Safety Groups Program

This PSHSA Fast Facts is intended to provide employers with information about the WSIB Safety Groups Program, including how the program works, the benefits of joining and participation eligibility and requirements.

What is the Safety Group Program?

The WSIB Safety Group Program (SGP) guides employers in the integration of health and safety into their management system. The program includes a structured learning and networking approach for sustainable results. Membership is voluntary and each group is lead (sponsored) by a WSIB-approved organization (such as PSHSA).

The safety group's objective is to bring similar organizations together to develop better health and safety practices. The goal is to eliminate workplace injuries and illness, and to reduce WSIB costs. This is a great opportunity to network, increase occupational health and safety knowledge and share resources.

How Does the Safety Group Program Work

Each firm selects five safety elements identified as key organizational goals to address and improve. Participants learn how to implement these initiatives by attending safety group meetings, and through the collective sharing of ideas and resources with other group members.

Safety groups are eligible for a WSIB rebate, if certain criteria are met.

Why Join a Safety Group?

Safety group participants are eligible for a potential six-per-cent rebate of WSIB group premiums based on the entire group's ability to successfully implement and sustain their safety elements. Firms that successfully implement their safety elements may also achieve enhanced employee morale, greater productivity, improved quality and a decrease in absenteeism.

In 2008, the efforts of PSHSA Safety Group members resulted in a 92% WSIB achievement score and as a result, they shared a WSIB rebate of $508,131.96! Even more importantly, their excellent work brought many enhancements to their health and safety programs, and a healthier and safer workplace!

PSHSA Safety Group Program Eligibility

Safety Group participants must:

- Have commitment from the Owner or Senior management
- Create or enhance your workplace safety culture
- Be a Schedule 1 firm and in rate group 851, 852, 853, 857, 858, 861 or 875
- Be in good standing with the WSIB
- Commit to participate at least one full calendar year
- Participate in one safety group at a time
- Not be a member of the Safe Communities Incentive Program (SCIP)

Participation Requirements

To maintain Safety Group status and be eligible for the financial rebate, you must complete the following:

1. Participate in at least three safety group meetings
2. Complete the baseline and year-end strength and weakness assessments of your health and safety program
3. Develop and implement an action plan for the selected safety group elements and associated goals
4. Keep PSHSA (your sponsor) informed of your progress
5. Submit a year-end achievement report documenting your program accomplishments

To learn more, visit www.pshsa.ca or contact a PSHSA consultant.

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