



On March 10 a quick response by Parrsboro Fire Dept. ensured that a chimney fire at 270 Beaver Dam Dr. did not have a chance to grow into something worse. Quick arrival of the quick response of the pumper and rescue truck made available any tools necessary to quickly stop the fire, and then a careful check to ensure the fire had not spread. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)

10 Tips for Workplace Safety

By Chris Urquhart

This is the time of year when students start looking for summer jobs. Along with the excitement of a new job comes the need to stay safe. Young and new workers are particularly vulnerable to workplace injury or illness; all workers, regardless of age, have 5 to 7 times the risk of injury in the first month on the job.

There are various reasons, but employers, parents and workers all have a role to play.

Here are some tips to help young and new workers stay safe on the job:

Provide training that recognizes the relative inexperience of new and young workers, and that accounts for differences in experiences, maturity, and developmental levels.

Cover the essentials. A sound orientation program will not only include explanations of the job, administrative procedures and assorted policies and rules, but will also

cover health and safety items such as emergency procedures, location of first aid stations, health and safety laws, and potential hazards.

Be realistic with the roles. Group equipment or tasks which are associated with similar functions. Avoid designing tasks that require information from long-term memory. Don't assign tasks that require a high degree of skill or responsibility. Do not ask a young or new person to work alone or perform critical or risky tasks, such as handling dangerous chemicals.

Provide easy-to-follow procedures that are short, and that are actively and clearly written.

Ensure that there is adequate time to learn and practice skills. New workers need the time to build experience.

Encourage feedback. New and young workers should be made to feel comfortable enough to ask questions and to alert their supervisors immediately if they see something that could endanger the safety of themselves or others, and to report any injury or illness immediately - no matter how small it may seem.

Lend a hand. Assign mentors or set up a buddy system so that young and new work-

ers have someone readily available to assist with job tasks and to answer questions.

Show and show again. Demonstrate how to do each task the safe way, and do it more than once. Be accessible, watch the worker do the task and correct any mistakes. Continue to monitor the worker until you are confident they know how to do the work safely. Provide or ensure that the worker has and uses all necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) such as safety shoes, hardhat or gloves. Make sure the worker knows where to find it, how to use it, and how to care for it.

Help all workers know their rights. They have a legal right to be informed about workplace hazards and how to protect themselves, a right to participate in activities that will improve their working conditions, and a right to refuse unsafe work.

Parents should pitch in. Talk to your children about their jobs. Find out about the tasks they perform, what training and orientation they receive, and what equipment, tools or chemicals they work with. Encourage them to think about potential hazards in the workplace.

Surrette Battery to Become PROCUREMENT MENTOR

Atlantic Canada's small and medium-sized enterprises are being encouraged to pursue supply chain opportunities related to the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy through the Atlantic Shipbuilding Action Plan.

On March 19th MP Scott Armstrong visited with officials from Springhill's Surrette Battery, a successful supplier company. "There are a number of companies in Atlantic Canada that are already successfully competing for supply chain opportunities on major procurements around the globe," said Mr. Armstrong, who is Member of Parliament for Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley.

"Our Government is encouraging other Atlantic businesses to follow the example of Surrette Battery by preparing themselves to capitalize on the tremendous opportunities related to our

national shipbuilding initiatives. Surrette Battery is Canada's only manufacturer of large industrial lead acid batteries for a variety of applications. They market their products around the world and have developed an international reputation for high quality and product reliability. This is a firm that understands what it means to compete and succeed in winning contracts."

The visit was undertaken in the context of the Atlantic Shipbuilding Action Plan announced on February 13, 2012. By visiting companies throughout the Atlantic region, the Government of Canada is showcasing the best practices being employed by these businesses that are successfully competing for various supply chain procurement opportunities around the world. It is anticipated these companies can serve as role models to other Atlantic businesses that may want to prepare themselves to compete for some of the significant supplier and subcontracting opportunities that will flow from upcoming shipbuilding procurements in the Atlantic region and across the country.

The Atlantic Shipbuilding Action Plan, which is part of the Government's Economic Action Plan, focuses on maximizing opportunities for Atlantic businesses looking to participate in the ship-

building supply chains. It includes measures aimed at: Making sure Atlantic Canada's small and medium-sized enterprises are fully aware of the process and the requirements to access supply chain opportunities; Giving small and medium-sized enterprises access to ACOA programming to proactively support their development so that they can capitalize on these opportunities in areas such as marketing, acquisition of certification, process improvements, training, and technology acquisition and Engaging with community colleges and the provincial governments on skills and labour force research and planning.

As part of this Action Plan, ACOA, in partnership with Irving Shipbuilding Inc., has hosted supplier development information sessions in Bathurst and Moncton, New Brunswick; Summerside, Prince Edward Island; Truro, Shelburne and Sydney, Nova Scotia; and St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador between February 21 and March 12, 2012.

The sessions provide small and medium-sized enterprises with an overview of the procurement process and the critical information they need to address any business gaps or requirements in order to become suppliers and subcontractors with marine supply chains.



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Basil Davis and Liz Yorke, Five Islands were lucky winners on March 8th of \$15,000 in the Parrsboro community Radio loonie ball - radio media bingo. Basil and Liz were presented the cheque by Don Jewers, Chair Person Of Parrsboro Radio. (Submitted)

My Favourite Pet

Meeko is a seven year old American Eskimo Dog owned by Valene MacNeil from Highland. Meeko loves going for daily walks and playing with other dogs. Valene and Meeko will receive a \$20.00 Gift Certificate from Clarence Farm Services and The Shoreline Journal.

"MEEKO"

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