

Occupational Health and Safety in the Dental Workplace

Calgary Dental Assistants Association

April 21, 2018 / Diane Rebryna, B.Sc., D.D.S.

OH&S is important in the Workplace ... (will also use phrase "Dental Workplace")

... An area concerned with the safety, health and welfare of people engaged in work or employment

Why should we be concerned about OH&S?

... "If uncontrolled, occupational hazards can lead to incidents with disastrous or costly consequences ... These losses can be prevented through health and safety initiatives"

CCOH&S - Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety

An OH&S Program:

- Includes Policies, Procedures and Activities that
Identify Workplace hazards, and
Safeguard the health and safety of Workers
- Is a sum total of what all members of a Workplace (or Organization) do together to prevent injuries, illness and damage
- Provides structure to these efforts

REFERENCES:

List of Useful General References :

****Handbook of Occupational Hazards and Controls for Dental Worker**

<http://employment.alberta.ca/documents/WHS/OH&S-WSA-handbook-dental-workers.pdf>

****Occupational Health and Safety Tool Kit for Small Business (Work Safe Alberta)**

work.alberta.ca/documents/OH&S-tool-kit-small-business.pdf

This is a general reference to read in advance of developing the OHS Program for the Workplace. The information herein is suitable to be adapted to the Dental Workplace.

Best Practice Guidelines for Occupational Health and Safety in the Healthcare Industry

<http://work.alberta.ca/occupational-health-safety/ohs-publications.html#healthcare>

(Under heading "Healthcare" - 5 Volumes)

CRDHA IN TOUCH Publications

<http://www.crdha.ca/the-profession/professional-resources/working-environment/occupational-health-and-safety.aspx>

Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS)

<http://www.ccohs.ca/>

Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Legislation

<https://work.alberta.ca/occupational-health-safety/ohs-act-regulation-and-code.html>

Work Safe Alberta

Occupational Health and Safety Code 2009 Explanation Guide:

<https://work.alberta.ca/occupational-health-safety/ohs-code-explanation-guide.html>

Links for each Section of the Presentation:

1. Alberta OH&S Legislation

2. Principles of an OH&S Program in the Workplace

****A General Introductory CCOH&S Reference to a course available to help with the development of an OH&S PROGRAM in the Workplace can be found at:**

https://www.ccohs.ca/products/courses/OH&S_program/

NINE STANDARD ELEMENTS OF AN OH&S PROGRAM IN A WORKPLACE:

1. Statement by the employer of the organization's OH&S Policy
2. The Processes used in a Workplace to identify hazards and assess risk
3. Descriptions of the safety procedures and equipment used to prevent illnesses and injuries
4. Workplace Inspections
5. Accident / Incident Reporting and Investigations
6. Emergency Response Plans and Procedures and Emergency Preparedness Plans
7. Worker Competency and Qualifications, Orientation and Training
8. Procedures for record keeping and reporting statistics to Workers
9. Policies on communicating with Workers about the accomplishments of the OH&S Program / Program Administration

Each of the previous 9 STANDARD ELEMENTS contains several common themes which include:

- Documented policies and procedures
- Roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for ALL Workplace parties
- Standardized forms
- Worker participation
- Training related to the processes
- Follow up processes to ensure proper completion of tasks AND correction of deficiencies
- Communication and reporting processes

3. Hazards, Risks and Controls Examples of Hazards in a Dental Workplace

***Biologic Hazards**

***Physical Hazards**

***Chemical Hazards, including:**

1. Workplace Hazardous Management Information System (WHMIS)
2. Global Harmonization System (GHS)

RESOURCES FOR WHMIS PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AT THE WORKPLACE

<http://whmis.org/>

https://work.alberta.ca/documents/WHS-PUB_ch008.pdf (ALBERTA)

<http://www.pshsa.ca/product/whmis-2015-elearning/> (**ONTARIO)

modified 2015...<https://work.alberta.ca/documents/OH&S-Bulletin-CH010.pdf>

https://www.ccohs.ca/products/publications/whmis_ghs/

***Psycho-Social Hazards**

4.Hazard Assessment

EXCELLENT DENTAL REFERENCE THAT OUTLINES HAZARDS AND CONTROLS IN THE WORKPLACE:

Handbook of Occupational Hazards and Controls for Dental Worker

<http://employment.alberta.ca/documents/WHS/OH&S-WSA-handbook-dental-workers.pdf>

5.First Aid Plan

<http://work.alberta.ca/documents/OHS-bulletin-fa012.pdf>

Occupational Health and Safety Tool Kit for Small Business (Work Safe Alberta)

work.alberta.ca/documents/OH&S-tool-kit-small-business.pdf

Section 8, page 48

***Blood and Body Fluid Exposure (BBFE)**

Link is:

<http://www.bbfeab.ca/>

6.Emergency (Preparedness and) Response Plan

Occupational Health and Safety Tool Kit for Small Business (Work Safe Alberta)

work.alberta.ca/documents/OH&S-tool-kit-small-business.pdf

Section 7, page 41

7. Incidents and Accidents in the Workplace

REFERENCE:

Occupational Health and Safety Tool Kit for Small Business (Work Safe Alberta)

work.alberta.ca/documents/OH&S-tool-kit-small-business.pdf

Section 5, page 31

8. "Tips and Tidbits"

Use of Sharpening Stones for Dental Hygiene Instruments

Part 35 of OH&S CODE: Health Care and Industries with Biologic Hazards:

Highlights/ Safety Engineered Medical Devices / Sharps

Eye Safety in the Dental Workplace

****For Assistance with Management of CHEMICAL Eye Injuries or Exposures:**

call: Poison Control Centre at 1 800 332 1414 Extension # 1

**** For Assistance with the Management of Eye Injuries**

Call:

911

OR

811 (Health Link Alberta)

OR

Proceed to your nearest Emergency Room

Immunizations

Latex Considerations

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