



Winter Work

CAGC INFORMATION ALERT

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Information

Alert

11-05

Concerning safety attitudes and the fall / winter work cycle for the oil and gas industry:

Already, indicators are pointing to an industry wide shortage of personnel and hardware. In response on the human resource side, some of our members are being proactive by sending representatives of their individual companies to distant provinces in order to attract workers. Other members are approaching the aboriginal communities to do the same. From the feedback received from these members, response has been good. Domestically there are five other national industry oil and gas associations that also will be competing to attract workers to their industry. As well, the other resource based industries i.e. forestry and mining will be competing for workers. Also, add to this the industries that service our industry associations (trucking, catering and the air charter carriers to name a few). It is not hard to understand why workers are at such a premium.

Senior competent field personnel are also in short supply. Because of varied reasons, these people have been slowly leaving our industry. This in itself should not have been a problem but mainly due to the cyclical nature of our industry, there has been little in way of training new workers to become the foreman and supervisors for tomorrow.

Hardware such as mulchers have also become short in supply in part due to other industries requiring their capabilities. Geophysical drills are shaping up to be the same – short in supply.

The skill set required by the average industry worker has been slowly increasing, so much so that in order to put a green worker to work a company may require at least three days of entry level training (ATV, First Aid, WHMIS, TDG, H2S Awareness, company orientations, etc) in order to meet minimum requirements.

Another factor that enters the ability to go to work equation is the unusual amount of rainfall that we have received this year. Because of this, the harvest has been delayed thus farmers are not allowing entry onto their lands until they have completed their harvest. This delay 'compresses' our ability to conduct business into a smaller 'opportunity' window.

When one steps back out of the picture and looks in, it is not hard to realize why problems and thus frustrations arise for an employer and the personnel working on the job site. Compressed work cycles, client accounting practices, weather, worker and equipment availability and world economics in general, all play a part in which to create a challenging marketplace in which to conduct business. Out of all this, we as an industry must first and foremost remember our obligations to our workers, our families and ourselves. A proper safety attitude is an integral component of our operations. This bulletin is sent to the membership to remind all owners, managers, supervisors, foremen and workers that it is most important to culture and maintain a safe work place. We must all do our part so that everyone goes home safe this season. Please ensure that all workers, foreman and supervisors are competent for the tasks that they are to do and that the safety program your company has, is practiced. The bottom line is that your safety program is the road map in which to ensure that, people work safe, go home safe and indirectly that a company's hard asset damage and / or loss is minimized.

On a different topic and as a reminder, concerning the changes to the faller certification process, as of **July 31, 2006** applications for the Sawyer grandfathering process will no longer be accepted. After this deadline only Sawyers who meet the grandfathering criterion and have applied for grandfathering by the cut off date, will be able to work in the domestic oil and gas industry. For all other Sawyers the Enform Chainsaw Safety course (presently being updated) will be the only recognized training. In addition, buckers and slashers will be required to eventually update their

Sawyer certification to the new standard. This requirement will also include personnel who supervise Sawyer crews. Only personnel who have been certified as a lead faller under the new standard will be recognized as being able to directly supervise Sawyer crews. In order to ensure that the word gets out it is important that anyone who acts as a prime contractor and / or owner (client) ask their Sawyer contractors if they are meeting the new training requirements. For further information contact Ed Kapala at Enform (403.250.9606) or email ekapala@enform.ca

In closing, please remember that the CAGC is the membership's link with the five other oil and gas industry associations, other industries, the regulators and most of all, each other. Your continued support of our industry association is very important, especially in these fast changing times. In addition, remember to ensure that the information in this bulletin is shared with your workers and contractors.