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A SAFER WORKPLACE STARTS HERE

SAFETY SCOOP

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Disclaimer

The information presented in this publication is not a definitive guide to government regulations and **does not** relieve persons using this publication from their **responsibilities under applicable legislation**. The appropriate OHS legislation should be **consulted**.

Individual counselling and advice is available from the Manufacturers' Health & Safety Association.

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Environmental Protection

The **Environmental Protection & Enhancement Act** sets regulatory requirements for air, water, land and biodiversity management in Alberta.

The Act promotes the **protection and enhancement** of the environment by assigning activities and duties to **prevent adverse effects** on the earth.

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Environmental Protection

The **protection** of the environment is essential to the **integrity of ecosystems and human health** and well-being.

Sustainability ensures the state of the environment and resources available today **do not impair future generations**.

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Environment

'**Environment**' includes all components of the earth. Such as:

- Air, Land & Water
- Atmosphere (all layers)
- Organic & Inorganic matter
- Living organisms
- Naturally interacting systems that impact any of the above

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Environmental Responsibility

It is a **shared responsibility** of all citizens to protect and enhance our environment through our **individual actions**.

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Environmental Responsibility

To help us make more **responsible environmental choices**, we first must understand the **relationship** between human health and the environment.

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Environmental Responsibility

Failing to protect the environment can have **impacts** on humans that can hinder the **quality of life.**

Pollutants can **increase respiratory diseases** and some types of **cancer**.

Increasing **green spaces** can help clean the air and **reduce the impact** of chronic diseases. While at the same time helping improve **resilience to climate change**.

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Environmental Responsibility

Employers, Supervisors and Workers need to work together to make **more environmentally conscious** decisions in the workplace.

Example - Eliminating substances used in the workplace that knowingly cause environmental damages and replacing them with an **Eco-friendlier** product.

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Common Substances

Common hazardous substances that we may see in the workplace:

- **Acids**
- **Glues**
- **Heavy Metals**
- **Paints**
- **Petroleum Products**

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Reporting Incidents

In the event of **release of a substance** into the environment that could cause an **adverse effect**, it must be **reported as soon as possible.**

Steps must be taken to **control the spread** of the substance, if possible, and a **report** must be made to the Director via the **Energy & Environmental Response line**.

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Reporting Incidents

Energy & Environmental Response: **1-800-222-6514**

Reporting requirements include:

- Location & time of release
- Description of events
- Amount of substance released
- Actions taken at time of release
- Description of surrounding are of the release

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Taking Action

It is critical to take **all reasonable measures** to remedy or confine the effects of a substance release **immediately**.

In some cases, **remediation and disposal** of substances will have to be arrange to **prevent** any further adverse effects to the environment.

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Taking Action

All **remedial actions** following release of a substance must meet the **approval** of the Director by **restoring the environment** to satisfactory conditions.

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Conclusion

We only have one home planet, and it is our duty to protect it in any way that we can.

For more information on the Environmental Protection & Enhancement Act or Environmental Protection Orders, please visit www.alberta.ca.

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Have Questions? Contact us!

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To register for a course or access our other Safety Scoops visit https://www.mhsa.ab.ca/

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Thank you!

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Resources

Government of Canada

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Alberta Environmental Protection & Enhancement Act

Government of Alberta

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