

TRUCKING INDUSTRY

WORK SAFE. FOR LIFE.



The Nova Scotia trucking industry includes many different types of business, and many types of cargo; employees include professional drivers, dispatchers, warehouse workers, forklift operators, shunters and lumpers. But across the many business streams and the types of work in the trucking industry, there is one common denominator – injury, and its impact.

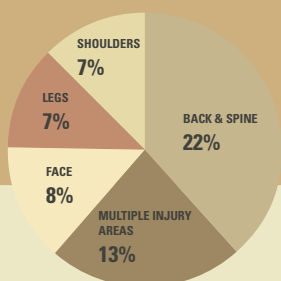
Industry Overview

Those who make their living in the trucking industry – from owner to employee, from driver to dispatcher and everywhere in between must be prepared to deal with the unique hazards of their work. These hazards are very real – and have contributed to the deaths of eight professional drivers between 2000 and 2005. Other hazards continue to cause severe injury and the annual loss of thousands of work weeks. Workplace injury can no longer be considered a cost of doing business in Nova Scotia's trucking industry.

Workplace Injury is Costly

Your company's history of workplace injury, and the length of time that your injured workers are off the job, impact the insurance premiums you pay to the Workers Compensation Board. On top of this, the indirect cost of workplace injury may be up to fifty times the original direct cost.

Reduce your injuries and get injured workers back on the job, and you can reduce your premiums. It's that simple. We can help you build a plan that includes safety training for owners, management and employees, safe work procedures and rules that meet your business needs and the requirements of provincial and federal safety law, and an effective return to work program. For help in getting started, go to **Prevention** at www.wcb.ns.ca. For information about trucking safety call the Nova Scotia Trucking Safety Association at **1 888 329 9660**, or go to www.nstsa.ca.



Depending on how well or how poorly your company is doing on safety performance, you could be paying 30% less or 60% **more** than your industry average in annual premiums.

Payroll	\$20,000	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$1,500,000
Average Premium				
General Freight	\$700 - \$1,600	\$1,760 - \$1,415	\$3,520 - \$8,030	\$52,800 - \$120,450
Goods: Moving & Storage	\$770 - \$1,606	\$1,925 - \$4,400	\$3,850 - \$8,800	\$57,750 - \$132,000
Bulk: Dry & Liquids	\$468 - \$1,068	\$1,170 - \$2,670	\$2,340 - \$5,340	\$35,100 - \$80,100
Truck Transport	\$650 - \$1,484	\$1,625 - \$3,710	\$3,250 - \$7,420	\$48,750 - \$111,300

Take a look at your company's WCB Experience Rating Statement for 2006. How much is workplace injury costing you?

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PHYSICAL HAZARDS

Does your work involve:

- Uneven, unstable or slippery work surfaces and areas?
- Working on platforms or at height?
- Working with hazardous materials?
- Working alone?
- Lifting and moving heavy loads?
- Securing unstable/awkward cargo or couplings?
- Driving in extreme weather?
- Paying constant attention to public drivers?
- Roadside adjustments or repairs?
- Exposure to the hazards of other worksites?

Prevention:

- Stabilizing work areas
- Fall protection systems
- Regulatory guidelines (ie: federal and provincial law, TDG, WHMIS, *et cetera*)
- Communication system set-up
- Proper first aid kit
- Well-maintained equipment and vehicle
- Safety training for all tasks, including hazard assessment
- Proper licensing and classifications
- Personal protective equipment and proper work clothing
- Involving workers in the design of safe working processes

ERGONOMIC HAZARDS

Does your work involve:

- Repetitive work motions?
- Forceful motions of the hands and wrists, arms and shoulders, knees and legs?
- Rigid positions of the back?
- Awkward working positions?
- Awkward or uneven work areas?
- Heavy and awkward loads to lift and transfer?
- Equipment or vehicles that vibrate?

Prevention:

- Proper work positioning
- Training in safe lifting, moving and securing of heavy/awkward cargo
- Hazard assessment process for work areas and tasks
- Involve workers in the design of safe working processes
- Rest and stretch breaks
- Preventative measures for tools, equipment and vehicles

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

Does your work involve exposure to:

- High noise levels?
- Temperature extremes?
- Wet environments?
- Chemicals or toxic fumes?
- Biting insects, rodents or wildlife?
- Breathing and lung irritants?
- Working around unstable objects?
- Skin irritations?
- Moulds, fungus and mildew?
- Confined spaces?

Prevention:

- Noise zones
- Safe practice for outdoor work
- Rest periods in comfortable areas
- Water supply for drinking and washing
- Toilet facilities
- Adequate airflow and ventilation
- Air quality testing
- Industry codes of practice
- Involve workers in the design of safe work processes



1 800 870 3331
www.wcb.ns.ca



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