

MAKING CONSTRUCTION SITES SAFER

Ministry of Labour inspectors conducted a blitz of over 2,800 construction sites between January and April, 2010. It found violations related to missing or inappropriate use of guardrails, suspended scaffolds, fall protection systems, and worker training. These results indicate that elements necessary for keeping workers safe, such as adequate supervision and worker training in hazard awareness, were not in place. In response, the province is implementing new measures to improve safety on construction sites, including:

- Strong enforcement measures that target repeat offenders and shut down construction projects when workers' lives are in danger. These measures include a zero-tolerance approach to fall-related contraventions, as well as heightened enforcement of sub-sectors showing non-compliance and employers who repeatedly contravene the law.
- Increased focus on training and worker supervision during inspections.
- A public awareness campaign to increase awareness of enforcement and safety
- A toll-free telephone line for workers and the general public to report construction site work practices that appear unsafe,

In addition, an expert panel reviewing worker safety in Ontario is set to report its findings to the Minister of Labour in the fall of 2010.