

OCTOBER 2024 MONTH IN REVIEW

Northwest Territories

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Radiation Safety

Sep 24: Section 349 of the *OHS Regulations* lists the credentials a worker must have for employers to require or permit them to perform ionizing radiation installation or use ionizing radiation equipment. Newly effective [regulatory changes](#) revise the list by adding “a duly qualified medical practitioner or nurse practitioner, with specialized training in radiography.”

Action Point: Find out how to implement an effective [Ionizing Radiation Safety and Compliance Game Plan](#) at your site.

Infectious Illnesses

Sep 25: The GNWT launched a new [visual dashboard](#) enabling residents to track trends and the current presence and levels of COVID-19, flu and RSV in different parts of territories, including Behchokò, Fort Simpson, Fort Smith, Hay River, Norman Wells, and Yellowknife.

Action Point: Use the [OHSI Infection Exposure Control Plan](#) to protect workers from infectious disease.

Ergonomics

Oct 1: The WSCC issued new [guidance](#) warning against the risks of twisting incidents that occur when workers carry heavy items. Occupations at the highest risk in Northwest Territories and Nunavut include mine labourers, janitors, caretakers, building superintendents, and heavy equipment operators, according to the guidance.

Action Point: Find out how to implement an [Ergonomics and Musculoskeletal Injury Prevention and Compliance Game Plan](#) at your workplace.

Drugs & Alcohol

Sep 17: The GNWT issued the final version of its [Addictions Prevention and Recovery Services Work Plan](#) for 2022 to 2024. The Work Plan lists 24 completed action items that have been taken to strengthen addictions and wellness programs for residents of the territories.

Action Point: Use the [OHS Insider Substance Abuse Compliance Game Plan](#) to curb drugs and alcohol at your workplace.

CASES

Machine Hazards: Failure to Implement Safe Work Procedures Costs Mine Company \$125,000

A mine worker dropped the hose he was using to clean a Rockfill Mixer machine into the machine. The resulting tug of the hose dragged his left hand into the machine resulting in serious injury. There were no guards or safety measures implemented to ensure that workers could not get caught in the moving parts. The employer was fined \$125,000 after pleading guilty to one *Mine Health and Safety Act* charge of failing to implement safe work practices. In return, the GNWT dropped the 3 remaining charges against the employer after receiving assurances that it would take actions to rectify those violations [*Diavik Diamond Mine Inc.*, [Govt Press Release](#), September 12, 2024].

Action Point: Prevent tragedies like these by implementing a legally sound [Machine Guarding Compliance Game Plan at](#) your workplace.