



Annual Report 2025-2026

Collective Impact: Advancing Health and Safety Together

WSN Health and Safety Training Centre
and Ontario headquarters in North Bay



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WSN Health and Safety Training Centre
and Ontario Mine Rescue headquarters in Sudbury



About Workplace Safety North

An independent not-for-profit, Workplace Safety North (WSN) is one of four sector-based health and safety associations in Ontario. Headquartered in northern Ontario, WSN administers the Ontario Mine Rescue program, and provides government-approved workplace health and safety training and services for the Ontario mining and forest products industries.

Vision

Every worker, home safe and healthy.

Mission

We are a force for positive action – anticipating and responding to the greatest needs of our clients, and bringing together our partners, members, and diverse communities to build safer, healthier, stronger workplaces.

Values

Compassion, integrity, respect, and team spirit shape who we are and how we work.





Sectors served



Forestry

Structural Wood Logging - Conventional and Mechanical

Milled Wood Products includes wood container, pallet manufacturing, and products

Sawmills

Silviculture

Veneer, Plywood, and Wood Preservation



Paper, Printing, and Converting

Corrugated and Solid Fibre Boxes

Folding Cartons

Paper Products

Printing, Platemaking, and Binding

Pulp, Newsprint, and Specialty Paper



Surface and Underground Mines

Mine Rescue

Nickel and Copper Mines

Gold and Silver Mines

Salt and Gypsum Mines

Mine Drilling

Mining Support Activities

Other Mines



Message from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer



Collective Impact: Advancing Health and Safety Together

This year's theme says it plainly: our impact is collective.

Every safer shift in an Ontario mine, mill or forest operation is the result of people working together toward the same goal: every worker, home safe and healthy.

To our staff: thank you. Your expertise and commitment reached thousands of Ontario workers this year through more than 1,100 client consultations, over 17,000 participant training days, and new and updated training focused on occupational illness, psychological health and safety, and supervisor competency. We also continued to strengthen our own workplace. WSN earned Great Place to Work® certification, with 88 per cent of our people saying WSN is a great place to work.

To our funders and partners: thank you for the trust, collaboration and investment that make our work possible. Together, we are advancing work that will have lasting impact, from the Occupational Illness and Disease Prevention project to the new resources, training and prevention initiatives that respond to the evolving needs of Ontario workplaces.

To our members, advisory committee volunteers, Board of Directors, and the 1,073 mine rescue volunteers who answer the call: thank you for your leadership, dedication, and time. You are an essential part of Ontario's prevention system and of our collective impact.

The results in this report tell an encouraging story. But our true measure of success is not the number of consultations delivered or people trained. It is what happens because of them: a hazard identified, an injury prevented, a skill strengthened, a leader better prepared, a worker who goes home safe.

That is the impact we create together. And that is the work we will continue to advance together in the year ahead.



Derek Budge
WSN Board Chair



Mike Parent
WSN President and Chief Executive Officer



Statistical Overview and Industry Trends



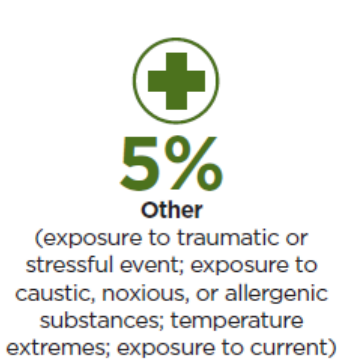
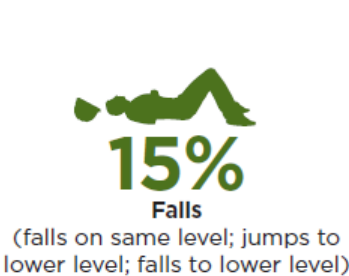
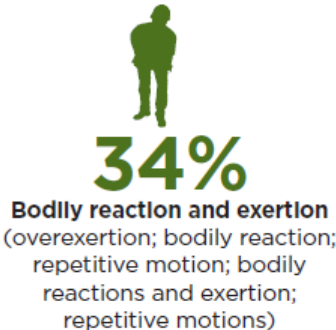
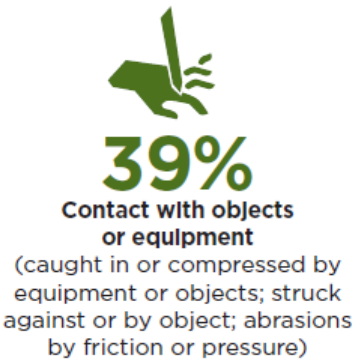
Workplace Health and Safety Snapshot for Ontario Forestry, Paper, Printing, and Converting Sector in 2025

[Click to view full infographic](#)



Events resulting in lost-time injury or illness

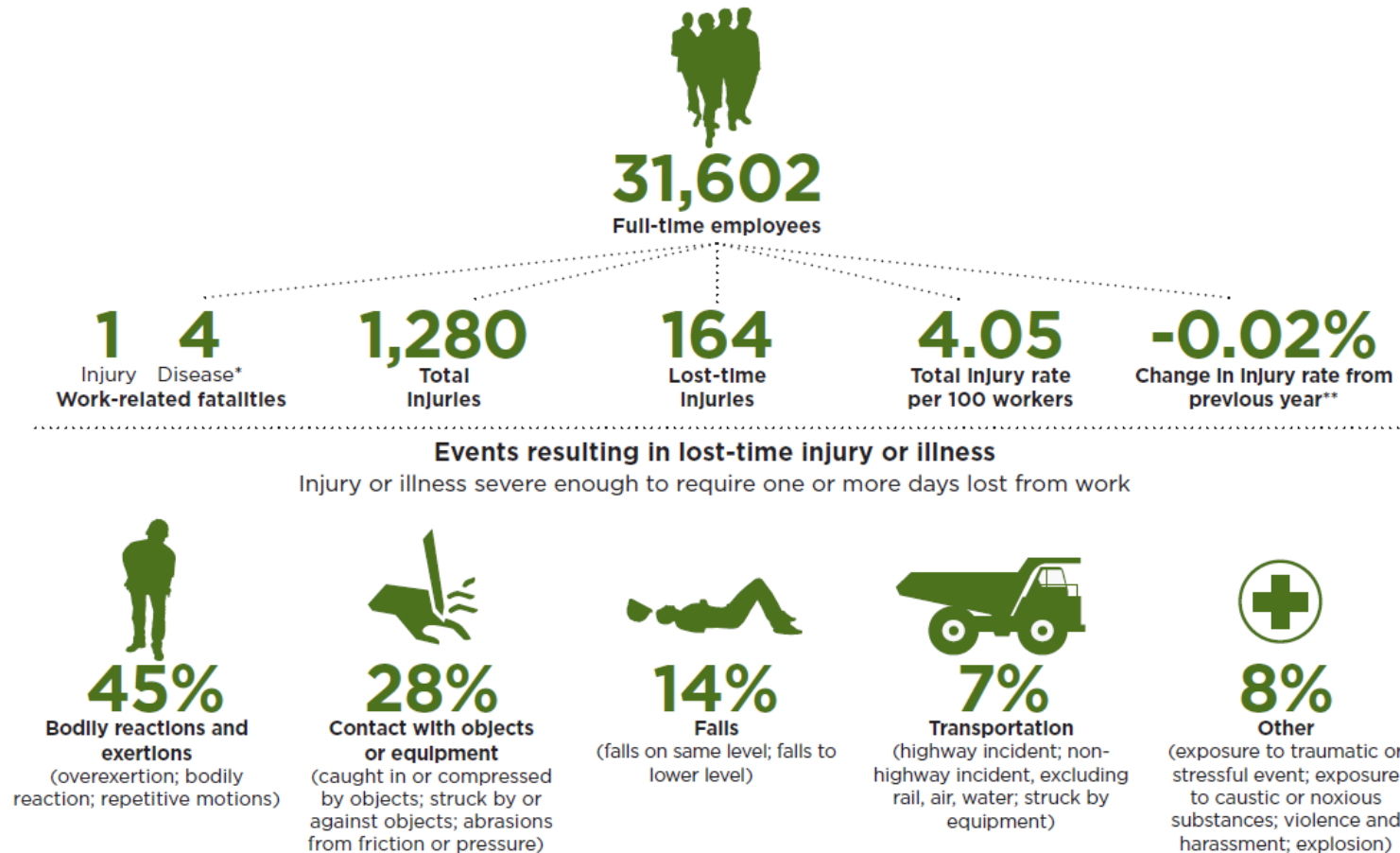
Injury or illness severe enough to require one or more days lost from work





Workplace Health and Safety Snapshot for Ontario Mining Sector in 2025

[Click to view full infographic](#)





Forest Products Sector Statistics

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Forestry				
Full-time equivalent workers	26,884	23,735	22,933	23,120
Lost-time injury rate	2.1	1.77	1.92	1.92
Total injury rate	6.47	5.89	6.21	5.51
Paper, Printing, and Converting				
Full-time equivalent workers	42,943	45,845	42,475	43,703
Lost-time injury rate	0.70	0.61	0.66	0.67
Total injury rate	2.24	2.14	2.24	1.99



Mining Sector Statistics

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Mining – All Sectors				
Full-time equivalent workers	23,894	26,391	26,034	31,608
Lost-time injury rate	1.25	0.70	0.68	0.52
Total injury rate	5.51	4.53	5.04	4.05
Source: Workplace Safety and Insurance Board Enterprise Information Warehouse				
Lost-time injury (LTI) and total injury (TI) frequency rates are a ratio of the injuries reported per 100 full-time equivalent employees (FTE) for the injury year specified.				



The Year in Numbers: Ontario Forest Products and Mining Sectors

Making connections: sharing knowledge and resources

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Activities				
Client consultations	889	794	670	1,101
Total consulting hours	4,315	4,278	4,474	7,024
Participant training days - Health and Safety Services	8,782	9,039	7,476	8,624
Participant training days - Mine Rescue	7,304	8,162	7,849	8,818
Information products distributed	2,038,369	1,187,935	1,519,311	1,744,877

A photograph of three people in an industrial setting, likely a factory or warehouse. In the foreground, a man with a beard, wearing a grey polo shirt and a high-visibility yellow safety vest, is shaking hands with a woman. The woman is wearing a dark blue button-down shirt and an orange safety vest with reflective silver stripes. She is holding a brown clipboard. In the background, another man in a white shirt and yellow safety vest is smiling and watching the handshake. The background is filled with industrial equipment, including conveyor belts and overhead lights, creating a busy factory atmosphere. The entire image has a green color overlay.

Achievement Highlights



Consulting

1,101

Client consultations

7,024

Total consultation hours

Training

8,624

Participant training days
Health and Safety Prevention
Services

8,818

Participant training days
Mine Rescue

6

Industry Advisory Committees

54

Firms participating in the Health and Safety
Excellence program

162

Firms participating in Safe Workplace Ontario program

1,744,877

Information products and resources distributed via newsletter, email,
website, and YouTube videos





A Great Place to Work

In 2025, Workplace Safety North achieved Great Place to Work® certification, recognizing our commitment to a positive workplace culture built on trust, respect, and shared values.

Based on employee feedback, 88% of WSN employees said WSN is a great place to work, compared to the national benchmark of 60%.

[Read more](#)

Preventing Occupational Illness through Partnership

WSIB invests \$6.78 million to address invisible workplace hazards

- In 2025, WSN partnered with the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) and the Institute for Work and Health (IWH) to launch a province-wide initiative that strengthens occupational hygiene monitoring and reduces worker exposure to harmful workplace health hazards.
- In Year 2, the project expanded to provide free e-learning, hands-on workshops, workplace coaching, and exposure monitoring to help Ontario's mining and forestry workplaces build long-term capacity to recognize, assess, and control occupational health hazards.

[Read more](#)



Left to Right: Peter Smith, president and CEO Institute for Work and Health; Rod Cook, WSIB; Mike Parent, WSN; Janine Dych, WSIB; Cindy Schiewek, WSN; Dennis Griem, WSN.



Occupational Illness and Disease Prevention Initiative

Year 1 by the Numbers

- 10 workplaces supported
- 1,900 workers impacted
- 900 workers protected through targeted hazard monitoring
- 83–100% increase in industrial hygiene knowledge
- 89% increase in confidence to identify, assess, monitor, and control hazards
- 100% of participating workplaces completed exposure monitoring campaigns
- 100% identified opportunities to strengthen occupational health controls

Consulting Initiatives

WSN had 1,101 [client consultations](#) and spent 7,024 consultation hours throughout the year to assist firms with the following services:

- WSIB Health and Safety Excellence program
- Auditing
- Common core skills assessment and coaching
- Custom training
- Emergency preparedness and response audits
- Ground control audits and assessments
- Industrial hygiene assistance: dust, noise, designated substances, hazard products, etc.
- Leadership development
- Psychological health and safety
- Safe Work Ontario
- Occupational exposure monitoring programs
- Occupational health and safety program development and improvement
- Risk management and root cause analysis
- Signing authority audit coaching
- Site risk assessments
- Workplace culture assessments (CAAT) and improvement action plans
- Workplace violence risk assessments and programs



Outcomes of training and consulting activities

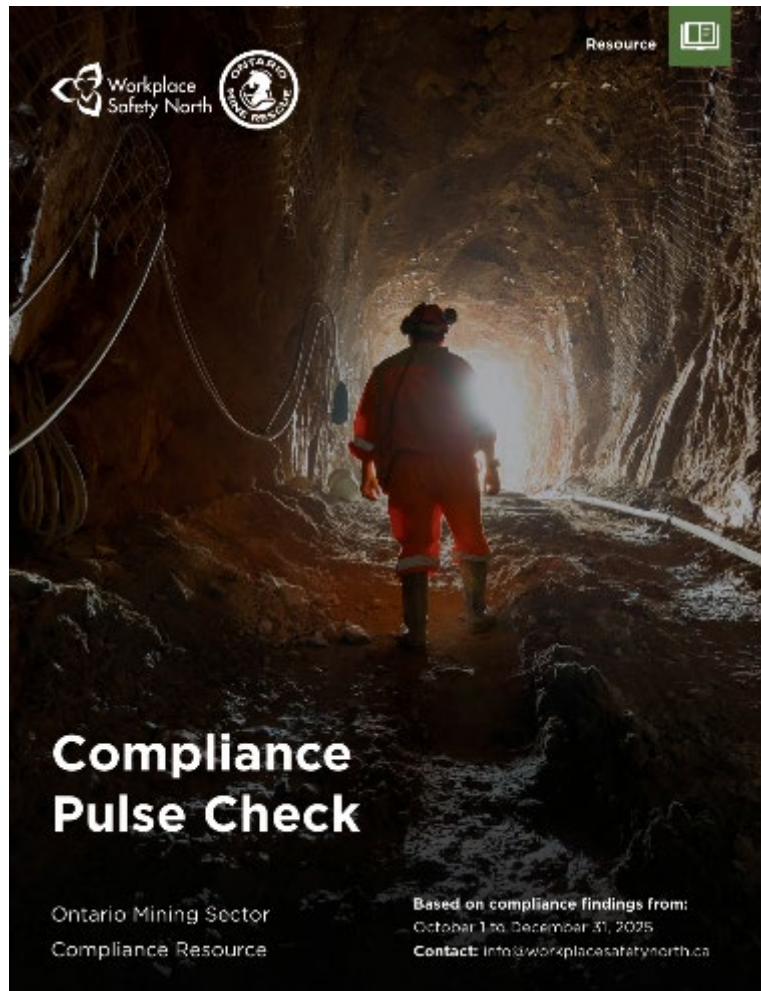
76%

Changed their practice or behaviour

93%

Increased their prevention knowledge





Helping Ontario mines address compliance risks

WSN released quarterly Mining Compliance Pulse Checks to help Ontario mining operations stay informed about current compliance trends and health and safety concerns.

Based on recent compliance findings, each pulse check highlights common safety gaps and provides practical guidance, inspection checklists, and related resources to help workplaces identify and manage the top risks facing the sector.

[Read more](#)

Help for small businesses with 1-50 employees

24

Educational webinars on prevention

139

New small business occupational health and safety
materials developed

275

Small businesses receiving consultation

2,602

Small business consultation hours

17,248

Small business participant training hours





Health and Safety Excellence program

Workplace Safety North is an approved provider of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) [Health and Safety Excellence program](#).

Through the Excellence program, WSN helps small businesses develop health and safety program material to meet WSIB program requirements and achieve a successful valuation.

Successful firms not only improve workplace safety but also receive a financial reward in the form of a WSIB premium rebate.

40

WSN-sponsored firms advanced their health and safety programs

Ontario Partners in Prevention

WSN regularly works with Ontario health and safety system partners to share information and resources and offer expertise. Many industry and academic partnerships are also formed from ongoing risk-based research and measurement of outcomes.

Centre of Research Expertise for the Prevention of Musculoskeletal Disorders

Centre for Research Expertise in Occupational Disease

Centre for Research in Occupational Safety and Health

Infrastructure Health and Safety Association

Institute for Work and Health

Lakehead University, Thunder Bay

Laurentian University, Sudbury

NORCAT

Occupational Cancer Research Centre

Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers

Ontario Forest Industries Association

Ontario Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

Public Services Health and Safety Association

Sustainable Forestry Initiative

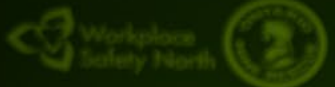
WSN Advisory Committees and Member Firms

Workers Health and Safety Centre

Workplace Safety and Prevention Services

Workplace Safety and Insurance Board





100+ YEARS

Helping Ontario Workplaces
Build Better Safety Cultures

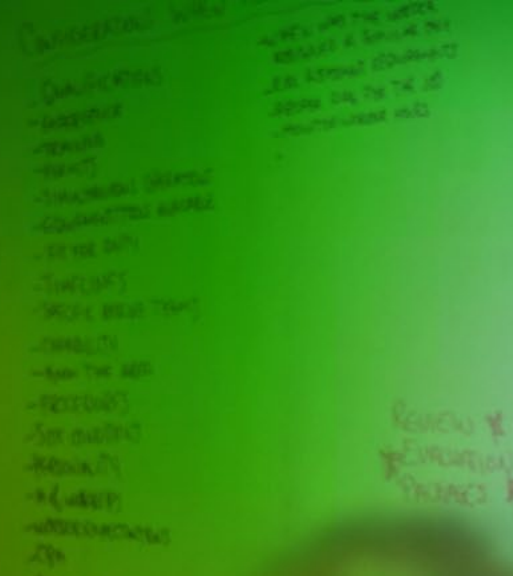
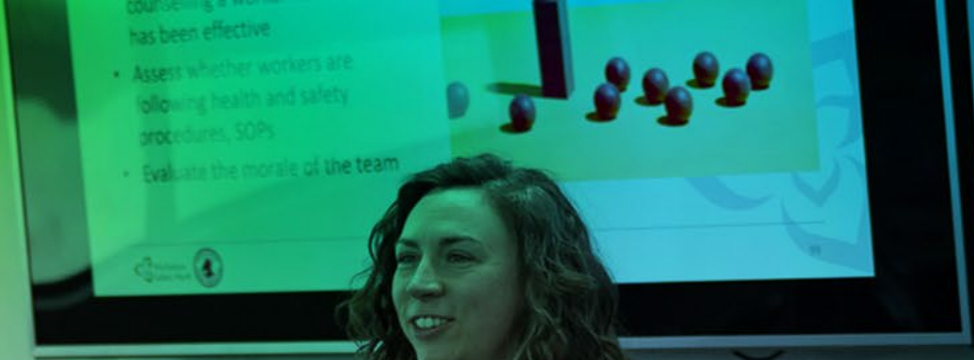
DESIGNATED

Safety Services Provider

EVIDENCE-BASED

Risk Assessment and Controls

Education Programs and Information Resources





Programs developed because of research

Throughout 2025-2026, WSN developed and enhanced course materials that support the results of risk-based workshops.

[Accelerated Mining Supervisor Common Core](#) launched as a streamlined training pathway, enabling supervisors to complete Ministry-approved Common Core requirements in four to five days while meeting all MLITSD Modular Training Standard requirements.

[Competent Supervisor Refresher](#) expanded training opportunities with classroom, virtual, and self-paced e-learning options, supporting front-line supervisors in maintaining due diligence and strengthening workplace health and safety practices.

The updated [Duly Diligent Mining Supervisor](#) course provides supervisors across all mining sectors with focused training on due diligence, including their legislative responsibilities, incident prevention, and practical application of due diligences in the workplace.

WSN continues to enhance supervisor training programs through flexible, evidence-informed learning options that improve accessibility while supporting regulatory compliance and safer workplaces across Ontario.

New training helps workplaces address occupational health hazards

As part of the Occupational Illness and Disease Prevention Research Project, WSN developed new in-person and instructor-led virtual training to help Ontario workplaces recognize and control occupational health hazards.

Training was developed in five key areas:

- Industrial Hygiene Fundamentals
- Diesel Particulate Matter
- Occupational Noise
- Crystalline Silica
- Wood Dust

These courses provide practical information on identifying, assessing, and controlling workplace exposures to help prevent occupational illness and disease.





Updated psychological health and safety training offerings

Given ongoing dialogue and focus on mental health at work, WSN released two new mental health e-learning courses in partnership with Infrastructure Health and Safety Association (IHSA):

- [Opening the Door to Support](#)
- [Occupational Mental Health](#)

These self-serve e-learning courses provide anywhere, anytime access to practical mental health education and complement WSN's existing psychological health and safety offerings, including [Mental Health 101](#), [Workplace Mental Health: A Framework for Leaders](#), and [Fit for Duty](#).

Together, these resources help strengthen understanding of workplace mental health and support safer, healthier workplaces.

Safe Workplace Ontario

The Safe Workplace Ontario (SWO) designation program provides the essential components required to create and implement an effective health and safety program. Once the program is complete, participating firms continue to receive WSN support toward ongoing monitoring and improvement of their health and safety programs and procedures.

Updated in 2024 to meet new legislative requirements and current industry best practices, this program includes an easy-to-use digital manual and resource library to help employers maintain health and safety information.

[Read more](#)





Workplace Safety North  Resource 

Joint health and safety committee

Sample workplace inspection checklist

Inspection date:	Inspection time:		
Inspector(s):			
Location(s):			
Aisles and Passageways	Yes	No	
Are aisles marked?	☐	☐	
Are they clear and unobstructed?	☐	☐	
Are they wide enough for all normal movement?	☐	☐	
Comments/Actions:			
Eye Wash and Showers	Yes	No	
Are they readily assessable in areas of caustic/corrosive chemical use?	☐	☐	
Does water supply provide flush at a comfortable temperature?	☐	☐	
Are proper signs and instructions posted?	☐	☐	
Are installations flushed frequently to eliminate contamination?	☐	☐	
Is the contents of eye wash bottles unexpired (if applicable)?	☐	☐	
Comments/Actions:			

TF: 1-888-730-7821 (Ontario) workplacesafetynorth.ca

New resource information

Joint Health and Safety Committee resources: New suite of practical guides and inspection checklists to support hazard identification, workplace inspections, effective meetings, and committee effectiveness.

Mining Compliance Pulse Check: New quarterly report providing Ontario mines with practical guidance on top health and safety hazards, compliance trends, and opportunities for improvement.

Resources on electric vehicle hazards in mining, developed in collaboration with health and safety partners.

Hazard alerts: explosive storage and security, improper lockout, fall of tree, suspended load equipment failure, and run of material.



Raising awareness about important health and safety information

141

New occupational health and safety materials developed

1,744,877

Occupational health and safety materials distributed via email, newsletter,
video, social media, and media

591

Top download: "Handbook of Training in Mine Rescue
and Recovery Operations"

4,750

Top landing page:
"Hazard alert: Worker fatally injured by fall of tree"

26,155

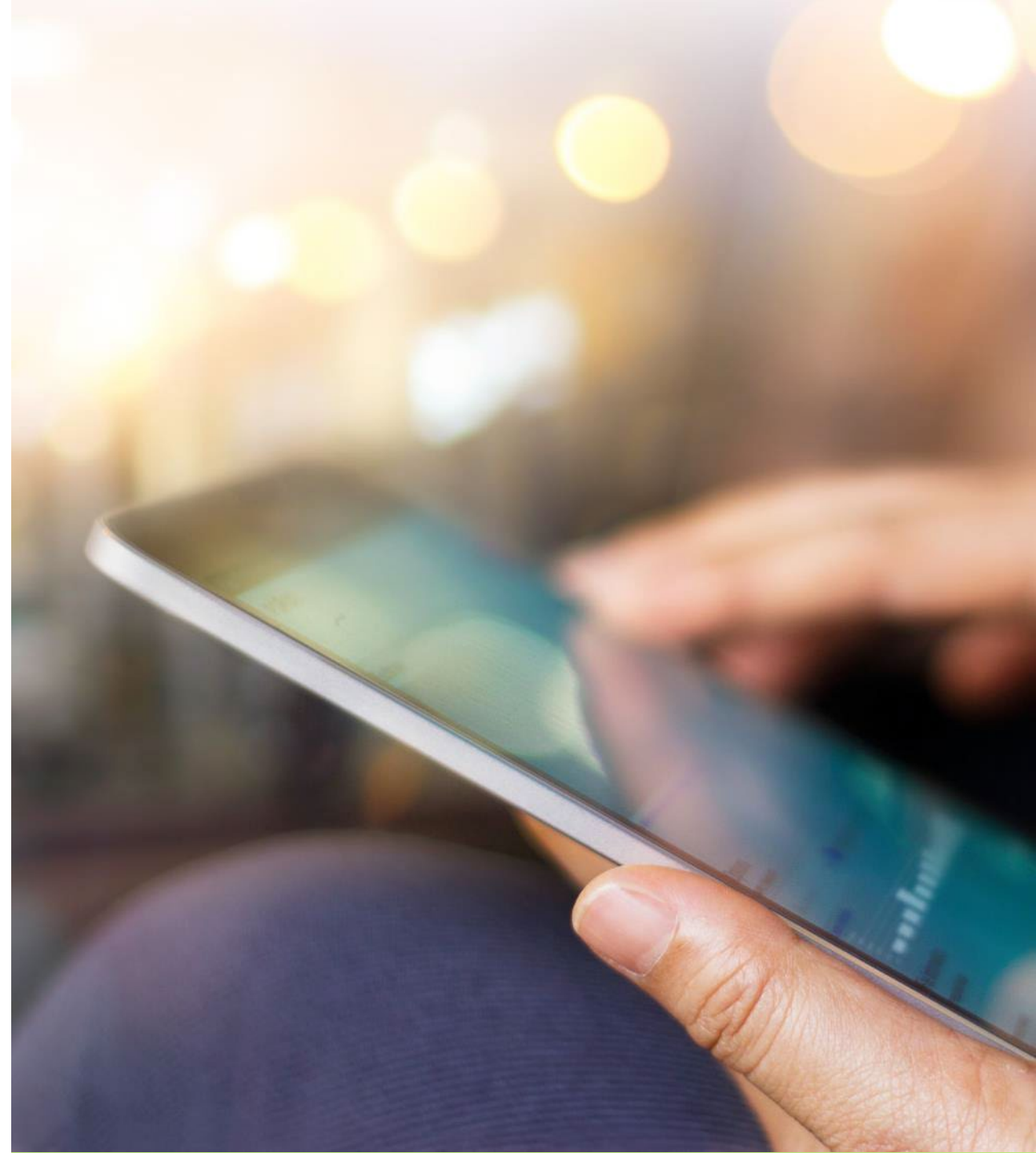
Downloads

201,253

Website visits

436,345

Total page views





14

New videos

381

Participants attending 6 online and in-person events

3,500

Total YouTube watch time hours

15,420

Combined social media audience on LinkedIn, YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram

42,372

YouTube video views

Battery Electric Vehicle Safety in Mines

Mining industry professionals gather annually for the opportunity to network and share knowledge about the risks associated with newer technology and explore ways to manage hazards.

Key areas of focus:

- Research and innovation
- Industry case studies
- Hazard management
- Training and risk assessments
- Emergency response

[Read more](#)





Northern Strong: Health and Safety Expo

Workplace Safety North, in collaboration with the Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers (OHCOW) and other system partners, hosted the 2025 Northern Strong: Health and Safety Expo, bringing together leading health and safety organizations from across northern Ontario to share practical tools, expert knowledge, and workplace resources.

Offered in both Sudbury and virtually, the event strengthened collaboration and helped employers and workers build safer, healthier workplaces.

Mining health and safety conference

From April 30 to May 1, 2025, WSN hosted the 27th annual mining conference in Sudbury.

The event gives professionals the opportunity to network and learn about the latest advancements in mining health and safety.

The theme, “The Foundation of Mining Safety,” focused on the essentials of health and safety, emphasizing legal requirements, risk management, and workplace culture.

Key areas of focus:

- High-risk hazard management
- Safety culture
- Health and Safety Leadership
- Improving physical and psychological health and safety in the workplace
- Industry case studies
- Research and innovation
- Emergency response

[Read more](#)



A team of five Ontario Mine Rescue personnel in full protective gear, including helmets, goggles, and breathing apparatus, are walking outdoors. They are carrying a yellow stretcher with a person lying on it. The person on the stretcher is wearing a white shirt and dark pants. The rescue team is wearing orange and yellow high-visibility suits with reflective stripes. The suits have "MINE RESCUE" and "MUSKELKAMUK" written on them. They are also wearing black boots and carrying various equipment, including a tablet and a radio. The background shows a wooden building and a pile of lumber.

Ontario Mine Rescue



1,073

Ontario Mine Rescue volunteer responders

1,060

Mine rescue training sessions

6,887

Hours spent training under oxygen

71,760

Participant training hours

535,051

Kilometres travelled to deliver legislated programs

Ontario Mine Rescue is responsible for a staff of District Mine Rescue Officers, a province-wide inventory of mine rescue response equipment, and the assurance of emergency response capability at all operating mines.

Mine Emergency Incidents

24

Mine rescue operations conducted

1,188

Mine workers forced to take refuge





Glencore Kidd Operations representing Timmins District. Back row (left to right): Captain Clint Scripnick, #6 Reid Murray, Vice Captain Randy Gagnon, #4 Matthew Richards, #2 Gilles Paradis, Coach Heather Deschene; Front row: Briefing Officer James Comeau, #3 Michael Murphy.

Mine rescue skills put to the test at annual competition

From June 3 to 5, 2025, Ontario Mine Rescue hosted the provincial competition at Glencore Kidd Operations in Timmins. The winners were announced at a banquet on the final evening.

[Read more](#)

International Mines Rescue Competition 2026

The 2026 International Mines Rescue Competition (IMRC) was held in Zambia, marking the first time the country has hosted the biennial event. The competition brings together top-performing mine rescue teams from around the world to demonstrate technical skills, teamwork, and emergency response capabilities.

Ontario Mine Rescue supported the event, with Chief Mine Rescue Officer Shawn Rideout and other OMR staff providing expertise and assistance throughout the competition. Representing Canada, Glencore Kidd Mine placed third overall.

This international event highlights the importance of global collaboration in advancing mine rescue practices and sharing knowledge to strengthen emergency preparedness worldwide.



Glencore Kidd Mine placed third overall the 2026 International Mines Rescue Competition in Zambia.

A photograph of a workspace featuring a wooden desk, a laptop, a pair of glasses, and some papers. The image is covered with a semi-transparent green and yellow gradient. The text "Governance and Industry Advisors" is centered in white.

Governance and Industry Advisors



Board of Directors

Thank you to the WSN Board of Directors for helping ensure accountability, transparency, and excellence in all that Workplace Safety North does.

Derek Budge (Chair)

Health, Safety and Environment Director
The Redpath Group, North Bay

Eric Haapamaki (Vice Chair)

Project Manager
HATCH, Sudbury

Lydia Renton (Past Chair)

Executive Vice President, Health & Safety and Corporate Security Officer
BluMetric Environmental, Ottawa

Mike Parent (Secretary and Treasurer)

President and Chief Executive Officer
Workplace Safety North, Sudbury

Andrew Tempelman

Process Technician, Technical Services
Thunder Bay Pulp and Paper, Thunder Bay

Darren Toner

Senior Manager, Health, Safety, Environment and Risk
Vale Base Metals, North Atlantic Operations, Copper Cliff

David Kelly

Underground Heavy Equipment Mechanic and Mine Rescue Volunteer
Compass Minerals, Goderich

Jason Bubba

Chief Operating Officer
NORCAT, Sudbury

Jen Bagley

Manager, Human Resources
IAMGOLD, Côté Gold Operations, Sudbury

Louise Caicco Tett

President
Health and Safety Professionals, Sault Ste. Marie

Marilyn Findlay

Health, Safety, Security, Environment Manager
Dryden Fibre Canada, Dryden

Marshall Greensides

Plant Manager
MAX Solutions, Pickering

Sandra Haddad

President
JDB Haddad Legal Services, Sudbury

April 2025-March 2026

Industry Advisory Committees

Helping make Ontario workplaces safer

WSN Advisory Committees are made of up industry volunteers who meet quarterly to discuss industry issues and provide guidance on WSN programming and resource material.

Board and committee volunteers help WSN fulfill its safety mandate and maintain closeness and familiarity with the day-to-day realities of Ontario resource industries.

Companies participate in WSN-sponsored research, planning, and events – all of which have helped to build solid working relationships with the industry.

This collaborative approach helps increase awareness, knowledge, and consistency with regards to the occupational health and safety needs of Ontario workplaces.





Forest Products Advisory Committee

Jesse Kydd (Chair)

Superintendent, Production
GreenFirst Forest Products, Cochrane

Stewart Taylor (Vice Chair)

Health, Safety and Environmental Manager
Graphic Packaging International, Cobourg

Christina Merrett

Environmental, Health and Safety Coordinator
Interfor, Timmins

Dana Greenly

Senior Director, Health and Safety
Atlantic Packaging, Scarborough

Robin McCullough

Occupational Health and Safety Manager
Brinkman Reforestation, British Columbia and Ontario

Scotia Biloski

Forestry Advisor - Metis Nation of Ontario/Lands, Resources and
Consultations Branch, Thunder Bay

Victor McKee

Safety Superintendent
Domtar, Thunder Bay

Ad-hoc hazard-focused subcommittees:

WSN also initiates and participates in numerous ad-hoc committees, gathering feedback on priority hazards from risk assessment and root cause analysis workshops. Collaboration has led to resource development supporting lockout/tagout hazard management.



Mining Advisory Committee

Michael Ferguson (Chair)

Engineering Manager – Capital Equipment
Boart Longyear Canada, North Bay

Steve Wrixon (Vice Chair)

Vice President, Health, Safety and Environment
Mining Health and Safety Training and Operations, Sudbury

Chris Bamberger

Consultant
Mining Health and Safety Training and Operations, Sudbury

Don Langlois

Manager, Total Health and Wellness
Alamos Gold, Sudbury

Darren Toner

Senior Manager, Health, Safety, Environment and Risk
Vale Base Metals, Sudbury

Louise Lowe

Executive Director
Canadian Diamond Drillers Association, North Bay

Robert McVeigh

Product Manager Industrial Minerals
Komatsu Mining/Joy Global Canada, Goderich

Tom Ranelli

Director of Canadian Operations
GMS Mining Canada, Burlington

Tyler Neeley

Health and Safety Coordinator
McEwen Mining, Timmins

Technical Advisory Committees

The WSN Mining Advisory Committee also oversees three Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) made up of volunteers from the mining industry: ground control, mobile equipment, and workplace environment. Thank you to the many volunteers and your sponsoring organizations – your contributions are critical to advancing health and safety.



Ontario Mine Rescue Advisory Committee

Iain McKillip (Chair)

Glencore Kidd Operations

Andre Lefebvre (Vice Chair)

Glencore, Sudbury INO, Fraser Mine

Active Mine Rescue Volunteers' Representative

Brad Bastien

Glencore Sudbury INO, Fraser Mine

Onaping District Industry Representative

Dana Backer

Pan American Silver

Timmins District Industry Representative

Dennis Hogan

Compass Minerals, Goderich Mine

Southern District Industry Representative

Devin Jackson

Impala Canada, Lac des Iles Mine

Thunder Bay District Industry Representative

Greg MacMillan

Vale Canada, Creighton Mine

Sudbury District Industry Representative

Jamie Mortson

McIntyre and Associates

Ontario Mine Contractors Safety Association Industry Representative

Jason Leger

Ontario Mine Rescue Officer Representative

Workplace Safety North

Jason St. Onge

New Gold, Rainy River Mine

Red Lake District Industry Representative

Justin Arsenault

Agnico Eagle, Detour Lake Mine

Kirkland Lake District Industry Representative

Kyle Luce

Barrick, Hemlo Mine

Algoma District Industry Representative

Shaun Carter

Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

Government MLITSD Representative

Shawn Rideout

Chief Mine Rescue Officer

Workplace Safety North



Staff Highlights





WSN Executive Director Appointed to BCRSP Board of Directors

Workplace Safety North Executive Director of Health and Safety Services, Cindy Schiewek was appointed to the Board of Directors for the Board of Canadian Registered Safety Professionals (BCRSP).

With more than 25 years of experience in occupational health and safety, Schiewek is a recognized leader in the field and was named one of *Canada's Top Women in Safety* in 2023. At WSN, she leads a team of specialists across industrial hygiene, ground control, risk management, management systems, mining skills training, and mental health.

Her appointment to the BCRSP Board reflects her commitment to advancing the health and safety profession and helping shape the future of workplace health and safety across Canada.

[Read more](#)

Ontario hires first female mine rescue officer

Ontario Mine Rescue (OMR) welcomed April Belecque as its newest Mine Rescue Officer, making her the first woman to hold the position in OMR's nearly 100-year history.

Belecque brings nearly 15 years of underground mining and geology experience, along with several years of experience as a mine rescue volunteer. Her technical expertise, operational knowledge, and strong commitment to safety make her well suited to support mine rescue teams in the Kirkland Lake District.

Her appointment marks an important milestone for Ontario Mine Rescue and reflects the evolving future of mine rescue, while helping open the door for greater representation of women in the field.

[Read more](#)





Staff Service Loyalty Milestones

10 Years

Mike Krell
Jason Leger
Mike Parent
Shawn Rideout
Allison Roy
Dan Rulli
Cindy Schiewek
Shawn Shail

20 Years

Lorraine Champagne
Brant Schewe
Michelline Souter

25 Years

Cindy Hunter

Retirements

Sam Barbuto
Carol Lessard
Doug Rogers
Chris Serratore
Becky Stockermans



Supporting Community through Volunteerism

Ontario Mine Rescue staff continued their commitment to supporting the communities they serve by participating in the SudburyROCKS Marathon in support of the Health Sciences North Foundation.

In 2025, Mine Rescue Officer Scott Gillett completed the marathon while wearing full mine rescue breathing apparatus, raising \$5,245. In 2026, he returned with a new challenge, carrying a mine rescue patient basket alongside fellow Ontario Mine Rescue staff April Belecque, Danny Taillefer, Nick Schwehr, Gorden Sullivan, and Jason Leger. Together, the team raised an additional \$3,739.

These fundraising efforts demonstrate Ontario Mine Rescue's commitment to teamwork, community engagement, and supporting initiatives that contribute to healthier, stronger communities.





A Great Place to Work

In 2025, Workplace Safety North was recognized and certified as a Great Place to Work, reflecting our ongoing commitment to a workplace culture built on trust, respect, and shared values. Based on employee feedback, 88% of WSN employees said WSN is a great place to work, significantly higher than the national benchmark.

This recognition reflects the strength of our organizational values—Compassion, Integrity, Respect, and Team Spirit—and the dedication of our team to supporting one another while advancing our vision to see every worker home safe and healthy.

[Read more](#)

Excellence Canada

WSN's commitment to employee wellbeing has also been recognized through multiple Excellence Canada awards, including Platinum recognition for Mental Health at Work (2024) and Healthy Workplace Awards at the Silver (2015), Gold (2019), and Platinum (2022) levels.

By investing in a healthy, supportive workplace culture, we strengthen our ability to serve Ontario employers and workers and model the safety excellence we promote across the province.





Strategic Directions



The strategic plan builds on WSN strengths in three intersecting themes for impact: sector impact, digital transformation, and operational excellence.

[View Workplace Safety North Strategic Plan](#)



Sector Impact



Digital Transformation



Operational Excellence



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