

Introduction to Health & Safety / Basics in Accident Investigation

January 19 & 20, 2017

CUPE Regional Offices / Kitchener, ON

I would like to thank the membership for allowing me the opportunity to attend this course.

We covered such things as identifying a hazard to a worker, the history of health and safety, the General Duty clause and the three basic rights of a worker (the duty to refuse work, the right to know and the right to participate).

Our two instructors, Marlene Arruda (marlene.arruda@cupe2544.ca) and David Pettigrew. These two instructors gave the participants great information, role playing incidents and history on factually-based incidents.

Again, thank you so much for allowing me to attend. A great learning experience, making new connections and friends and learning lots of different points of view. In total, the eleven participants made for great conversation, points of view about their workplace and the incidents/problems each member has come across in their work experience.

It seemed the most important clause to remember was the General Duty clause (25.2) of the Ontario Health & Safety Act; which seems to reflect any incidents/protection for workers. It enforces the Employer to take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of a worker. We also covered the right to refuse work (and was emphasized to take the course *on* the Right to Refuse Work as it goes into much greater depth than what we were able to cover).

We generally covered the categorizing of hazards (ie: biological, chemical, ergonomic, physical, psychosocial (stress, violence) and safety) to name a few. I would highly recommend this course to get a basis of what areas should be further delved into as there is so much to learn!

Marg Lemoine
Treasurer, CUPE Local 973