

HAZARD ALERT

REPORT HAZARDS AND NEAR MISSES!

March 2010

In September 2008 Robert Tkach, 60, was killed at the Lanigan mine after the jeep he was driving went over an unmarked ledge that had been cut into a mine floor ramp some 36 hours earlier. The vehicle did not have a seatbelt and Tkach was thrown from the jeep, which then landed on him. He was pinned until a forklift was brought to move the vehicle.

\$420,000, the maximum penalty allowable under the Occupational Health and Safety Act has been enforced on Potash Corp of Saskatchewan for failing to ensure the health, safety and welfare at work of all the employer's workers.

Preventable Incident: Near Misses Not Reported

During the shift before Tkach died, ***two workers almost suffered the same fate*** at the same location, says a government investigation into the incident. One wheel of their vehicle hung over the ledge before they were able to reverse up the ramp to safety. ***The workers didn't report the hazard to their supervisor*** and nobody marked the ledge.

The government investigation, released after the accident, said a ***lack of training, a failure to mark hazards and lack of seatbelts*** in the jeep contributed to the fatal accident.

The company has implemented changes to improve hazard recognition and has improved training and procedures for supervisors and staff.

Training and Hazard / Near Miss Reporting Critical

Near misses are indicators of future losses and as such are critical to an effective safety management system and due diligence.

- Do you have hazard reporting policies and procedures?
- Are your workers required to report hazards and near misses? Are they doing so?
- Are near misses taken seriously?
- Are hazards corrected and communicated in your organization?
- Have your workers been trained in Hazard Awareness?
- Have your supervisors been trained in their basic Workplace Safety and Health responsibilities?



NOTE: Any reference to the Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Act or Regulation is for convenience sake only. The original text must be consulted for all intents and purposes of applying the law.



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