

OSSTF Health & Safety Officer Report
AGM 2014 - D-35 Brock University
Colin Parker

2013 OSSTF Incident Report (as provided to the JHSC by EH&S)

Total incident reports for 2013: 86 were employee related

Total incident reports for OSSTF members in 2013: 16

D-35 Members;

What a year 2013 and the start of 2014 have been for our membership!

As previous year's reports have indicated, slips, trips and falls continue to be the number one contributing issue of lost time or injury to our membership and the staff of the University. Please monitor your areas for ice or un-cleared snow during the winter months and report it to your supervisor as a Health & Safety issue that you want addressed. Just a reminder, for your own health and safety, choose appropriate foot wear for the season and conditions as this could be a contributing factor as to why people slip, trip or fall.

A milestone to celebrate is that we launched and gathered information surrounding Mental Health and Stress and we were the first to do so out of any employee groups on this campus. We worked in partnership with the Occupational Health Clinic for Ontario Workers, (OHCOW), who developed a survey applicable to our members and industry. The results of the survey will give us valuable information moving forward that we can use in discussions with the University at Staff Relations and/or joint Health and Safety Committee meetings. If you completed the survey that was sent out I applaud you for taking part. We are committed to continue to work on ways of helping understand and address mental health and stress in the workplace.

We also held a number of lunch and learn sessions pertaining to health and safety topics and I foresee this continuing over the next year. The Stress Awareness workshop held last month was very well attended and well received. If you can get out to these information sessions I encourage you to do so as it only helps clarify some issues and items in the Health and Safety environment and your role in the process.

As always I have to stress the importance of reporting any incidents you may be involved in or you come across campus. Similar to past years I did not receive many inquiries or phone calls from our members. This can only mean two things. 1) We are all dealing with the issues ourselves by contacting EHS directly or 2) Nothing is getting reported at all. Reporting even the slightest concerns to me, or EHS, enables us to better gauge the safety of our working environment and where we need to put increased pressure on the employer. "Near misses" should also be reported. If it "almost" happened to you, it "will" happen to someone else.

Finally, with the current state of the University, we have seen the health and well-being of our membership taking its toll and this will most likely continue. Please as I have mentioned above, be diligent in reporting things. Our health and well-being is a not a budgetary item that can be reduced and comprised to save the University money. Do the work you are intended to do in a safe manner and report things like increased work load and stress.

Please, feel free to contact myself, Donna or Norm for assistance at any time regarding Health and Safety.

Safety is a full-time job; don't make it a part-time practice!

Regards,

Colin

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