

Spotting the **RISKS** in **TRUCKING**

**The first step
in reducing
driving
hazards**

If you want to remove the risks from any situation, you first have to understand what the risks are. That certainly applies to road safety planning in the trucking industry. You have to begin by identifying the driving-related risks that workers may encounter.



The Ontario Ministry of Labour (MOL), with the help of IHSA, has been working to identify the top risks in trucking. The hope is that this will help policy makers and the industry itself to reduce those risks and better protect workers.

This process began in March, when 18 industry representatives from the general trucking sector—including management, labour, government, and health and safety associations—met for a workplace risk assessment. The workshop was hosted by IHSA and facilitated by Dr. Sujoy Dey, a Corporate Risk Officer at the MOL.

IHSA provides training and consulting services to several transportation-related rate groups including Rate Group 570, which covers General Trucking – General Freight. The MOL had asked IHSA for help connecting government representatives with industry stakeholders and experts.

Before the workshop began, each participant had submitted his or her top health and safety concerns. The resulting list identified 105 risks in the sector. During the workshop, the participants discussed each of the risks at length and ranked them in order of importance.

Although the federal and provincial laws and the corporate rules that apply to trucking contain many safety requirements, there are gaps in those

provisions that can increase the risk of an incident or injury. By filling those gaps, the risks can be reduced and safety can be improved.

“As they identified specific conditions and situations that could result in injury or illness, we asked the group, ‘what keeps you up at night?’” says Dr. Dey. It turned out that what worried people the most were distracted driving, driver fatigue, and the carelessness of other road users.



Sujoy Dey, Ph.D., CRM, Corporate Risk Officer, Ministry of Labour

When it came time to decide what the top 10 risks were for General Trucking – General Freight, only workers and managers in the industry were allowed to vote. They did so anonymously with hand-held electronic devices. Here is their list:

Top 10 Health and Safety Risks in General Trucking – General Freight

1. **Distracted driving**
2. **Driver fatigue**
3. **Careless drivers on the road (other truck drivers, other motorists)**
4. **Driving conditions**
5. **Lack of truck awareness for average everyday car drivers sharing the roads with the trucking industry**
6. **Slips, trips, and falls**
7. **Stress**
8. **Inadequate or insufficient training, skills, or qualifications**
9. **Illness resulting from the lifestyle of a long-distance driver**
10. **Working at heights (tarping loads)**

The report produced as a result of the workshop was reviewed by a volunteer industry advisory committee for the transportation sectors. They decided that the next steps would be to make a detailed analysis of the root causes of driver fatigue and to create a plan for developing controls and activities for addressing those causes. The committee, together with IHSA, would support these steps and would help carry them out.

“Using the risk assessment method and analyzing its root causes within the workplace is an extremely effective method for understanding and identifying the leading indicators that allow industry to work more proactively in addressing key concerns,” says Dr. Dey.

IHSA will facilitate a Driver Fatigue Root Cause Analysis Workshop later in 2019. So stay tuned for more information on the results and industry recommendations. As always, IHSA has unique expertise and abilities in managing the dangers of high-risk activities. IHSA’s training courses are created and taught by experts who have experience working in these industries. This ensures that IHSA’s training and other offerings align not only with its own strategic plan but also with the results of this industry effort.