



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, HUMAN RESOURCES & EQUITY

TO: Business Board

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DATE: April 24, 2006 for May 3, 2006

AGENDA ITEM: 4(a)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:
Health and Safety Annual Report, 2005

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Business Board is responsible for reviewing the annual report on environmental health and safety and for ensuring that the University is in compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

This is an annual report

HIGHLIGHTS:

This report summarizes the major activities and progress made in addressing health and safety issues at the University during 2005. Highlights include the following

1. The level of performance of our 52 joint health and safety committees declined through 2005, with only around half of them meeting the regulated requirements for committee structure and frequency of meeting. The effectiveness of committees will be addressed through 2006.
2. The incidence and severity of reportable accidents declined in 2005. There were no critical injuries. The incidence of accidents in the caretaking group has continued its steady decline. In other groups the performance over the past five years is essentially flat-lined.

As in previous years, strains and sprains accounted for most accidents, followed by falls and contact with a moving or stationary object.

3. The Asbestos Advisory Committee was active throughout 2005, ensuring that the University is well placed to implement the more stringent requirements for asbestos control contained in new regulations introduced in November 2005. (Ont. Reg. 278/05)
4. The Office of Environmental Health and Safety trained 3820 people on various aspects of health and safety in 2005 through 188 training sessions covering 28 topics. Health promotion activities, such as sun awareness, and cardiovascular fitness, provided by Health and Well-being Programs and Services continued to be popular with university employees.
5. We continue efforts to reduce the amount of chemical and radioactive wastes produced.
6. The University was subject to two audits of its radiation protection program by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. A security audit resulted in 14 action notices and a “Type 1” inspection resulted in one Action Notice and one Directive. These audits have been responded to and necessary action is being taken.
8. We received Ministry of Labour Work Orders for two non-compliance situations in 2005; one relating to the use of an x-ray machine and the other to the need for a joint health and safety committee and inspections. We note that all are requirements relating to these orders are completed.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

None at this time

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Business Board receive the report.