



# OH&S STEWARDS BULLETIN

## Some Frequently Asked Questions

The HEU Occupational Health & Safety Department has compiled a list of Frequently Asked Questions. Over the next few months, we will try to answer them. If you have a question or an issue that you would like to see addressed in a future OH&S Stewards Bulletin, please email the question/issue to <ohs@heu.org>.

### 1. What occupational health and safety rights do workers have?

Under the B.C. *Workers Compensation Act* and *OHS Regulation*, you do have a “voice”. The Act gives workers four rights:

- a) The right to know about information on issues that affect your health and safety.
- b) The right to participate in OH&S activities through the joint health and safety committee (JOHS). You have the right to report unsafe conditions and voice your concerns on any issues that affect your health and safety.
- c) The right to refuse unsafe or unhealthy work.
- d) The right to no retaliation or any discipline when raising OH&S concerns.

### 2. What are the duties of the employer?

The employer must ensure the health and safety of everyone at the workplace. Some of the employer’s duties are:

- a) To maintain all equipment.
- b) To let workers know about health and safety hazards in the workplace.
- c) To educate workers on how to do the work safely.
- d) To make sure workers are not exposed to health and safety hazards.
- e) To cooperate with the health and safety committee.
- f) To comply with the Act.

### 3. What are the duties of workers?

Workers must report health and safety hazards and unsafe conditions to the supervisor; follow safe work procedures; wear proper safety equipment and cooperate with the OH&S committee or health and safety representatives.

### 4. What do workers do when there is an unsafe condition?

- a) The worker must report the unsafe condition to the supervisor.
- b) If the supervisor does not fix the situation to the worker’s satisfaction, report to the JOHS committee member, health and safety representative, or a member of the executive.
- c) If these reports do not fix the unsafe situation, call WorkSafeBC – 604-276-3100 or 1-888-621-7233.

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*Page Two*

If you know of any OH&S stewards who are not receiving these bulletins but would like to in the future, please ask them to send their home email address to <ohs@heu.org>.

In solidarity,

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HEU's toll-free switchboard: 1-800-663-5813; or fax: 604-739-1510.

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