

December 16, 2020

Call to Action:

IHSA's sectors (construction, electrical and utilities, and transportation) have been deemed essential services throughout the entire COVID-19 pandemic, and IHSA would like to thank all workers for their efforts and contributions in both building and supplying key services to Ontarians during these challenging times.

Tragically, the month of December has seen an alarming number of workplace fatalities in the industries IHSA serves. In this last week alone, four workers died in three separate workplace incidents.

One fatality in any year is one too many, regardless of the sector, industry, or occupation.

IHSA is encouraging all constructors, employers, supervisors, and workers in ALL sectors to take a moment and PAUSE for safety. Please pause all work for a safety moment and re-establish a commitment to the prevention of injuries, illnesses, and fatalities.

Pause to reflect on the work that you are doing and the tasks at hand. Focus on performing the work in the most safe and competent manner. Now is the time to reinforce safe work procedures and the practice of performing risk assessments on all your tasks, regardless of whether they are new tasks or existing ones.

With efforts focused (rightfully) on the topic of COVID-19, including its impact on our personal lives, upcoming holidays, increased levels of spread, and the rollout

of the vaccine to fight this coronavirus, it is understandable how attention can be diverted from everyday risks and hazards in the workplace.

It is up to all workplace parties to work even harder to increase attention to performing work in the safest manner possible.

As we approach the end of this difficult year, it is more important than ever that we continue maintaining our vigilance while at work. Now is not the time to relax our efforts or to become complacent. We must remain diligent and aware of ALL the hazards in ALL workplaces, and take action together to work safely and to look out for one another.

Let us close out this very difficult 2020 and begin 2021 with a renewed commitment to ensuring all workers return home safe to their families and to their friends at the end of each workday.

Respectfully,

Enzo Garritano

President and CEO, IHSA

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Co-chairs, IHSA Board of Directors

Tom Nicholls

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Co-chairs, Provincial Labour Management

Darrin Husack

Health and Safety Committee, Section 21 –
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Co-chairs, Provincial Labour Management Safety

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