

# Mine Mill Health & Safety Committees



## Local 598/CAW Newsletter

Issued by Mine Mill Local 598/CAW

December 2007

Any opinions or views expressed in this publication are those of the contributor and are not necessarily the opinions or views of Local 598, the CAW or the Newsletter Committee and neither Local 598, the CAW nor the Newsletter Committee accepts responsibility for them

### **Cool Weather, New Conditions**

By: Guy Sonier, JHSC Central Services

Northern Ontario is one of the nicest places to live because of the four seasons that we get to experience every year, from the green beautiful summer days to the cool white days of winter. Like everything in life you can go through each season looking at the changes in temperature in a negative way or in a positive way – it's your choice.

But there is one thing you do not have a choice in, and that my friend is safety. We need to think safety from the time we get up in the morning to the time we call it a day and close our eyes. Winter is just about here and we need to think of ice, yes ice, slips and falls and rear end collisions due to following too close. Shorter daylight means visibility is not the same when you come in, in the morning or leave in the evening.

Central Service was on an unbelievable run with almost 3 years without a lost time - good job by all! Unfortunately, we had a bit of bad luck. However, with bad luck comes a new start. If we can all take a few more seconds before we do things, we will reach three years and go beyond that. I hope (for example) that if anyone sees a slippery condition that he/she stops and throws some salted sand on it. It is that easy; and if impossible - please report it.

The Christmas holidays are getting closer, so please keep your mind on the job. On behalf of the JHSC at Central Service, have a Safe and Happy Holiday.

---

### **Fraser Mine Report**

By: Dave Stewart, JHSC

Things are busy and working hard to keep up with all the changes as production is full tilt ahead with the Morgan project. The upper 607 zone is progressing well as is the start up of the 4600 level development. The 3900 Morgan track development is experiencing some struggles as to having experience qualified miners and supervisors to fill vacancies, which has somewhat delayed the project. Cementation is in constant training of new workers which in turn after six months or so of experience get hired by Xstrata Nickel or CVRD.

Whatever happened to our stope school and training of young workers? You would think that Xstrata Nickel would be more aggressive in wanting to develop the highest quality safety and training facility for workers as they said they would, or has Cementation become the Norcat training facilitators of Xstrata Nickel?

I'm hoping that all workers at Fraser Mine use good judgment and only use and operate equipment that you've been trained and

qualified on, as a serious injury to yourself or a co-worker could have dire consequences.

Peer training is unacceptable to Xstrata Nickel standards and you must be signed off to all T.P.O.'s of the module that you are training on. It's your responsibility as a worker not to use or execute or feel intimidated in doing a task that you have not been qualified on. It's for your own safety. Changes to the mine dry is ongoing as more lockers and baskets have been added downstairs to accommodate the influx of workers, which in turn has created more work for the dry men, so please let's do our part and clean up after ourselves.

Dust is always an issue as winter sets in, so take the time to ensure the water sprays are on when you blast, and stop and correct when need be, to suppress the dust in your travel way.

---

### **Thayer/Lindsley JHSC Report**

For starters, I would like to congratulate all workers at T/L for achieving a one year without a lost time and an ongoing commitment to safety. T/L has a lot of issues to deal with and one by one, we are trying to eliminate them. Brothers and Sisters, we've been involved in a Relationship Building Programme in late October between Company Management and Union Members, with the Ministry of Labor leading the program.

The intention is to build a strong relationship between Management and Union members, with the opportunity to move forward in a positive way. What we achieved at the end of the program was a positive outlook for the future of this Company and its employees. Our commitments will determine the deciding factor on the success of the program. Let's leave the past behind us and look for a brighter future.

We are getting new equipment at Thayer/Lindsley in 2008 - a new trailer complex and both material and powder storages that will focus on easier handling of

material. Roadway, ventilation, dust and latrines are ongoing issues. We will focus on these issues and get them resolved and maintained once and for all. We must do our part and get management to do theirs. If someone takes the time to Stop & Correct, you should thank him for doing so, not criticize him. Your life might be the one he saves.

We will look forward to seeing you and your family at the Christmas party on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December at The Knights of Columbus Hall in Blezard Valley.

On behalf of the JHSC at T/L, have a safe Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours in Solidarity,  
Ray, Mike & Moe

---

### **Craig Mine JHSC News**

By: Glenn Staskus Craig Mine JHSC

To the workers at Craig, I would like to take some time to explain how a group of people brought together to discuss differences between the Union and Management left with a better understanding and closer to being on the same page.

The relationship building Program was facilitated by the Ministry of Labour and held the week of October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007. I would like to congratulate the MOL on a process that not only helped us define our areas of concern but then jointly come up with ways that we could resolve them. Monitors, both union and management, will report progress and help to deal with problems should they arise.

As workers, Health and Safety advocates and Union Stewards, the message was clear that we would like work places that were healthier with environments clean and free of hazards. In other words Health & Safety Above All Else. It will require a firm commitment from all levels of management with clear direction and expectations to the front line.

As a site, we continue to improve our safety performance and we all should be congratulated for an accomplishment of going a year without a lost time. I believe strongly that the person that has the most control ensuring you arrive home at the end of the shift is you. We also have to look out for our fellow workers and have the responsibility to repair or report deficiencies. As a Committee, we will continue to inspect and make recommendations on how to improve conditions. Look for better controls on dust, air quality and heat, continue to review procedures commission new equipment that arrives on site and be apart of investigations for the purpose of prevention.

The future for us all has changed and the focus now is moving towards a sustainable future that we can all be a part of. We hear that Onaping Depth will move forward and that our workers will be at Nickel Rim this coming summer, with a complete transition by 2009. Many things are still left to be decided so don't listen to rumors.

My closing message to everyone is let's focus on today and making our work places safe and getting home sound at the end of the shift. Choose to have a good day today and better day tomorrow. While we, as a Committee, will continue to work towards improving conditions at Craig.

### ***Working Together Safely Everyday.***

---

**Are you a student? Do you have a research paper or an essay related to health and safety in the mining industry? Would you like \$500?**

If you answered yes to all of these questions, you need to read this email.

The MASHA award for student papers is a chance to present your research to leading health and safety professionals, and network with decision makers from major mining companies. MASHA will pay the winning student's conference registration and

accommodation expenses, as well as within-province costs to travel to and from the conference, and a **\$500 award**.

To submit your application or for more information, please e-mail Susan Haldane at [susanhaldane@masha.on.ca](mailto:susanhaldane@masha.on.ca) or call (705) 474-7233 ext. 261

If you are not a student, and would like to present your research at the MASHA annual conference, do not hesitate to email Susan Haldane at [susanhaldane@masha.on.ca](mailto:susanhaldane@masha.on.ca) or call (705) 474-7233 ext. 261.

For more information see:  
"MASHA\_Student\_Award\_2008.pdf"

**Jeff West**  
*Health Specialist*

Mines and Aggregates Safety and Health Association  
P. O. Box 2050, Station Main  
North Bay, ON P1B 9P1  
[www.masha.on.ca](http://www.masha.on.ca)  
Phone: (705) 474-7233, ext 280  
Fax: (705) 472-5800  
E-mail: [jeffwest@masha.on.ca](mailto:jeffwest@masha.on.ca)

---

### **FATIGUE ON THE JOB Battling the Afternoon Slump**

Do you ever get the yawns at work, especially after lunch? If so, take comfort in the fact that you're not alone. In a recent survey, 85% of U.S. workers admitted that they experience an "afternoon slump" on the job. Two of three said they go through a slump at least three days a work week. The time when slumps occur most often? between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Of course, workplace fatigue is no joke. Employees going through a slump are at heightened risk of injury; and even if you're feeling wide awake, working with a colleague who's slumping puts you in danger.

Some slumps are more severe than others. 28% of the surveyed workers admitted to nodding off at work; 50% said they caught one of their colleagues falling asleep on the job.

In the not so unlikely event that some of your own workers are experiencing slumps, here are some tips you can share with them on keeping awake:

- Eat light
- Eat protein
- Drink caffeinated beverages like coffee, tea, colas and sodas like Mountain Dew
- Multi-task—the more things you do, the more your concentration is likely to be engaged
- Wash your hands and face with cold water
- Brush your teeth
- Don't sit in the same position for an extended period, and
- Get out of your seat and walk around a bit, at least every 30 minutes.

I know these tips aren't exactly rocket science. But they make sense and could help you and your workers avoid injury and work more productively.

Source: [CareerBuilder.com](http://CareerBuilder.com)

---

### **Training, Training and More Training!**

By: Dwight Harper, Smelter JHSC Co-Chair

I stood and watched as an employee was attempting to check the oil level on one of our new forklifts today as part of his pre-operation check. He unsuccessfully struggled for several minutes, attempting to raise the seat and finally had to ask for help. Unfortunately for him, he asked me and I couldn't help. Even though we both have driven forklifts on this property since our respective hiring's, the new model is slightly different from the one we were trained on and we were never familiarized with the differences. We finally had to get yet a third individual to help us out. He showed us how to get access to the dipstick and it was embarrassingly simple

once we saw how to do it. But it illustrates the importance of being familiar with your equipment.

Whenever a change occurs, whether it is in a programme or a policy, with a piece of equipment or with the process, there is a learning/training component that must be considered, no matter how slight the difference.

From now until the end of 2007, Smelter workers will be put through their paces when it comes to training. The new fire plan brings with it a need to train the workers to their roles in the event of a fire emergency. On its heels, focus will shift to the SO3 and the Emergency Evacuation plans, which once completed, will also require worker training.

The recent MOL order with respect to Smelter Common Core training will mean that all workers hired before 1994 (and some afterwards) will require modular training to meet the legislative requirements. The introduction of new equipment like forklifts and a new link-belt will require operators to have familiarization training in their usage. New engineering controls and cameras, like the ones recently installed for operating inside the both on our #5 converter, requires specialized training by all who operate the shell.

If you are asked to use anything or do anything you are not completely trained to use or do, don't! Don't be a hero. Let your supervisor know that you haven't been properly trained and someone else who is properly trained will be assigned the task or the necessary arrangements can be made to get you trained.

