



Interlake School Division Safety First Newsletter

April 26, 2016

Thursday April 28th National Day of Mourning



The Day of Mourning was officially recognized by the federal government in 1991. The National Day of Mourning is held annually on April 28th to remember those who have lost their lives in workplace accidents.

A sentiment frequently expressed by regulators and safety enforcement officers is that, *“these laws have been written in blood,”* and is part of their very orientation when they take on the job.

Establishing safe conditions in the workplace is critical to helping prevent these tragedies. Adhering to occupational health & safety standards, and ensuring that workers are properly trained, can help.

Please look forward to invitations arriving in your mailbox, notifying you of a series of safety training events, featuring guest trainers and demonstrations. I know you’ll find them informative and motivational.

Perception versus Reality

As people, we’re actually quite terrible at accurately gauging risks.

Let’s look at the following table, assembled from a risk survey of 100,000 Americans, to inform us. It’s a little task I like to call Perception v. Reality. On the left is the number predicted to have suffered a fatality from select hazards, on the right - reality. We’re not so great at “calling it.”

The table does a very interesting twist about halfway down:

<u>Perception</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Tornado	Tornado
564	90
Fireworks	Fireworks
160	6
Asthma	Asthma
506	1,886
Drowning	Drowning
1,684	7,380

Workplace Injuries: Not a single person, ever believes an incident is awaiting them, so lets’ call that a zero on the left column. In reality between 15 and 36 fatalities occurred every year in Manitoba, over the past 20 years. Over the same period, between 15,000 to 19,000 Manitobans suffered a Lost Time Injury every year. *

* (Association of Workers Compensations Boards of Canada)