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A SAFER WORKPLACE STARTS HERE

SAFETY SCOOP

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Disclaimer

The information presented in this publication is not a definitive guide to government regulations and **does not** relieve persons using this publication from their **responsibilities under applicable legislation**. The appropriate OHS legislation should be **consulted**.

Individual counselling and advice is available from the Manufacturers' Health & Safety Association.

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Workplace injuries

The nature of manufacturing involves **working with risks** of injury to people. With **effective controls** in place, the risk can be **lowered**, but risk will still be there.

Some **risks** may seem minor, however they could lead to **injuries.**

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Injury Statistics

In 2021, there were 44,315 **accepted injury claims** in Alberta. Nearly **5,000** in Manufacturing alone.

Including 111 non-COVID related **fatalities**.

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The costs of injuries

There are many **costs associated** with workplace injuries that include:

- Increased WCB premiums
- Emergency response time
- Re-work costs
- Equipment damage
- Public relations costs
- First aid supplies
- …and so many more

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The Personal Costs

The most **often overlooked** cost, however, is the **personal cost** to the injured person. Health and lifestyle are **taken for granted**, until they are suddenly taken away.

Examining **just one** of the 44,315 injuries from the **perspective of the injured worker**, reveals the truth.

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Victim Impact Statement

The following slides are **actual quotes** from 1 person's *Victim Impact Statement* **following a serious workplace** incident.

**For the protection of the person's privacy, certain details have been omitted.*

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The story

"On the morning of November 4th, 2021, I became a part of the world's amputee community, which includes 12 million upper limb amputees.

I didn't go off to battle in a war, I wasn't in a severe car accident.

I went to work."

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My story

"My hand was pulled into a powerful machine, with no guards, by blades that give no grace for error. I pulled my arm out of the machine myself and all I could see was my own flesh, blood and bone.

My hand and most of my forearm were gone. I can see this vision every time I look down at my arm and scar."

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My story

"The physical impact has taken its toll. It always will. I have very bad phantom limb and nerve pain at the end of my residual limb.

I can 'feel' my missing hand in a constant, tight fist. I can feel every single finger, fingernail, my palm and my wrist.

My pain level is a constant 5-7 out of 10."

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My story

"My self esteem and confidence have plummeted. I isolate to my apartment most days to avoid having others look at me in horror/pity, and to avoid how defeating it feels to function outside of my four walls."

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My story

"Losing my limb and who I was with it is the worst soul pain I've ever felt."

" I went from thriving in society to not knowing how to function in all aspects of my life in a matter of 3 seconds."

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My story

"After two hospitalizations, I attended acute physiotherapy for several weeks. I was enrolled in a 12-week trauma program. At week 10, I had to be discharged because of exposure therapy…. It was only a video, but it was the first time I saw what had taken my arm."

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Workplace Injuries

Workplace injuries, such as the one suffered by this person, are often **completely preventable**.

Employer, Worker and Supervisor **complacency** are **common contributing factors**.

Along with a **lack of**:

- Training
- hazard assessment/ controls
- performance management

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Things This Person Misses

"Giving full hugs, crossing my arms, putting both hands in my pockets, scratching my remaining arm, shuffling cards, opening candy wrappers, typing, blending in with everyone, turning the pages of a book, washing dishes, folding clothes, cutting my fingernails, putting on a watch, changing the heat controls while driving."

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Basic Human Needs

Examining **Maslow's Hierarchy** of human needs, the victims of workplace incidents are denied some, if not all, of the **basic** human needs of feeling:

- **Valued**
- **Loved**
- **Safe**
- **Secure**

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Basic Human Needs

In time, many victims will **re-learn to fulfill** these needs and **develop self-actualization**. It is a process most workers wouldn't think they would **ever experience** in their lifetime.

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This Person's Thoughts on Future

"I have been diagnosed with PTSD, complex grief, anxiety, depression and increased body dysmorphia.

I have sensitivity to loud sounds that resemble the machine. I am very fearful when I drive, but most of all, I am extremely afraid of being hurt so gravely by people again."

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This Person's Thoughts on Future

" In regard to my injury long term, my limb isn't going to grow back. I will always be on medications and practice other modalities to manage the pain, and my physical limitations are beyond anyone's comprehension who has all their limbs."

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Conclusion

We are **surrounded by hazards** both in our work and personal lives. Ignoring hazards, or not controlling them, can have a **life altering impact**.

THINK
WORK
HOME
Safe

Health & Safety is a **shared responsibility** between everyone in the worksite that extends into home life.

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Conclusion

This was just **one** example out of **44,315 people** that had their **lives altered or lost** while at work.

Most of them likely thought:

It Won't Happen To Me

Think again. Ask Questions. **Protect yourself & others** because...
A workplace injury **could** happen to **you!**

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Conclusion

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Have Questions? Contact us!

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