

Worksight News

Spring 2010

North American Occupational Safety & Health (NAOSH) Week

**Safety & Health: A Commitment for Life!
How Safe Are You?
May 2 - 8, 2010**

NAOSH Week is an annual community-wide commitment to put safety in the context and circumstances of the people and places around us—it's not just about ourselves. The commitment is a strong affirmation of the importance of health and safety and how everyone must make it a priority and a way of life.

Reinforce the Safety Message: How Safe Are You?

Safety professionals are trained to observe others and ask questions. Often, a simple self-directed question makes a big difference. How safe are you right now? Are you mindful of the proper safety procedures for what you are doing? How can we improve our safety practices?

Everyone should make it home at the end of the day in the same condition they came in to work.

Safety awareness is a learned skill. Safety training and education are important, but it's putting your safety attitude into minute-by-minute and daily practice that makes the difference.

NAOSH Event and Activity Suggestions

- Officially acknowledge NAOSH Week with a flag-raising ceremony and signing of a NAOSH Week proclamation by your mayor, community dignitaries and other government officials.
- Host a public symposium on health and safety issues in your community and work with a local business, service organization, supplier to sponsor the event.
- Host a safety day camp for school children, employees and their families.
- Launch a recognition program for safety suggestions that are put into use or enhance ongoing health and safety practices.
- Conduct an open house that focuses on health and safety. Involve suppliers. Invite local dignitaries, clients and colleagues.
- Conduct training sessions for employees.
- Partner with suppliers and community health & safety organizations to set up specific safety demonstrations, focused on safe work habits, for employees and/or people in the community, in shopping malls, for example.
- Introduce “Captain Safety” to schools, businesses, retail stores and your community in general.
- Launch a “New Worker” Orientation Manual. Conduct orientation and training sessions specific to the new and inexperienced worker.
- Sponsor a poster contest for employee’s children and create a safety calendar for your staff and clients.
- Promote NAOSH Week through articles in your company newsletter.
- Develop “Fact Sheets” for distribution.
- Introduce games, contests to test knowledge of safety & health facts and information. Ideas include cross word puzzles, “Are You Safer Than a Fifth Grader?”, scavenger hunts.
- Insert NAOSH Week messages in correspondence, memorandums and e-mails to staff.
- Display NAOSH Week posters in offices, on bulletin boards, at work stations. Encourage local retailers and businesses to show their support by displaying NAOSH Week posters.
- Use NAOSH Week mugs, wristbands, caps, t-shirts, etc as awards for safety achievements and to extend the awareness of NAOSH Week.
- Display a NAOSH Week banner/flag in a prominent location in your community. For example, the NAOSH Week banner has been seen on a railway overpass, on the side of warehouses and at events. Likewise, the NAOSH Week flag has been raised in public squares and proudly flown outside business locations.
- Send public service announcements (PSA) to local radio stations, and contact local media to arrange interviews or promote organization’s activities.
- Work with community newspapers to publish a special supplement featuring safety articles, advertising, the NAOSH Week logo and NAOSH Week events and activities.
- Invite school classes to tour your operations, highlighting basic safety features and the importance of working safely.
- Host a personal protective equipment fashion show.
- Plan a program for students using posters, videos and/or speakers.
- Work with local school boards to coordinate special events, special safety days or help them expand their safety efforts.
- Work with high school students to promote safety as a career.



**Do you have an interesting story
or anecdote about eye safety?**

**Have your safety glasses
saved you from harm?**

We want to hear about it!

Please send us any of your eye safety related stories so we can spread the word on how important your safety glasses are!

Know Your OVC Team



Brian Furman - Director
ovcdirector@optometrists.ab.ca

Brian has been the Director of the OVC program for the past four years. He is an active member of the CSA Technical Committee for the Eye & Face Protection standard. He would be happy to answer any of your questions or comments about the program, whether it be on interpretation of safety standards, the administration of the program within your company or any other number of service related issues. Please feel free to contact Brian for direction on any of your needs.



Karen Hollingsworth - Assistant Director
khollingsworth@optometrists.ab.ca

Karen has been in her position for over two years now. She has a solid background after working in an optometrist's clinic for a number of years. She understands the needs and expectations of your employees at the dispensing level and part of her daily focus is to help ensure that your employee's glasses are made to suit not only their specific needs, but the qualifying criteria for your company and their work environment. She also leads the customer care as related to billing clients.



Priscilla Chua - Data Entry Clerk
pchua@optometrists.ab.ca

Priscilla is responsible for capturing the data for every pair of glasses that are completed within our program...about 13,000 pairs per year! Her data input produces the invoices to your company. Need more authorization forms? Priscilla is the one you want to talk to! Please feel free to contact her if you have any questions.



Welcome Aboard New OVC Clients

- Cargill - Animal Nutrition
- McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd.
- Drader Custom Manufacturing
- Cenovus Energy Inc.
- Compressor Products Int'l
- City of Medicine Hat Environmental Utilities Division
- Westpower Equipment Ltd.

Upcoming Events

Brian, our OVC Director, will be in attendance at the Association of Optometrists (AAO) display booth at the upcoming **2010 Petroleum Safety Conference from May 4 – 6th, 2010 in Banff, AB**

If you are attending this event, please stop by to say 'hi!'



Now We're All Covered

As much as the OVC program helps to provide solutions for protective safety eyewear, the risk still exists for particulates from the worksite or foreign objects to end up in the eyes of workers. Thankfully, in most cases they are not dramatic incidents, but rather small and highly irritating.

You and your employees should know that rather than visit the local emergency department or their family physician, they can see their local optometrist who is trained in the removal of such foreign objects. This service is paid for by Alberta Health and Wellness and is classified as "Medically Necessary".

You should also know that the Medically Necessary category is not just limited to the removal of foreign objects. It also includes:

- Monitoring for diabetes issues, glaucoma and retinal disease
- Eye infections or injuries
- Sudden changes in vision
- Post-operative care for cataract patients

It is hoped increased coverage will encourage patients who require treatment and removal of foreign objects in the eye as well as the monitoring of conditions such as diabetes to visit their optometrist more regularly. This allows optometrists and health care providers to work in closer collaboration to co-manage care and monitor changes in patient health. Ultimately, this team approach promises to assist with the prevention of disease complications.

An optometrist knows your eyes inside and out.

For additional information go to: www.optometrists.ab.ca

UVEX - RELEASES NEW FRAME

The **SWRx Collection** continues to be their fastest growing frame group and they are excited to introduce the latest design: the **Titmus SW07** with extended side coverage, a form-fit closed-cell foam dust insert, a multi-fit nose pad system and an optional strap/headband for increased versatility.

The **SWRx Collection** is known for:

- Innovative styles that sell.
- Rugged construction with durable, trouble-free performance.
- The distinctive "wrapped" look in Rx frame products.

The **Titmus SW07** boasts a winning combination of feature-rich design for exceptional performance with aggressive styling that wearers love.

NOW AVAILABLE ON THE OVC PROGRAM



Join the Occupational Vision Care Program

- Access to quality safety eyewear at wholesale pricing
- Worry-free administration — we handle everything
- Customizable to your company's needs
- Over 400 participating optometrists



Client Survey Results

We'd like to thank those folks that took the time to respond to our latest client company survey. With approximately 300 companies taking part in the program across the province, it's not always easy to that we hear from everybody throughout the year, so a survey like this goes a long way to helping us keep in touch with our client's needs and concerns.

We had almost 70 respondents, which translates to almost 25% of our customer base. That provides a good sampling of results, some of which we'd like to share with you. (on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest)

1. Overall Satisfaction with OVC Program

Average score of 4.17 - 76 % rated this with a 4 or higher

2. Satisfaction with communication and customer service of AAO Representation

Average score of 4.14 – 73% rated this with a 4 or higher

3. Satisfaction with administration process

Average score of 4.08 – 75% rated this with a 4 or higher

4. Cost effectiveness of OVC Program for your company

Average score of 4.02 – 71% rated this with a 4 or higher

The biggest message that we heard was that we need keep doing our best to keep in touch with you. We here at the AAO certainly appreciate positive response, but have also clearly seen that there is work to be done. If you'd like to arrange a meeting, whether by phone or in person, to assess the needs of your company's OVC coverage or performance, please feel free to call Brian Furman direct at 780-451-6824 x. 222.

We'd also like to highlight that Brian is available for "Toolbox" seminars that you may hold for your employees. Whether the topics are about CSA and Alberta OH&S compliance, or more specifically to the benefit your company provides to it's employees through this OVC program, he would be happy to take the time to come and speak with you and your staff.

See What's Out There

An example of some of the products we offer on through our program

Safety Frames:

www.hilco.com

www.titmus.com

www.tekoptical.com



Spring Eye Health Tips

As winter melts away, we all look forward to spring weather and outdoor activities. But, the season also brings new concerns for eye health and safety. The AAO would like to remind you that eye safety is as big of a concern for you at home as it is at work.

Yard Maintenance & Home Renovations

One of the most pleasant aspects of spring is enjoying the return of our yards. Yet among the fresh grass, gardens, trees and blooms there are eye hazards to be aware of. These can include power tools, sharp branches and chemicals in fertilizers and weed killers. Eye injuries from yard work are some of the most serious. Always wear eye protection when mowing, trimming, using a chain saw or a leaf blower. Be sure to follow the instructions on any tools or plant treatments you are using. Prescription dress eyewear often cannot provide the protection you need. Also wear a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses providing 100 percent protection from ultraviolet light. Your optometrist can help you select appropriate safety eyewear, even if you wear corrective lenses.

Naturally, any home renovation projects that you might be starting in on deserve the same safety precautions that you might heed at work. It's amazing how many people suffer an eye injury while doing work around the house...injuries that could have been avoided, had they just taken a second to put on their safety glasses. And it ensures there is no time off of work required to nurse an avoidable eye injury. Take the time to be "Eye safe!"

Often, bamboo and metal stakes are used to support plants like tomatoes. Cover the sharp tips of those stakes with a plastic wire nut to prevent puncture wounds. If you should suffer an eye injury, contact your optometrist right away – Thanks to Alberta Health and Wellness, you're covered!



The Three O's

Optometrist - An independent primary health care giver who specializes in the examination, diagnosis, treatment, management & prevention of visual diseases and disorders.

Ophthalmologist - Are physicians who specialize in secondary or tertiary treatment of eye diseases and disorders, including surgical correction of some ocular problems.

Optician - Based on a prescription from an optometrist or an ophthalmologist, an optician is licensed to design, supply, prepare, adjust and dispense glasses or contact lenses.



Is your company National? Regional? Do you have employees that require prescription safety eyeglasses in other provinces? The Alberta OVC Program works seamlessly in conjunction with our other provincial partners. Please contact any of us with your questions.

British Columbia Assn. of Optometrists

Kelly Mould - kmould@optometrists.bc.ca

Saskatchewan Assn. of Optometrists

Darren Mirau - saoovc@sasktel.net

Canadian Assn. of Optometrists (Ontario)

Doug Dean - doug@opto.ca



YOUR EYES *deserve* AN OPTOMETRIST®