



BCFED Health & Safety centre is your

Health & Safety Centre

The law

135 Educational leave

(1) Each member of a joint committee is entitled to an annual educational leave totaling 8 hours, or a longer period if prescribed by regulation, for the purposes of attending occupational health and safety training courses conducted by or with the approval of the Board.

(2) A member of the joint committee may designate another member as being entitled to take all or part of the member's educational leave.

(3) The employer must provide the educational leave under this section without loss of pay or other benefits and must pay for, or reimburse the worker for, the costs of the training course and the reasonable costs of attending the course.

- ✓ Workplaces with more than 20 employees are legally required to have a workplace Joint Health and Safety Committee. Workplaces with less than 20 employees have a worker-designated Health and Safety Representative.
- ✓ Section 135 of the **Workers Compensation Act** requires employers to pay for Committee members' course fees and time off the job to attend, annually, WCB-approved health and safety training of the Committee members' choice.
- ✓ The labour movement fought for this education entitlement in 1999 when the **WCB Regulations** went through major revisions.
- ✓ Section 135 ensures that the Health and Safety Committee members have

the opportunity to develop core foundation skills and ongoing hazard-specific knowledge so they can effectively address workplace hazards.

- ✓ The BCFED Health & Safety Centre receives 100 percent of its funding from WCB, and all Centre courses are WCB approved. The Centre is the only publicly-provided training in BC that is delivered from a worker's perspective.
- ✓ To attend a course of your choosing, put forward your request to the Joint Health and Safety Committee. The Employer cannot unreasonably deny your request. Disagreements are handled by the WCB. If you are denied, contact your Union Rep or the BCFED Health & Safety Centre.

You have the right...use it!

Ensure the Union Health and Safety Representatives in your workplace are aware of this provision in the law to fully utilize their annual entitlement.

We offer many learning opportunities

- ✓ We will deliver training in any area of British Columbia, as long as there is a minimum of 10 participants. Private training sessions can be arranged upon request for any workplace or union as long as the minimum is met.
- ✓ Anyone can attend the BCFED Health & Safety Centre training courses.
- ✓ Course fees are kept exceptionally low (\$85 per person) to prevent cost being a barrier to attendance.
- ✓ Our courses cover both provincially and federally regulated Health and Safety legislation.
- ✓ All our courses are approved by WCB, and meet the educational criteria required by the **Regulations**. Not all training offered by training providers is WCB approved.

Our courses for 2010-2011

- Occupational Health & Safety Part 1 (Basic)
- Incident Investigations
- Understanding and Preventing Stress in the Workplace
- Strains, Aches & Pains: What Joint Health & Safety Committees Need to Know about Ergonomics
- Prevention of Violence in the Workplace
- Occupational Health & Safety Part 2 (Advanced)
- Ergonomics for Drivers and Equipment Operators
- Chemical Hazards in the Workplace

Through our partnership with the Workers Health & Safety Centre in Ontario, we are able to offer additional hazard-specific courses not listed here. Contact the Centre if you have specific training needs.

- ✓ The BCFED Health & Safety Centre also provides Education in three other unique programs on workers' Health & Safety rights:
 - Alive After Five – targeting young workers;
 - Temporary Foreign Workers; and
 - Health & Safety through ESL.

Contact the Centre for information on these areas.



Prevention Through Education

B.C. Federation of Labour (CLC) 

 

www.healthandsafetybc.ca

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