

AUGUST 2023 MONTH IN REVIEW

Northwest Territories

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OHS Program

Jun 2: The WSCC hired 3 people (2 in Northwest Territories and 1 in Nunavut) to the newly created position of Safety Outreach Representative, with responsibility for supporting employers' efforts to maintain safe workplaces and comply with OHS laws. Specifically, the representatives will help employers develop OHS program and identify best practices for reducing workplace incidents.

Emergency Response

Jun 20: The GNWT launched a new Evacuee Registration Portal to speed up and simplify the emergency evacuation process. Residents who have to evacuate will now only have to register once, which they can do in advance by pre-registering.

PPE

Jul 5: WSCC issued [new guidance](#) to help employers and workers prevent hand injuries. More than 20% of all workers comps filed in 2022 involved injuries to the fingers, arms and upper extremities, according to the agency.

Action Point: Implement a legally sound [hand and arm protection compliance game plan](#) at your site

Workers Comp

Jul 31: That's the deadline to comment on [proposed changes](#) to the Medical Subsistence Allowances and other Prescribed Allowances for workers seeking medical treatment for or recovering from a work-related injury.

Environmental

Jun 21: From now through August 21, the government will be holding potentially significant [public consultations](#) on whether the Northwest Territories should change its 2030 Energy Strategy and Climate Change Strategic Framework designed to cut greenhouse gas emissions from 2005 levels by 30% by 2030.

CASES

Cold Stress: Power Company Fined \$200,000 for Death of Apprentice Worker

Melting snow caused an ice buildup at the entrance to a diesel plant. A column of ice broke loose and struck a fourth-year apprentice on the head and shoulder, inflicting injuries that proved to be fatal. Although the victim was wearing a hard hat and safety goggles, there was no protective canopy over the door where the incident occurred. WSCC charged the power company with 11 OHS violations. In exchange for dropping 10 of the charges, the company pled guilty to one violation and was hit with a \$200,000 fine [*Northwest Territories Power Corp.*, June 26, 2023].

Action Point: Implement an effective [cold stress compliance game plan](#) at your workplace