



# University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, HUMAN RESOURCES & EQUITY

TO: Business Board

SPONSOR: Angela Hildyard  
CONTACT INFO: 416 978 4865  
Angela.hildyard@utoronto.ca

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AGENDA ITEM: 6

## **ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

### **Health and Safety Report, 2004**

## **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 2004. Highlights include the following

1. A significant improvement in the operation of our 48 health and safety committees. Where appropriate, committees are being reorganized; we have increased the number of certified members from 122 to 154.
2. The total time off work due to accidents increased significantly to 1689 days in comparison to 901 days lost in 2003. However, closer analysis of the data indicates that 5 incidents accounted for over 40% of the total time lost. Further, according to WSIB, the severity of 3 of these cases was related to a pre-existing condition. Finally, we note that 50% of all accidents required no more than up to 5 days off work.

The majority of accidents continue to be strains/sprains, falls and contact with a moving or stationary object.

The University undertook an assessment of injury patterns within Caretaking and developed a pilot project to evaluate the impact of changing one piece of cleaning equipment. We will continue to monitor the data and introduce other pilot programs as appropriate.

3. We have initiated an Asbestos Surveillance program and will be initiating a Medical Surveillance program for researchers in the CANFAR Level III lab.
4. We have increased our focus on Health Promotion with a number open houses, workshops and special events.
5. We continue efforts to “bulk” chemical and “compact” radioactive wastes.
6. With respect to Asbestos, we continue to make progress in cleanup, abatement and hazard reduction. As noted in point 3 above, we have also introduced a voluntary surveillance program for employees conducting Type 2 or Type 3 work.
7. Training on a full range of health and safety issues has increased significantly over the past 3 weeks. We plan to continue this growth, including the development of web-based training modules.
8. We list the Ministry of Labour Work Orders for 2004, and note that all are completed.

#### **FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:**

None at this time

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Business Board receive the report.