



OH&S STEWARDS BULLETIN

Incident investigation bulletins from WorkSafeBC

WorkSafeBC has issued four bulletins on incident investigations that are specific to health care, which HEU occupational health and safety (OH&S) stewards should find a helpful resource.

The *Incident Investigation in Health Care* fact sheets cover a range of topics that include:

- a focus on change instead of blame,
- slips, trips and falls,
- patient handling, and
- violence.

Incident investigations can be an important tool in making workplaces safer. The purpose of investigating the circumstances around a workplace injury, or a “near miss”, is to try to determine the root cause of the incident and to ensure it doesn’t happen again.

The culture of blaming the worker does nothing to make the workplace safer.

Investigations should be carried out by an employer representative, a worker familiar with the job being performed, and a worker member of the JOHS committee, if reasonably available (**WCB part 3, division 10, section 174**).

As very few investigations are done immediately, the onus is on the employer to prove that a union JOHS member wasn’t available. It is our position that any incident/accident/near miss that involves an HEU member, should be investigated by an HEU OH&S steward.

Please feel free to print any or all of these bulletins for discussion at your next JOHS meeting.

Ana and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a safe and happy holiday season, and to thank you for the work you do every day to make your work sites safer for all.

For more information, check HEU’s website at www.heu.org.

In solidarity,
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