



# RESCON®

RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION  
COUNCIL OF ONTARIO

May 1, 2011

To: All Members

Please be advised that the Ministry of Labour will be conducting a blitz of the low rise residential sector across Ontario until May 31<sup>st</sup> 2011. This includes subdivisions, infill construction sites, and homes under renovation where the total cost of labour and materials for the project exceeds \$50,000. During this campaign, Inspectors will take a “zero tolerance” approach to contraventions found under the Occupational Health & Safety Act and its regulations for Construction Projects. The blitz will focus on the following critical areas of concerns:

- Fall Protection - focusing on framing and roofing. Inspectors will check that workers are properly trained in the safe use of fall protection components and equipment
- Site Excavations & Trenching – Inspectors will be checking that trenches and excavations are properly sloped, shored using engineered or hydraulic support systems or shielded with prefabricated support systems (i.e. trench boxes)
- Concrete Form-Setting Operations – Inspectors will check that workers are properly trained in the design, set-up, building and inspection of foundation and basement construction
- Overexertion – Inspectors will check that workers are trained in proper lifting, pulling and pushing of materials and that written measures, procedures and supervision are in place.
- Safe Use of Access Equipment – Inspectors will check that workers are adequately trained in the use and maintenance of vehicles, machinery, tools and equipment (such as ramps, stairs, ladders, scaffolds, work platforms and power elevating work platforms)
- Noisy Environments – Inspectors will ensure adequate hearing protection is worn as needed to protect workers from exposure to excess noise
- Hazardous Chemicals – Inspectors will ensure workers are trained in the safe use of chemicals and other toxic substances
- New & Young Workers – Inspectors will ensure compliance with OSHA, particularly requirements that address: worker training, the provision and maintenance of personal protective equipment; written measures and procedures; minimum age requirements (age 16 years); and adequate supervision. For compulsory trades, strict compliance with O. Regulation 572/99 Training Requirements for Certain Skill Sets and Trades will be checked.

As you can see, this blitz is much more comprehensive than in previous years. Please advise the appropriate personnel and sub-trades accordingly. A copy of the Enforcement Campaign has been attached for your reference. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (905) 760 7777, ext 103

Sincerely

Jason Ottey

Director of Research & Policy