



# OFFICE OF THE EMPLOYER ADVISOR

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Tel: 902-368-6132 Email: [employeradvisor@gov.pe.ca](mailto:employeradvisor@gov.pe.ca)

An electronic newsletter for Island Employers on Workers Compensation and Occupational Health and Safety Matters

**March 2024, Volume 22 Issue 03**

## Safety Hazards Parking Lots – Fall Prevention

Parking lots are a special adjunct to many workplaces. Even though you may not be conducting your job there, there is still a possibility that you can be injured. Besides the risk of violence, the major risk includes falls resulting from slips and trips.

A smooth, even, flat surface is ideal for walking because it reduces the likelihood of twisted ankles or loss of balance which can lead to falls and other painful mishaps. However, heavy use by both pedestrians and vehicle traffic both cause parking surfaces to deteriorate. Leaks and spills of engine oil or antifreeze, which commonly occur wherever cars are parked, can further add to risks of slips and falls. In outdoor parking lots, severe weather conditions additionally aggravate even slight damage to the parking surface.

How can you prevent falls?

- Good lighting
- Good housekeeping
- Good quality walking surface in the parking area
- Clear marking of steps, ramps, tire stops, speed bumps, or other elevation changes
- Garbage cans available for trash
- Sand/salt, shovels, or brooms available to clear the area
- Removal of debris from drains and grates to reduce flooding
- Appropriate walking pace: walk, don't run
- Paying attention to where you are going
- Selection of proper footwear

For more information on fall prevention in parking lots, please visit:

[https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/safety\\_haz/parking\\_lots.html](https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/safety_haz/parking_lots.html)

## PEI WCB OHS Safety Conference 2024 Registration Open – Deadline April 25, 2024

The PEI WCB's Workplace Health and Safety Conference features workshops on a wide range of workplace safety topics, as well as a comprehensive trade show of products and services of interest to the region's workplace health and safety community. Tareq Hadhad, founder and CEO of *Peace by Chocolate*, is this year's keynote speaker.

This year's conference takes place on **Thursday, May 9, 2024**, at Delta Prince Edward Hotel in Charlottetown.

Registration deadline for the conference is **April 25, 2024**.

To register for this year's Workplace Health and Safety Conference, please visit:

<https://bit.ly/3EvxKzd>

## Safety Talk: Asbestos Management

Asbestos is a strong, fire-resistant mineral fibre. Before 1990, more than 3,000 products containing asbestos were used in residential and commercial building construction. Today, when renovating or demolishing older homes or buildings, there is a high probability of encountering asbestos-containing materials.


It's very important to take the time to stop, test and plan on sites that may contain asbestos. When products containing asbestos are disturbed, fine fibres can be released into the air, and without appropriate precautions, can be inhaled into the lungs. Once the fibres are lodged in the lungs, they can cause inflammation, scar tissue, and can escalate to breathing troubles. In some cases, it can even lead to serious health conditions.

For more information, please visit:

<https://bit.ly/4cf2vrX>

# There's an app for that...

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Search.... PEI OHS Guide 





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## February 2024, Volume 22 Issue 02

### Working Alone

A person is “alone” at work when they are on their own; when they cannot be seen or heard by another person. It is important to consider all situations carefully. Working alone includes all workers who may go for a period of time where they do not have direct contact with a co-worker.

While it is not always hazardous to work alone, it can be when other circumstances are present. Whether a situation is a high or low risk will depend on the location, type of work, interaction with the public, or the consequences of an emergency, incident, injury, etc. This wide variety of circumstances makes it important to assess each situation individually.

Prince Edward Island has regulations that address working alone under the **Occupational Health and Safety Act General Regulations, Section 53.**

To review PEI’s regulations that address working alone, please visit the following link:

[https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/o1-01g-occupational health and safety act general regulations.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/o1-01g-occupational%20health%20and%20safety%20act%20general%20regulations.pdf)

For more information on working alone, such as factors to consider, check-in procedures, etc., please visit:

[https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/hsprograms/alone/workin\\_galone.html](https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/hsprograms/alone/workin_galone.html)

### International Repetitive Strain Injury Awareness Day February 29, 2024

Did you know that 46.8% of time-loss claims in 2022 were as a result of musculoskeletal injuries like sprains, strains and tears?

To learn more on how to prevent these types of injuries, please visit:

<https://ohsguide.wcb.pe.ca/topic/ergonomics.html>

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<https://bit.ly/3EvxKzd>

### PEI WCB Claims – Direct Access to Health Care Providers

Did you know your workers can seek treatment for a work-related injury or illness, prior to filing an injury report? Through the PEI WCB’s Direct Access Program, workers can receive immediate medical attention for work-related injuries or illnesses.

To learn more about direct access to health care providers, please visit:

<https://bit.ly/3xNWTlx>

### PEI WCB OHS – Volunteers needed for noise level assessments on potato farms

The PEI WCB’s OHS Division is looking for volunteers to have noise levels measured on their potato farm. This is done FREE of charge. If you are interested, please contact OHS Farms Safety Specialist, Hillary Hayden, at [hhayden@wcb.pe.ca](mailto:hhayden@wcb.pe.ca)

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**January 2024, Volume 22 Issue 01**

**Psychological Health & Safety  
In the Workplace**

A psychologically healthy and safe workplace promotes a worker's psychological well-being, which actively contributes to preventing harm to a worker's mental health.

Traditionally, physical injury was the only factor considered when measuring the level of safety in the workplace. Today, employers are recognizing and accepting that a worker's psychological health and safety is just as important in promoting and strengthening a workplace's health and safety culture.

To view a prevention update on psychological health and safety in the workplace, please visit:

<https://bit.ly/3OepYyE>

**PEI WCB Employer Registration Renewal  
Deadline: February 28, 2024**

All employers with WCB coverage must review their registration by **February 28, 2024**. Employers do so by reporting their actual payroll for the previous year and an estimated payroll for the current year.

For any inquires regarding PEI WCB Employer registration, please call:

902-368-5680 / 1-800-237-5049 (toll-free)

For more information on PEI WCB Employer registration, please visit:

<https://bit.ly/3HVva0an>

**Communicable Disease Prevention Guide**

It is important for both workers and employers to be aware of the peak months for communicable diseases such as the flu, common cold, or COVID-19. Employers are responsible for the health and safety of anyone working in or visiting the workplace. Managing communicable diseases at the workplace is part of an effective occupational health and safety (OHS) program.

For a guide on communicable disease prevention, please visit the following link:

<https://bit.ly/3YqRlrK>

**PEI WCB Policy Consultation  
Deadline: March 1, 2024**

The PEI WCB is currently accepting feedback from employers, workers and the public on (POL-01) *Psychological or Psychiatric Condition*. Feedback can be submitted until **March 1, 2024**.

To view the draft policy and provide feedback, please visit:

<https://bit.ly/3UaNLX>

**PEI WCB Regulatory Consultation  
Deadline: February 23, 2024**

The PEI WCB is currently accepting feedback from employers, workers and the general public on proposed amendments to the *Occupational Safety and Health Act General Regulations*. The deadline to provide feedback is **February 23, 2024**.

To view the draft legislation and provide any feedback, please visit:

<https://bit.ly/3vMEM17>

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