

## Safety Toolkit for Small Businesses

Many Fisheries Safety Association of NS (FSANS) member firms are small-medium sized businesses, and now have a new resource to help them make their workplaces safer.

The Small Business Safety Toolkit provides easy-to-use, step-by-step guidelines and sample forms that business operators can use to identify hazards and develop a safety plan to keep everybody safe on the job.

The Small Business Safety Toolkit is available both online at [www.workplace-safety-toolkit.ca](http://www.workplace-safety-toolkit.ca) and in a hard copy version. It was developed by FSANS, the provincial government, the Workers' Compensation Board and some of our colleagues in other business and industry organizations.

“We are thrilled to have had the opportunity to work with other like-minded individuals and organisations to develop this Toolkit. It will make the task of creating a safe work environment considerably less challenging and confusing”, says Stewart Franck, FSANS Executive Director. “Small and medium sized businesses need to know they have the resources and support to navigate their way towards a complete OHS Program, and now there is even a Chart!”

The toolkit is a product of the province's Workplace Safety Strategy, a five-year initiative designed to make Nova Scotia the safest place to work in Canada.

“We understand that small business owners are busy and need accessible, easy to understand resources to help them protect their employees and make their workplaces safe,” said Labour and Advanced Education Minister Kelley Regan. “The toolkit provides small businesses with what they need to create and implement their own safety policies and practices.”

The toolkit helps users to establish a health and safety system in their workplace, learn their basic duties and responsibilities under the law and understand the importance of health and safety to the operations of a business.

“Work-related injuries not only hurt people, they can have a direct and significant impact on a company's bottom line, as well as its reputation,” said WCB CEO Stuart MacLean. “Taking the time to make a workplace safe is not only the law, it's good business sense.”

The Small Business Safety Toolkit was released on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the beginning of North American Occupational Safety and Health week.

**Please feel free to contact FSANS for assistance in working through the Toolkit toward setting up your very own, unique and specific OHS Program.**