

Table of Contents  
Unit III

Introduction .....	1
The Fire Department Platoon Act.....	1
Highway Act .....	1
Occupational Health and Safety Act.....	2
Application of Part .....	3
Environmental Acts.....	11
Standards.....	11
The Standards Council of Canada.....	11
Fire Protection/Prevention Standards .....	12
Canadian Standards Association .....	12
Canadian General Standards Board .....	12
Underwriters Laboratories of Canada - ULC.....	13
Worker's Compensation Board .....	13
CANUTEC.....	14
Saskatchewan Emergency Planning (SEP).....	15

## Introduction

In Unit I, the Acts and regulations governing fire safety were presented with an overview of each. Although the legislation presented is specific to fire safety it is not the only legislation that a fire department should be aware of. Unit II presents a number of Acts, regulations and pieces of information that may be important to your fire department. The commentary provided is not intended to be complete, nor is it an official interpretation, and is provided for informational purposes only. For further information, clarification or interpretation the specific Act, regulation or governing agency should be consulted.

## The Fire Department Platoon Act

The Fire Department Platoon Act applies to hours of work for career fire fighters in cities over 10,000 population.

## Highway Act

The Highway Traffic Act contains provisions on the operation of emergency vehicles. Section 17(2)b(i) provides that the driver of a fire engine is not subject to the licensing requirements of The Highway Traffic Act. Under Section 67(1) fire department vehicles (this is limited to fire engines and apparatus) can drive contrary to The Highway Traffic Act (speed limits, stop signals) if and only if:

- an emergency exists,
- emergency lights and devices are being operated, and
- where circumstances warrant.

*The driver of an emergency vehicle that is:*

*(a) used for the transportation of a peace officer in the performance of his duties;*

*(b) used for the transportation of a member of a fire department in response to an emergency;*

*(c) an ambulance used in response to an emergency; or*

*(d) a vehicle or class of vehicle designated by the board as an emergency vehicle which is used in response to an emergency;*

*may, while an emergency exists and only while the emergency sounding device and emergency lights are in operation, drive contrary to this Act, the regulations or a traffic bylaw where it is necessary in the circumstances to do so.*

An emergency vehicle responding to an emergency has the right of way over all other vehicles, with a fire truck having the highest precedence. This does not mean that the vehicle can be driven with disregard to road and traffic conditions. The emergency vehicle must be driven and parked with all due consideration to:

- the nature, condition and use of the highway (condition of the road surface, width; weather conditions),
- the amount of traffic on or that can be expected on the road (light, heavy, othertypes of vehicles; a rural grid, urban street, freeway etc.)
- the nature and use of the vehicle being operated (can a five ton truck do 75 mph
- safely on a gravel road?)

*A vehicle to which right of way is given under this section has priority of right of way over other vehicles to which the same right is given, in the following order of priority:*

*(a) fire engines;*

*(b) fire department apparatus;*

*(c) ambulances;*

*(d) police vehicles; and*

*(e) vehicles approved as emergency vehicles by the board.*

*The driver of an emergency vehicle being operated in accordance with subsection (1) has the right of way over all other vehicles on the highway.*

*The driver of an emergency vehicle exercising any of the privileges granted by this Act shall drive and park with due regard for safety, having regard to all the circumstances including:*

- (a) the nature, condition and use of the highway;*
- (b) the amount of traffic that is, or might reasonably be expected to be on the highway; and*
- (c) the nature of and the use of the vehicle at the time.*

People, including pedestrians, must be given an opportunity to either yield the right of way or to get out of the way. Careless operation of the vehicle can result in liability regardless of the legislation.

Emergency lights and sirens are regulated by the "Vehicle Equipment Regulations, 1987" which has the following excerpts.

*No person shall equip a vehicle other than an emergency vehicle with an emergency device or an emergency light.*

*No person shall drive a vehicle that is equipped with an emergency device or an emergency light on a highway, unless the vehicle is an emergency vehicle.*

*Unless otherwise directed by a peace officer, the driver of a vehicle on a highway shall, when approached by an emergency vehicle sounding an emergency device or operating an emergency light, immediately drive as close as possible to the right-hand edge of the highway and shall not enter the next intersection until the emergency vehicle has passed.*

*Except where otherwise permitted or required in these regulations or permitted by the administrator, no vehicle driven on a highway shall be equipped with:*

- (a) a lamp that emits a white light facing to the rear;*
- (b) a lamp that emits a red light facing to the front;*
- (c) a lamp that emits a blue or green light;*
- (d) a white or blue flashing lamp; or*
- (e) any additional lamp or equipment that impairs the effectiveness of the lamps required by these regulations.*

*A police vehicle may be fitted with one or more red beacons, one or more blue beacons and a siren.*

*An ambulance may be fitted with one or more red beacons, one or more white beacons and a siren.*

*A fire fighting vehicle may be fitted with one or more red beacons and a siren.*

Fire Departments should be conversant with the Highways Act and Regulations pertaining to the operation of an emergency vehicle. Are all fire department vehicles in your department conforming to the Act and Regulations? One area of concern is that many fire departments have vehicles placed in service without the Highway Traffic Board declaring the vehicle an "emergency vehicle".

Highway Traffic Board,  
2260 11th Avenue,  
Regina, S4P 2N7  
Inquiry 775-6674

## **Occupational Health and Safety Act**

The Occupational Health and Safety Act provides for the health and safety of workers on the job. Both the employer and the worker have duties and responsibilities to ensure that the place of work or work site is maintained and operated in a safe manner.

Regulations under the act provide for safety in general and in specific areas of operation including fire fighting under Part XXXII, Additional Protection for Fire Fighters. The regulations covering fire fighting have a code of practice that is an explanatory document to assist in interpreting and understanding the regulations. The code of practice included in this section is not an official document and the OH&S Branch should be consulted regarding any part of the regulation or code of practice.

## Application of Part

**480** This Part applies to fire fighters who are engaged in emergency operations on a full-time or part-time basis and their employers, but does not apply to:

- (a) fire fighters fighting prairie or forest fires that the department, as defined in *The Prairie and Forest Fires Act, 1982*:
  - (i) is responsible for, pursuant to subsection 8(2) of that Act; or
  - (ii) takes action to control and extinguish, pursuant to subsection 8(3) of that Act; or
- (b) fire fighters fighting fires underground at mines.

This section provides that Part XXXII applies to fire fighting services engaged in emergency operations employed for fire protection or prevention.

This Code of Practice does not pertain to fire fighting services engaged in fighting fires at underground mine sites or certain fire fighters under the direction of a provincial government agency engaged in the suppression of prairie or forest fires.

## Plan for Response to emergency incident

**481(1)** An employer, in consultation with the committee, shall develop a written plan that established the procedures to be followed by fire fighters in response to an emergency incident.

(2) A plan required by subsection (1) must include:

- (a) identification of standard fire fighting functions or evolutions, including functions or evolutions that must be performed simultaneously;
- (b) the minimum number of fire fighters required to perform safely each identified fire fighting function or evolution, based on written standard operating procedures;
- (c) the number and types of fire fighting vehicles and fire fighters required for the initial response to each type of emergency incident to which the fire fighters will be expected to respond;
- (d) the total complement of fire fighting vehicles and fire fighters to be dispatched for each type of emergency incident;
- (e) a description of a typical emergency operation, including alarm time, response time, arrival sequence, responsibility for initiating standard operating procedures necessary to protect the health and safety of fire fighters;
- (f) an incident management system; and
- (g) a personnel accountability system.

(3) An employer shall:

- (a) ensure that the plan developed pursuant to subsection (1) is implemented; and
- (b) make a copy of the plan readily available for reference by fire fighters.

This regulation requires fire departments to have in place a written plan comprised of procedures for all emergency operations that the fire department provides and further requires that all fire fighters employed in the fire department receive instruction on those procedures developed by the department that the fire fighter may reasonably be expected to encounter.

This does not require a fire department too rewrite the guidelines, pre-fire plans, policies, or standard operating procedures that they already have in place. It does require that this documentation be reviewed and organized to ensure that it addresses the topics identified in subsection (2).

The systematic review procedure by the committee is a fundamental component of the internal responsibility system. Done co-operatively, it will ensure that fire fighting operations are conducted in a safe, effective and efficient manner.

A fire department may perform any number of services, and to any level, based on the resources and technical expertise that the fire department has available. Each employer must determine exactly what service(s) the fire department will provide and identify the level or standard to which each service will be performed. Once these decisions have been made it is necessary that the employer clearly communicates to fire fighters what is expected from them as employees. The means of communicating

and maintaining this information is through written plan comprised of guidelines, standard operating procedures (SOPs) , and policies.

Clauses 481(2)(a) to (e) require specific planning for fire department job duties, response and tactical operations at an emergency operation to be written out in the form of a guideline or a procedures. The starting material could be pre-developed guides or models. These must be adapted to suit the available resources and conditions based on local situations.

Clause 481 (2)(f) requires a specific incident management system to be adopted or developed by the fire department for use at emergency operations to provide structure and coordination to the management of emergency incident operation in order to provide for the health and safety of fire department members and other persons involved in those activities.

The incident management system must be written and incorporated into the plan required by section 481 (1) and it should ensure:

- adequate communication to enable fire fighters to adequately understand their responsibilities during an assigned task.
- adequate coordination to prevent conflicting activities and to ensure that a proper sequence is followed while conducting an assigned task by one or more agencies.
- adequate risk assessment prior to intervention.
- proper assignment of adequate number of adequately trained fire fighters to conduct an assigned task.

Clause 481 (2)(g) requires a personnel accountability system which provides for the effective accounting of the personnel involved at the scene of the incident.

Both the requirements of subsections 481 (2)(f) and (g) may be satisfied by a number of systems that are available and recognized by the fire service. The type and complexity of these systems will depend on local conditions and anticipated operations.

The choice of the system shall be made in consultation with the committee.

The personnel accountability system must enable the:

- identification of fire fighters arriving at the scene of an incident
- identification of fire fighters entering and leaving hazardous areas
- tracking of fire fighters and other support personnel by both location and function.

### **Training of fire fighters**

**482(1)** An employer shall ensure that:

- (a) all fire fighters receive the training necessary to ensure that the fire fighter is able to carry out safely any emergency operation that the fire fighter will be expected to carry out;
- (b) the training required by clause (a) is provided by competent persons; and
- (c) a written record is kept of all training delivered to fire fighters pursuant to this Part.

(2) An employer shall ensure that every fire fighting vehicle is operated by a competent operator.

This section requires the provision of training that is adequate to ensure that fire fighters are able to safely perform the emergency operations that the fire fighter is expected to carry out as identified by subsection 481 (2)(a).

The training needs must be established in consultation with the committee, most commonly through a review of the operational assignments. [Act, subsection 19(c), and Regulations, section 481].

The training shall:

- address occupational health and safety hazards associated with the operational assignments
- be commensurate with the duties, functions and role that the fire fighter is expected to perform,
- address procedures required to perform the operational assignments including procedures for safe exit from dangerous areas in the event of equipment failure or sudden changes in conditions,

- address the incident management system and the personnel accountability systems used by the fire department.
- address safe operation of equipment that is required to perform the operational assignments.
- be provided before the fire fighter is permitted to engage in emergency operations, except on-the-job training assignments conducted under close supervision.
- be provided by competent persons. A competent person includes an individual who has expertise or abilities in subject areas whether or not the person is a member of a fire department.
- be reviewed periodically in consultation with the committee to ensure its adequacy.

The Office of the Fire Commissioner publishes a Training System Guide for courses available through the Office of the Fire Commissioner. Training may be obtained through the courses offered by the Office of the Fire Commissioner or fire departments may design and implement their own training courses provided that the requirement of 482 (1)(b) is met.

The Office of the Fire Commissioner provides training and certification for Fire Service Instructors to ensure that fire fighter training is delivered following a high standards.

Clause 482 (1)(c) requires written records of training for all fire fighters within the department. Records should include names of persons who have received the training, the nature of the training and the dates when the training was provided.

Subsection 482 (2) requires that any person operating fire fighting vehicles is competent. This means that the operator has sufficient knowledge, training and experience to do so in a safe, effective and efficient manner. Because fire fighting vehicles handle quite differently from ordinary vehicles, a person must have training, knowledge and experience to be able to safely operate fire fighting vehicles.

#### **General standards for vehicles and equipment**

**483** An employer, contractor or owner shall ensure that all fire fighting vehicles and all equipment for use in emergency operations are designed, constructed, operated, maintained, inspected and repaired so as to protect adequately the health and safety of fire fighters.

This section requires the employer, contractor or owner to:

- examine the vehicles and equipment according to manufacturer's specifications to ensure fire fighters' safety while the vehicle or equipment is being used;
- test the equipment to ensure it will perform as expected;
- determine the limitations of the equipment based on current standards;
- educate fire fighters about these limitations;
- not allow the use of any equipment beyond its limitations in a manner that endangers the health or safety of fire fighters;
- ensure the equipment is used and maintained according to manufacturer's specifications.

For example, fire fighting vehicles should be adequately constructed (preferably to a standards, but that is not mandatory) and adequately maintained. In other words, the vehicle must be road worthy.

#### **Securing of equipment, etc., in vehicles**

**484** Where equipment or personal protective equipment is carried within a seating area of a fire fighting vehicle, an employer, contractor or owner shall ensure that:

- (a) the items of equipment are secured:
  - (i) by a positive mechanical means of holding the item in a stowed position; or
  - (ii) in a compartment with a positive latching door; and
- (b) the compartment mentioned in subclause (a)(ii) is designed to minimize injury to fire fighters in the seating area of the vehicle.

Where equipment is carried on a fire fighting vehicle, in the seating area of the vehicle, the equipment must be stored in a manner that will not create a hazard to the fire fighters in the seating area in the event

of an accident, or during normal movement of the vehicle. The intent of this section is to ensure that fire fighters are not injured by equipment that may be dislodged.

### **Inspection of fire fighting vehicles and equipment**

**485** An employer, contractor or owner shall ensure that:

- (a) all fire fighting vehicles and fire fighting equipment are inspected by a competent person for defects and unsafe conditions as often as is necessary to ensure that the vehicles and equipment are cable of safe operation;
- (b) where a defect or unsafe condition that may create a hazard to a fire fighter is identified in a fire fighting vehicle or fire fighting equipment:
  - (i) steps are taken immediately to protect the health and safety of any fire fighter who may be at risk until the defect is repaired or the unsafe condition is corrected: and
  - (ii) as soon as is reasonably practicable, the defect is repaired or the unsafe condition is corrected; and
- (c) a written record:
  - (i) is kept of all inspections carried out pursuant to clause (a);
  - (ii) is signed by the competent person who performs the inspection;
  - (iii) is kept at the place of employment and is made readily available to the committee, the representative and the fire fighters.

This regulation requires fire fighting vehicles to be maintained in good working condition so as to ensure the safety of fire fighters operating or riding on the vehicle. Where defects may result in a hazard to fire fighters operating or riding on the apparatus are found, repair or correction should be done immediately. Where repair cannot be accomplished immediately, steps must be taken to ensure all fire fighters who may be at risk from the defect(s) are notified of the defect and are protected until the defect is corrected.

The employer must establish an inspection cycle for fire fighting vehicles and fire fighting equipment. The recommended minimum schedule for fire fighting vehicles and fire fighting equipment to be inspected is:

- prior to being placed in service or used for emergency purpose, and
- within 24 hours after use or repair.

Frequency of inspection should be based on amount of use and age of the vehicle. The inspection cycles must be conducted more frequently where there is any signs of deterioration in fire fighting vehicles or fire fighting equipment that may indicate likelihood that deficiencies may occur in between inspections.

For the fire fighting equipment on the fire department vehicle (ie: pump, valves, controls), the fire department members (if competent) may test the equipment themselves following a recognized test procedure or may engage the services of a competent mechanic or service agency qualified to conduct tests.

### **Repair of fire fighting vehicles**

**486** An employer, contractor or owner shall ensure that:

- (a) all repairs to fire fighting vehicles of defects or unsafe conditions that may put at risk the health or safety of fire fighters are made in accordance with the vehicle manufacturer's instructions and by qualified persons experienced with the type of vehicle or the type of work to be performed; and
- (b) a written record:
  - (i) is kept of all repairs made to a fire fighting vehicle; and
  - (ii) is kept at the place of employment and is made readily available to the committee, the representative and the fire fighters.

Where a fire fighting vehicle has a defect or an unsafe condition that may affect the health or safety of a fire fighter (e.g. brakes, steering), this provision requires such repairs to be completed by a qualified person (e.g. journeyman mechanic) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Records of all repairs must be kept and be readily available to fire fighters.

Inspection and repair records are required so fire department members are kept informed on the condition of department vehicles. Written inspection records allow repair persons to immediately identify deficiencies, how long they have existed and assist department officers in establishing repair priorities and maintenance schedules.

### **Transportation of fire fighters**

- 487 (1)** Subject to subsection (3), an employer, contractor or owner shall ensure that:
- (a) all fire fighting vehicles are provided with safe crew accommodations within the body of the vehicle and are equipped with properly secured seats and seat-belts;
  - (b) while a fire fighting vehicle is transporting fire fighters, every fire fighter is seated and uses a seat-belt when the vehicle is in motion; and
  - (c) no fire fighter rides on the tail step, sidesteps, running boards or in a any other exposed position on a fire fighting vehicle.

The requirement for seat belts applies to vehicles transporting fire fighters. Other reasonably practicable measures should be provided to secure fire fighters who provide emergency medical care to a patient while being transported in a rescue unit.

Alternative arrangements to transport fire fighters to an emergency operation can be satisfied by a number of options, including;

- providing a specific vehicle to transport fire fighters to emergency operations
- having fire fighters respond in their own personal vehicles.

Local conditions will dictate which option is followed. The regulation requires that where fire fighters respond using alternative employer provided transportation, the employer must ensure it is safe.

Written guidelines or procedures for fire fighters responding to emergency operations in alternative transportation should be identified in the response plan required by section 481. Typically, the guidelines or procedures should establish aspects such as wearing seat belts, regulating speed, restrictions on fire fighter dress while driving and other safety factors.

Subsection 488(3) provides that fire fighters may ride on a fire fighting vehicle moving at slow speeds during certain emergency operations where it is necessary to move the fire fighting vehicle while suppression operations are taking place simultaneously, such as fighting a grass fire during “pump and roll” conditions. In such situations, a fire fighter riding on a fire fighting vehicle during emergency operations must:

- be provided with a safety device that will prevent the fire fighter from falling from the vehicle, such as a platform providing safe footing and will include safety belts or a “cage” with rails and guards;
- have an effective communication system with the vehicle operator; and
- the vehicle is restricted to low speed operation.

An “effective means of communication” will depend on the position the fire fighter is riding on the fire fighting vehicle. A fire fighter on the front bumper may only require an established set of hand signals and observation by a passenger in the front seat with the driver who would communicate to the driver any signals or directions given by the fire fighter. Where the fire fighter is on the back, side or top of the fire fighting vehicle, other more elaborate means of communication may be required.

While clause 487(3)(c) permits fire fighting vehicles to be driven up to speed of 20 km/h, this is a maximum permitted speed. In determining the speed at which to drive the vehicle, operators must take into consideration the risk faced by the fire fighter riding outside the cab of the vehicle (the terrain that is being crossed and limitations of the equipment). Some manufacturers, whose vehicle is designed for “pump and roll” operations, recommend restricting speed to much less than 20 km/h. Vehicle specifications and manufacturer’s instructions should be consulted and followed.

### **Personal protective equipment**

**487** An employer, contractor or owner shall provide to a fire fighter who engages in or is exposed to the hazards of emergency operations, and ensure that the fire fighter uses, approved personal protective equipment that is appropriate to the nature of the risk to which the fire fighter will be exposed and that is adequate to protect the health and safety of the fire fighter.

To ensure the adequacy of the personal protective equipment, contractor or owner must ensure that:

- existing equipment is examined to ascertain its approval; {Check the labels or stamps on the equipment; check any documentation or equipment specifications; contact the supplier or the approval agency.]
- existing equipment is examined to ascertain that it still performs its function and to identify any of its limitations;
- fire fighters are informed of the limitations of any existing personal protective equipment;
- fire fighters are not allowed or required to use any personal protective equipment beyond its limitation'
- existing and new equipment has no visible defects that limit its safe use;
- no equipment is used beyond its expiry date if any'
- personal protective equipment fits the fire fighter properly;
- fire fighters are trained in the care, use, inspection, maintenance and limitations of the personal protective equipment;
- personal protective equipment is used, cleaned and maintained and stored according to manufacturer's instructions;
- personal protective equipment is used whenever the fire fighter is exposed or potentially exposed to the hazards for which it's provided;
- the fire fighter is instructed in identifying to the employer any defects that the fire fighter may find in the personal protective equipment;
- Any identified defects are corrected or otherwise an action is taken by the employer to limit the use of the equipment.

### **Interior structural fire fighting**

**488** Where fire fighters are required or permitted to engage in interior structural fire fighting, an employer shall ensure that:

- (a) the fire fighters work in teams; and
- (b) a suitably equipped rescue team is readily available outside the structure to rescue an endangered fire fighter if the fire fighter's SCBA fails or the fire fighter becomes incapacitated for any other reason.

Where the employer plans to engage fire fighters in interior structural fire fighting the employer is required to establish teams that include fire fighters and rescue teams.

The plan required by Section 481 must include preparedness for rescue of fire fighters.

This regulation requires that fire fighter **not** enter a structure alone and that where fire fighters are operating within a structure, a team of suitably equipped fire fighters are readily available to perform rescue should a fire fighter, engaged in interior structural fire fighting, become endangered or incapacitated during the emergency operation.

A team must be available for rescue during interior structural fire fighting operations and **not** other engaged in any activities that limit their availability to effect a prompt rescue.

### **Personal alert safety system**

**490** (1) An employer, contractor or owner shall provide each fire fighter who enters a structure during fire fighting with an approved personal alarm safety system (PASS) device and ensure that the fire fighter uses the device.

- (2) An employer, contractor or owner shall ensure that each PASS device is tested at least monthly and before each use, and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

This provision requires that all fire fighters, who enter a structure during an emergency operation, are to be equipped with PASS device. It also requires that the PASS device be tested monthly and before use and maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions.

A PASS device may be activated manually by the wearer, activate automatically based on non-movement of the wearer in a predetermined amount of time, and may include automatic activation of the alarm due to temperature.

The PASS device is one component of an overall safety system to be utilized on the fire ground during emergency operations. Plans developed under section 481 must include guidelines on the use of a PASS device.

A clearly defined incident command system; a personnel accountability system; clear guidelines, policies, and standard operating procedures; and training covering fire department operations are critical to the safety of the fire fighter. Fire ground tactical operations and the situation facing the fire department during the emergency will dictate when a PASS device is an important safety item and when it is not.

### **Safety ropes, harnesses and hardware**

**491** An employer, contractor shall provide for use by a fire fighter approved safety ropes, harnesses and hardware that are appropriate to the nature of the risk to which the fire fighter will be exposed and adequate to protect the health and safety of the fire fighter, and ensure that the fire fighter uses them.

To ensure the adequacy of the safety ropes, harness and hardware the employer, contractor or owner must ensure that:

- existing safety ropes, harness and hardware are examined to ascertain that they still perform their function and to identify any of their limitations; [Check the labels or stamps on the equipment; check any documentation or equipment specifications; contact the supplier or the approval agency.]
- fire fighters are informed of the limitations of any safety ropes, harness and hardware;
- fire fighters are not allowed or required to use any safety ropes, harness and hardware beyond their limitations;
- existing and new safety ropes harness and hardware have no visible defects that limit their safe use;
- safety ropes, harness and hardware are used, cleaned, maintained and stored according to manufacturer's instructions;
- the fire fighter is instructed in identifying to the employer any defects that the fire fighter may find in safety ropes, harness and hardware;
- any identified defects are corrected or otherwise an action is taken by the employer to limit the use of the equipment.

The exemption provided in subsection 166(2) of *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 1996*, allows fire fighters to work on ladders attached to extending booms on powered mobile equipment while the boom or equipment is moving. In the emergency response plan required by section 481, the employer, contractor or owner must address:

- the risks of falling from elevated heights, **including** the ladders on extending booms, and
- the provision of protection against falling.

### Standards

#### **Bureau de normalisation du Quebec (BNQ)**

Bureau de normalisation du Quebec

Quebec, Quebec

Telephone: (418) 652-2238 Fax: (418) 646-3315

**Canadian General Standards Board**

Canadian General Standards Board  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1G6  
Telephone: 1-800-665-2472 Fax: (819) 941-8705

**Canadian Standards Association**

Catalogue of national standards of Canada  
Specific standards  
Call toll free: 1-800-463-6727 Fax: (416) 747-2475  
Or mail order form to:  
CSA  
Sales Department  
178 Rexdale Blvd.  
Etobicoke, ON M9W 1R3

**National Fire Protection Association**

National Fire Protection Association  
Customer Service  
11 Tracy Drive  
Avon, MA 02322  
U.S.A.  
Telephone: 1-800-344-3555 Fax: 1-800-593-6372

**National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)**

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health  
4676 Columbia Parkway  
Cincinnati, Ohio 4226  
Telephone: (513) 533-8326 and ask for a technical information specialist Fax: (513) 533-8347

**Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)**

U.S. Department of Labour/OSHA  
Publications Office  
Room N3101  
200 Constitution Avenue N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20210  
Telephone: (202) 219-4667 Fax: (202) 219-9266

**Underwriters Laboratories of Canada**

Underwriters Laboratories of Canada  
7 Crouse Road  
Scarborough, ON M1R 3A9  
Telephone: (416) 757-3611 Fax: (416) 757-8915

**Contact for Additional Information**

**Saskatchewan Labour**

Occupational Health and Safety Division  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Saskatchewan Place  
1870 Albert Street  
Regina, SK S4P 3V7  
Telephone: (306) 787-4496

**OR**

Call toll-free 1-800-567-SAFE (7233)

**Saskatchewan Labour**

Occupational Health and Safety Division  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sturdy Stone  
122-3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 2H6  
Telephone: (306) 933-5052

## **Environmental Acts**

Environmental Spill Control Regulations provide that municipal employees must report spills as soon as they are aware of them. The minister's consent is required for the disposal of any spilled pollutant. Fire departments responding to dangerous goods incidents must ensure that Saskatchewan Environment is aware of the incident, and obtain permission (or ensure the person cleaning up the spill has permission) for disposal of any materials cleaned up.

The Clean Air Act exempts fires used for training of fire fighters or for fire control or prevention from the requirement of a permit under this Act. However, the effect of training fires should still be carefully considered. Without precautions the fire or smoke could be a source of liability if it damages property.

The Environmental Management and Protection Act provides that the owner, the person having control or the person responsible for the pollutant, can be ordered to take whatever steps necessary to protect or restore the environment from an unauthorized discharge. The person can be liable for damages caused by the release, unless reasonable steps were taken to prevent the discharge. Any discharge must be reported to the minister. Fire departments involved in a spill, or in a fire where there are hazardous or dangerous goods will have to consider these requirements. Failure to take proper actions to contain or minimize contamination could result in some degree of responsibility for the fire department.

In the event of an environmental accident call:

1-800-667-7525

General Information (306) 787-2700

## **Standards**

A STANDARD is an informational document that stipulates the technical requirements for the safety and/or performance of products, processes and services. Standards may also dictate uniform dimensions of material or devices for consumer or commercial use. The Standards Council of Canada regulates standards.

### **The Standards Council of Canada**

The Standards Council of Canada (SCC) was established by an Act of Parliament "to foster and promote voluntary standardization" in Canada "as a means of advancing the national economy, benefiting the health, safety and welfare of the public, assisting and protecting consumers, facilitating domestic and international trade and furthering international cooperation in the field of standards. The Council is concerned with voluntary standardization "in fields relating to the construction, manufacture, production, quality, performance and safety of buildings and other goods, including components thereof, not expressly provided for by law..."

The Standards Council of Canada (SCC) carries out its mandate through the National Standards System (NSS). The NSS is comprised of Council-accredited organizations concerned with standards writing, certification, and testing, whose activities are coordinated by the Council. Accredited Standards Writing Organizations (SWOs) submit standards to the Council for approval as National Standards of Canada (NSCs). This approval indicates that a standard conforms to the criteria and procedures established by the Council, but does not indicate that a review of the technical content of a standard has been made by the Council. This remains the continuing responsibility of the accredited SWOs.

Another important activity of the NSS is the assurance of an effective Canadian presence in international standardization activities. The Canadian National Committees (CNCs) on the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) coordinate Canadian participation in this work. There are a number of Standards Writing Organizations and certification organizations accredited by the Council. In this handbook information on the three most commonly known certification agencies (CSA, ULC and CGSB) is provided. The Standards Council should be contacted for a full listing.

Standard Council of Canada  
350 Sparks Street  
Suite 1200  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 6N7  
Tel: (613) 238-3222 Fax: (613) 995-4564

## **Fire Protection/Prevention Standards**

The fire service has a large number of standards that apply to equipment, qualifications and operations. Keep in mind that standards are usually minimums. Higher standards can be applied. Further, the standards could be changed to meet specific local circumstances, but the reason for the change should be stated.

The Canadian Standards Association (CSA), Underwriters Laboratories Canada (ULC) and Underwriters Laboratories Incorporated (UL) set standards for equipment and test equipment and building materials, safety features of vehicles, protective equipment and so on. Other organizations such as Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB), and bureau de nationalisation du Quebec (BNQ) also provide similar testing and standards that may be referenced in regulations. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has approximately 200 individual standards, codes and accepted practices covering fire safety, equipment, operations, systems, training and qualifications for fire departments and personnel. These standards are often referenced in other regulations to determine performance. These standards are being continually updated and expanded.

Fire department officers should be aware of all these standards and use them to develop appropriate procedures for the department.

## **Canadian Standards Association**

The Canadian Standards Association (CSA), chartered in 1919, was the first organization in Canada formed exclusively to develop industrial standards. An independent, private sector organization, it is Canada's largest standards writing body. Since CSA, and other standard development and testing agencies, are not part of any government they have no legislative powers. However compliance with standards are often referenced in laws and codes. The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) tests and certifies various equipment used in Canada.

Canadian Standards Association  
50 Paramount Road  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2X 2W3  
(204) 632-6633 Fax: (204) 632-1796

## **Canadian General Standards Board**

The Canadian General Standards Board is a Federal Government agency within the Department of Supply and Services. It is engaged in the production of voluntary standards in a wide range of subject areas. Standards committees are comprised of producers, consumers, retailers, governments, educational institutions, technical, professional, and trade societies, and research and test organizations. Any given standard is developed on the consensus of views expressed by such representatives. CGSB standards are subject to review at any time. Suggestions for improvement should be brought to the attention of the standards committees concerned.

An up to date listing of CGSB standards, including details on latest issues and amendments, and ordering instructions, will be found in the Catalogue of Standards and Qualification and Certification Listings which is published annually and is available without charge upon request.

Canadian General Standards Board  
Ottawa, Canada K1A 1G6  
Tel: (819) 956-0400  
Fax: (819) 956-4716

## Underwriters Laboratories of Canada - ULC

Underwriters Laboratories of Canada is a non-profit organization which maintains and operates laboratories and a certification service or the examination, testing and classification of devices, construction materials, and systems to determine their relation to life, fire and property hazards. ULC also develops and publishes standards, classifications and specifications for products having a bearing on fire, accident, or property hazards.

ULC is accredited by the Standards Council of Canada as a Certification Organization, and a Standards Writing Organization under the National Standards System of Canada. The listings of ULC are recognized generally across Canada by various federal, provincial, and municipal authorities and insurance inspection agencies.

Underwriters Laboratories of Canada  
7 Crouse Road  
Scarborough, Ontario  
MIR 3A9  
(416) 757-3611

It should be noted that Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (ULI) is also accredited as a testing agency for products tested to Canadian Standards. The products will have the ULI logo with a "C" on the label.

## Worker's Compensation Board

Worker's Compensation Board  
200-1881 Scarth Street  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 4L1

### YOU ARE COVERED...

...under the Workers' Compensation Act of Saskatchewan, whether you are a volunteer fire fighter or a full-time fire fighter. Like workers in other sectors, you are protected against loss of income due to injuries arising out of and in the course of employment.

### Volunteer Fire Fighters

Members of municipal volunteer fire brigades are covered while fighting fires and attending practices regardless of whether or not they are paid. Protection is restricted to regular members of a brigade and persons who are drafted to assist in fighting a fire by the fire chief or other duly authorized person. Community or district fire brigades, organized and operated by a community or group of individuals, are to be covered through one of the urban or rural municipalities in which they operate. This municipality, as agent, must maintain a list of the names of the members of the brigade and the names of the municipalities to be serviced. Any payroll expended for fire fighting or claims on behalf of individual fire fighters are then to be reported to the Workers' Compensation Board by the agent municipality. Claims are charged to the municipality in which the accident occurs.

Volunteer fire fighters are covered on the basis of earnings from their usual employment. Employers who carry personal coverage through their own assessment account with the Board are compensated at the amount of such coverage. Farmers and employers acting as volunteer firemen who have no personal compensation protection are covered at the current minimum.

### B. Full-time Fire Fighters

Fire fighters are covered by the Workers' Compensation Act in the same manner as workers in other sectors. If a fire fighter is injured while on duty, or becomes ill as a result of fire fighting duties, that injury or illness is considered compensable. Medical evidence is required to support any claim. A fire fighter's claim of injury or illness will be rejected only if it is determined not to be work-related.

Any decision to reject a claim is subject to appeal. If you disagree with the initial decision on your claim, you may appeal to the WCB Appeals Committee. If you disagree with the Appeals Committee decision, you may request consideration of the matter by the Board Members. This is the final level of appeal.

### C. Fire Fighters in Training

Supervised training exercises, or authorized meetings, or other work-related circumstances are considered part of your employment. Therefore, while you are engaged in these activities you are covered by the Workers' Compensation Act.

### D. Reporting an Injury

If you are injured at work, complete and submit a Workers' Report of Injury to the Board. These forms should be available from your employer or call the phone number(s) below. When completing the report please remember:

- Complete the entire form as all the questions are important.
- If there is anything you do not understand, phone the Board for assistance.
- Send or bring the report to the Board as soon as possible (no later than six months).

For more information phone:

(306) 787-4370

Toll Free 1-800-667-7590

Fax: (306) 787-3915

## CANUTEC

For immediate advice on a transport emergency: spill, leak, fire, exposure, call collect: (613) 996-6666  
Information (non-emergency) Number: (613) 992-4624

CANUTEC is the Canadian Transport Emergency Centre. It is located in Ottawa as part of the Transport Dangerous Goods Directorate, Transport Canada. CANUTEC provides immediate advice and scientific data to those who respond to emergencies involving dangerous goods such as a fire, spill, leak, or human exposure. CANUTEC can also, through standing agreements, contact product specialists to provide further assistance.

When an emergency call is received by CANUTEC, the Emergency Response Advisor on duty obtains relevant information about the emergency and recommends appropriate response actions for the protection of the public and the stabilization and containment of the dangerous goods involved. The Advisor provides technical information regarding the physical, chemical, toxicological, and other properties of the products involved; recommend remedial action for fires, spills, leaks; provides advice on protective clothing and first aid; and contacts the shipper, manufacturer or any other organization the caller requests or the advisor deems necessary. Every effort should be made by emergency response personnel to maintain an open telephone line to ensure prompt communication links on behalf of the site command.

CANUTEC is not a reporting agency. Incidents where the Centre is called must still be reported to the proper authorities.

In the event of an emergency, the CANUTEC officer will ask for the following information:

- Caller's name/organization
- Call back number/location
- Product identification\*\*\* \*\*\*Note: The correct spelling of the product name is imperative.
- Problem details
- Type of vehicle/packaging
- Number of injuries/deaths
- Time
- Emergency location
- Environmental location
- Environmental/local conditions
- Help on-site/requested
- Shipper/origin
- Manufacturer

- Carrier
- Consignee/destination
- Call sign/car/tractor/trailer/flight number
- Bill of lading/waybill number

These details are recorded for protection of the parties involved and are held in confidence.

Response Guides may be obtained;  
 Dangerous Goods Initial Emergency Response Guide  
 CCG-P Code: 031801  
 Canada Communication Group-Publishing  
 Ottawa, CANADA KIA OS9  
 Telephone: (819) 956-4802  
 Fax: (819) 994-1498

## **Saskatchewan Emergency Planning (SEP)**

Formally Saskatchewan Emergency Measures Organization, Saskatchewan Emergency Planning offers emergency preparedness workshops and seminars dealing with specific emergency situations. Staff also arrange for representatives from Saskatchewan to attend courses and seminars conducted at the Canadian Emergency Preparedness College. SEP assists communities in developing and conducting simulated emergency response exercises, to evaluate and enhance the community's response capability.

Saskatchewan Emergency Planning  
 1855 Victoria Avenue  
 Regina, Saskatchewan  
 S4P 3V7  
 (306) 787-9563

For major incidents requiring evacuation, response of more than two government agencies, or implementation of an emergency plan call:  
 Regina (306) 787-9563  
 Local EMO Co-ordinator

SEP operates under the Emergency Planning Act, which provides authority to co-ordinate provincial planning, training and response operations for the safety of residents and protection of property during emergencies and disasters.

It is the responsibility of the "Local Authority" (council) to initiate the development of a local emergency plan, and establish a local emergency response group. SEP staff will advise and assist communities in the development and maintenance of emergency preparedness programs.

For incidents over-extending local capabilities, or requiring the assistance of TWO or more provincial departments, or ONE or more federal departments, SEP should be notified.

Provincial assistance through the Saskatchewan Emergency Planning is available once local resources have been fully committed and/or these are clearly inadequate to handle the emergency.