



SAFETY NEWSLETTER



We Demand Safety-

By insisting on a safety culture, we provide a safe work environment where we look out for each other.

Covid-19 & Schools



At the beginning of the pandemic, health officials urged everyone to stay home if they have mild symptoms. But that advice has recently changed for primary and secondary students in BC. Ten symptoms have now been removed from the daily checklist for students.

The daily checklist now includes the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills
- Cough or worsening chronic cough
- Shortness of breath
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Diarrhea
- Nausea and vomiting

B.C. students with runny nose, headache or sore throat, etc. can continue to attend classes. For the short time that schools have been open, there have already been 23 [school exposures](#) of COVID-19 in Metro Vancouver.

Regardless of how the province is choosing to screen students in schools, Mott Electric will continue to follow best practice recommendations from the BCCDC when it comes to adults in the workplace. If your child has any of the symptoms listed in the [Mott Electric Covid-19 Policy](#), you will still be asked to self-isolate from work until you are deemed safe to return by Mott's Health and Safety, and Operations Departments.

Mott's Covid-19 Safe Work Practices

Covid-19 cases are continuing to spike in the province and Mott Electric has had to deal with its first positive Covid-19 case in the field recently. Luckily, thanks to the fact that workers were following Mott's Covid-19 procedures (i.e. maintaining their distance and wearing masks when that's not possible), none of the other workers onsite had to be sent home.

When workers follow the established procedures, it puts them at very low risk of contracting or spreading the virus. Mott has a very thorough Covid-19 Safety Program, but it's up to each and every one of you to ensure the safe work practices are followed to keep you and your coworkers safe.

Keeping Safe While Off the Job



Photo Courtesy of Brian Nichol, Project Manager

Our Project Manager, Brian Nicol, was riding in style with a half-mask respirator and P100 filters to protect himself from the wildfire smoke that took over Metro Vancouver a few weeks ago. Way to go Brian!



SAFETY NEWSLETTER



We Demand Safety-

By insisting on a safety culture, we provide a safe work environment where we look out for each other.

New Worker Health & Safety Site Orientations

Mott Electric Supervisors (or a qualified Designate) must conduct a [Worker Health and Safety Site Orientation](#) for every worker that joins their crew. This includes those who have experience, workers who have been transferred from another job, and returning crew members who have been away for a while (if site conditions, or Mott's policies have changed).

Giving workers their site-specific orientations is part of the supervisor's due diligence. It's a way of making sure that all of their workers have been trained in the relevant and updated site-specific tasks, tools, equipment, policies, safe work practices / safe job procedures and emergency protocols that are specific to the site.

The New Worker Health & Safety Orientation gives the supervisor the opportunity to verify the worker's knowledge and compliance with Mott's policies and safe work procedures to see where any additional, or refresher training is needed. During the orientation it is important to review all relevant SJPs and SWPs with the worker and demonstrate the tasks they will be assigned. It is a good idea to have the new worker demonstrate the task back to verify their understanding and correct any mistakes if necessary.

By providing the worker with all of the essential information to do their jobs safely and setting the standard for how tasks should be completed at the beginning of the job, their risk for an injury becomes minimized. Not all training can, or should be done on the first day of a New Worker Orientation. Time the orientation sessions to best match the needs of the jobsite and the work to be done, but be sure that all areas are covered. Whatever doesn't get covered in the initial New Worker Orientation can be covered and documented in a Tailboard Meeting.

The mediocre mentor tells.

The good mentor explains.

The superior mentor demonstrates.

The greatest mentors inspire!

Penalties Issued for BC Contractors

Below are some examples of why Worker Health and Safety Site Orientations are so important.

Emil Anderson Construction (EAC) Inc. | \$153,661.91 | Kelowna | January 8, 2020 This firm was installing new buried water mains when its excavator contacted an energized high-voltage conductor overhead. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and determined the excavator's boom was within reach of the conductor and was positioned so that it was able to make contact. Further inspection identified that workers had not been properly trained in the hazards of this workplace or in safe work procedures when working around high-voltage power lines. The firm failed to ensure work procedures complied with regulatory requirements. The firm also failed to ensure adequate clearance distance was maintained between moving equipment and conductors. These were both high-risk violations. Finally, the firm failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety.

Halton Recycling Ltd. / Emterra Environmental | \$99,273.21 | Chilliwack | November 25, 2019 WorkSafeBC investigated of this firm's garbage collection operation following an incident where a worker was injured. After placing recycling materials into the rear of a garbage truck, a worker tried to get up onto the platform as the truck was driving away. The worker fell and sustained serious injuries. WorkSafeBC's investigation determined that the firm did not adequately train and supervise workers, nor did it have an adequate system in place to ensure workers understood and complied with the firm's safe work procedures. The firm failed to ensure that workers did not board mobile equipment while it was in motion, except in an emergency. It also failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety, a repeated violation. These were both high-risk violations.

Any questions, comments or concerns?

Shayna Helal, Dipl. OHS
Chief Safety Officer
C. (604) 209-2377
F. (604) 524-3531