



MINISTRY OF LABOUR SAFETY CONCERNS

March 2017

The Ministry of Labour is reporting that while the number of incidents are coming down, the same top 3 types of injuries remain the same;

- 1) Falls
- 2) Struck by Objects
- 3) Electrocutation

Falls – number one is slip, trips and falls (at same level are most prevalent, NOT from height). The second most common fall is from scaffolds. The third most common is falls from ladders, both extension ladders and step ladders.

Some of the most common problems are lack of top and mid guard rails, (*cross braces are NOT safety rails), lack of toe boards (which contribute to Struck By incidents), lack of full width platforms at working level and lack of ladder access (which contributes to falls while climbing up the frames).

Struck by – materials and tools kicked off or dropped from scaffolds and dropped from ladders and aerial work platforms cause enough injuries that the MOL is actively working on new regulations for tethering of tools used when working at height.



Manufacturers and suppliers have been developing and promoting this tethering equipment for several years. A lot of really cool items are readily available now.

Electrocutation – we promote buying only fibreglass ladders when new units are needed.

Most pony panels have GFI breakers but when we use regular outlets on projects with permanent power or when we use the trailer panels for power source, GFI devices should be used between the cord and tool.

SAFETY WEEK

The North American Occupational Health & Safety week is coming up from May 7 – 13.

Watch for announcements for Merit actions and events taking place in Niagara.

