing the total number of provincial committees to 5,290.
 - More committee members, supervisors and employers received training from the Ministry than ever before to enhance the effectiveness of the WRS. Combined with external qualified instructors, 226 courses were delivered to 4,744 participants.

2. **Meeting Standards** – Improving the effectiveness of and compliance with health and safety standards through education and enforcement.
 - Increased worksite inspections by more than 24% to 4,785, the highest number of worksite inspections recorded in over fifteen years.
 - Increased the issuance of orders for improvement by an additional 9.3%, from 5,735 in 2008-09 to 6,262 in 2009-10, including 794 stop work orders.

- Recommended a record number of 55 files to the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General for prosecutorial review - an increase of over 200% from 2008-09. In 2009-10, 32 defendants were charged and a total of \$467,670 in fines and surcharges were imposed by provincial courts for OHS-related offences.
3. Reaching New Workers – Providing youth and future workers with basic health and safety orientation before and upon entering the workforce.
 - Increased the percentage of students in Practical and Applied Arts receiving Ready for Work resources to 69%.
 - Provided training to 57 teachers in the Ready for Work Middle Years Program.
 - Launched an interactive, online Young Worker Readiness Certificate Course with 545 certificates of completion issued in 2009-10, with Labour Standards.
 - Commenced development of an education strategy with Safe Saskatchewan and the Ministry of Education.
 4. Increasing Awareness – Promoting healthy and safe practices as part of the community and workplace culture.
 - Reached approximately 100,000 farming operations with health and safety messaging through the AGRIVIEW publication and conducted farm safety radio campaigns in the Spring and Fall.
 - Developed and revised 16 OHS guidelines and publications for the promotion of health and safety, including a best practice guide for occupational health and safety during a pandemic.
 - Hosted the provincial launch of North American Occupational Safety and Health Week in Saskatchewan and participated in Day of Mourning activities throughout the province.
 5. Providing Support – Providing technical standards and services to Saskatchewan workplaces to enhance health and safety. This strategy includes OHS toxicology, hygiene, ergonomics, radiation, and mines.
 - Provided 5,275 technical services to enhance the management of health hazards associated with occupational hygiene standards, toxicology, ergonomics, radiation and mine safety; and address emerging issues in workplace conditions and communicable diseases.
 - Undertook 14 applied research projects to identify improvements required in occupational health and safety standards for the elimination of hazards in industries and occupations, including the study of lung function among potash workers in Saskatchewan conducted by the Chief Occupational Medical Officer (COMO).
 - Continued to support, in partnership with the University of Saskatchewan, the Occupational Health Clinic and COMO services to review occupational health

illnesses and provide advice on prevention programming. Last year, a total of 144 visits were made at the Clinic.

- Provided 558 presentations on health and safety issues, reached over 7,400 participants through loans of video resources, and responded to nearly 15,000 inquires on health and safety matters.

The OHS Division holds 80 full time positions. These positions are allocated as follows:

Administration	2
Taking Responsibility	12
Meeting Standards	40
Reaching New Workers	5
Increasing Awareness	1
Providing Support	<u>20</u>
	80

The 2009 budget allocation associated with each of these areas is as follows:

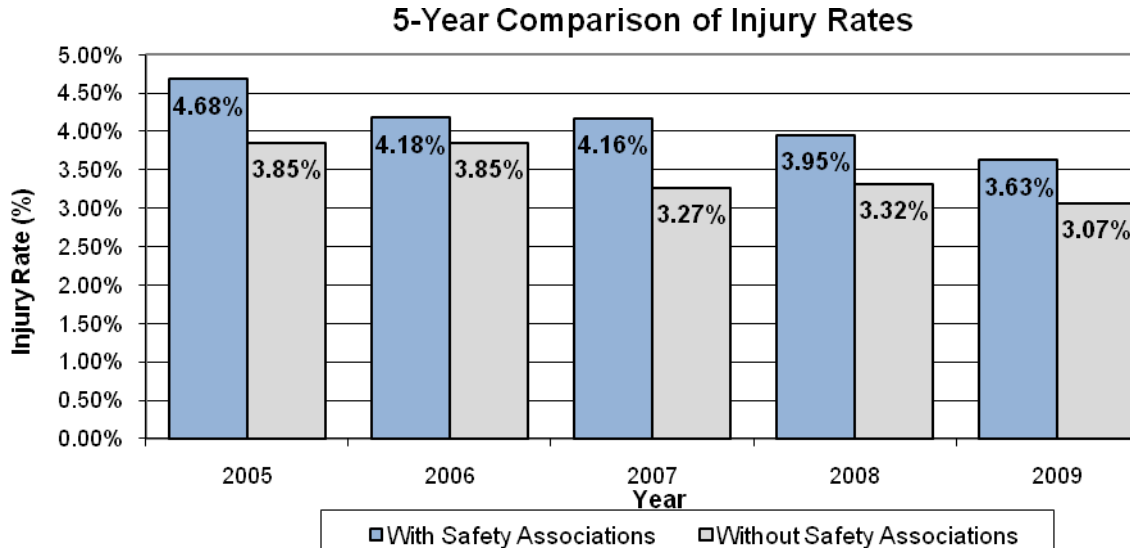
Administration	\$ 240,000
Taking Responsibility	1,440,000
Meeting Standards	4,800,000
Reaching New Workers	600,000
Increasing Awareness	120,000
Providing Support	<u>2,400,000</u>
	\$ 9.6 M

Safety Associations

The WCB levies an additional premium on certain industry groups to fund the budgets for industry based safety associations. At December 31, 2009, the WCB provided funding in the amount of \$6.1M to nine (9) industry based safety associations (Saskatchewan Forest Industries Safety Association Inc., Heavy Construction Safety Association of Saskatchewan Inc., Saskatchewan Construction Safety Association Inc., Service & Hospitality Safety Association of Saskatchewan Inc., Agricultural Manufacturers of Canada, Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations, Motor Safety Association of Saskatchewan Inc., Saskatchewan Meat Industry Safety Association and Enform), covering 17 industry rate codes.

The \$6.1M represents an approximate \$1M increase over funding provided in 2008. This increase is the result of the addition of Enform as a new safety association for the oil and gas industry, as well as budgetary increases in the other eight (8) safety associations.

Safety associations tend to represent high risk industries. Despite this, injury rates for rate codes represented by safety associations have typically declined more quickly than others.



Over the past five years, injury rates for industries covered by safety associations have decreased by 22.5% compared to a 20.3% decrease in the remaining industries. Between 2008 and 2009, injury rates for safety associations supported industries declined by 8.1% compared to a 7.6% decrease in the remaining rate codes. Twelve (12) of the seventeen (17) rate codes supported by safety associations saw their injury rates decrease over the past years, resulting in over 600 fewer time loss claims paid.

WorkSafe Saskatchewan

WorkSafe Saskatchewan is a partnership between the WCB and OHS. Supported by a Memorandum of Understanding, the WorkSafe partnership has developed a strategic and operational plan which can be viewed at www.worksafesask.ca.

The majority of the \$890,000 spent on WorkSafe is for the television and other awareness campaigns. This is a \$400,000 decrease over the previous year primarily due to lower production costs and limited television advertising during a provincial by-election.

After each awareness campaign, an independent survey of the general public is conducted. Some results from the fall campaign are as follows:

Awareness of WorkSafe	69%
Awareness of Mission: Zero	45%
Changed Organizational Behaviour Due to WorkSafe	28%
Changed Organizational Behaviour Due to Mission: Zero	22%
Importance of WorkSafe Continuing	95%
Are Injuries Preventable	31%

The survey results would indicate that the WorkSafe campaigns, especially since the introduction of Mission: Zero, are well supported and are having an impact in influencing attitudes, beliefs and behaviours.

In addition to the television campaign, WorkSafe also promotes safety and prevention through the sponsorships of various safety awards as well as other community based events and our mascot program.

Another significant WorkSafe initiative is the targeting project. Based on WCB and OHS statistics, fifty (50) employers who would benefit most from our assistance are identified. These "Priority 50 Employers" are visited jointly by OHS and WCB staff and offered assistance in improving their injury results. This project has proven to be very successful. Thirty six (36) of the fifty (50) employers achieved positive results. These results are reflected in a reduction in total injuries and time loss injuries among the collective 50. The time loss injury rate has fallen by 8.8% and the total injury rate by 12.1% over the past year, resulting in over 400 fewer time loss injuries and almost 1,000 fewer total injuries. Some employers have seen up to a 69% reduction in their time-loss injury rate.

Since adopted in 2003, the Priority Employer project, positive results have been achieved in each year.

Through the collective efforts of the WorkSafe partners, safety associations, employers and workers, Saskatchewan's time-loss injury rate, while still second worst in Canada, has declined 30.5% since 2002. WorkSafe has set a target to further reduce the time-loss injury rate to 3.10% by December 31, 2012, and has established a provincial total injury rate that measures all injuries and more accurately reflects its desire to achieve Mission: Zero – the elimination of work-related injuries and illnesses. Using 9.33% in 2009 as its benchmark year, WorkSafe targets a five per cent reduction in total injuries per year toward a goal of 8.0% by December 31, 2012.