

Join the 2018 Construction/Electrical and Utilities Safety Group

The Infrastructure Health and Safety Association (IHSA) would encourage your company to explore the health and safety prevention opportunities and financial incentives that are available to your firm through the Construction/Electrical and Utilities Safety Group.

The Safety Groups Program is a Rebate Incentive Program administered by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB). It recognizes firms that integrate health and safety into their management systems. Success is measured by injury/illness prevention activities and firms that participate may receive WSIB Rate Group rebates. The better the Group's performance, the larger the rebate they receive from the WSIB.

So you really have nothing to lose and a lot to gain by joining a Safety Group. A firm's individual experience rating is not affected by participation in the Group. There is no penalty if the Group does not succeed. Participation is voluntary and a firm can withdraw at any time.

Some of the benefits of participating in a Safety Group may include:

- decreased frequency of injury and illnesses in the workplace and reduced claims costs
- enhanced due diligence and internal responsibility system
- positive public/customer perception
- potential financial rebate from the WSIB
- enhanced skills in claims management and return to work strategies
- improved occupational health and safety programs
- cost-effective opportunities for firms to become compliant in occupational health and safety issues and increase compliance with legislative safety requirements
- opportunities for networking and mentoring with other member firms and the sharing of best practices.



How the Safety Groups Program functions

- Each Safety Group meets on a regular basis to develop programs and strategies and to network on the 'best practices' in health and safety management systems and claims management.
- Safety Group meetings/seminars are scheduled throughout the year. It is a mandatory requirement of the Safety Groups Program for firms to attend a minimum of three meetings in a calendar year. Many companies attend more than the minimum number of seminars as part of the training requirements for their own company's safety program. For 2018, seminars will be scheduled in Eastern, Central, and Western Ontario.
- A Baseline Workplace Assessment is performed to determine the strengths and weaknesses of a company's current health and safety system. The individual firms will choose five elements (safety topics) to work on for the year.
- At each meeting, a facilitator will provide the opportunity to learn and network with other firms on a variety of topics relevant to the needs of your company and the Safety Group.
- Progress Reports are completed in May and September, as well as a Year-end Workplace Assessment and a Year-end Achievement Report.
- All firms in the Safety Group may be requested to participate in a spot check audit of at least 10% of the firms in the Group. The purpose of the spot check audit is to validate that the work is being accomplished and to assist the employer with guidance in implementing workplace health and safety initiatives.
- The WSIB will issue any Safety Group rebates directly to the individual companies. Individual companies will then direct 10% of their Safety Group rebate, upon invoice, to IHSA to cover Safety Group administration costs.

How to join the Construction/Electrical and Utilities Safety Group for 2018

All applications must be received no later December 31st, 2017.

CONFIRMATION NOTICE WILL BE SENT NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31st 2017.

Please complete the WSIB Safety Group application form and scan and email it to:
Cindy Boyer at csg@ihsa.ca Phone: 905-301-5473

Once the Application Form has been submitted, you will receive a copy of the 2018 Construction/
Electrical and Utilities Safety Group Participant's Manual for completion.

If you have any further questions regarding the Safety Groups Program, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,
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