



WHAT WENT WRONG?

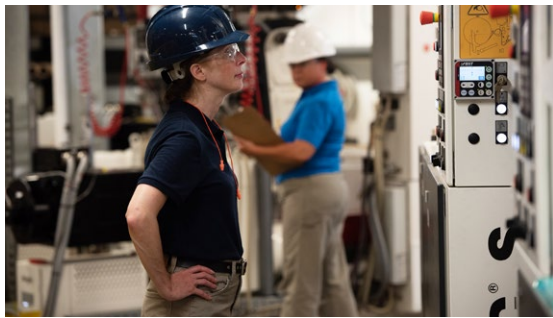
A guide to discussing the **Recital** safety advertisement in your workplace

Workplace safety doesn't become any less important after you clock out. In fact, it's what – and who – we come home to at the end of the day that makes our safety so valuable.

It should never take a loss to put what's important into perspective. This discussion guide is designed to start conversations about workplace safety *before* injuries occur.

While we tend to think about workplace injuries as sudden and dramatic, they can often develop gradually. In **Recital**, a mother sustains occupational noise-induced hearing loss and can no longer clearly hear her daughter practicing the piano.

Noise induced hearing loss is increasing in Nova Scotia. Unlike cuts, bruises or sprains, hearing loss is rarely painful and takes years to develop. But by the time it's noticeable, it's often too late.



Safety starts with conversation. Use this guide at your next team meeting, toolbox talk, or JOHSC meeting.

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION POINTS

- What workplace hazards have you seen or experienced on the job?

- What equipment helps you do your job safely? Do you feel this equipment is sufficient? What could or should be put in place?

- In **Recital**, in the first factory the mom doesn't use hearing protection PPE at work. Why do you think this is? What tools and workplace policies could have been used to remind her or to enforce the use of protective equipment?

- What safety measures do we/you use to control our hazards?

- At the end of the video, in the new factory, a supervisor asks the worker about her hearing protection PPE. It's apparent that the safety culture in this new factory is better than the previous factory she worked in. What should a supervisor at the worker's former job have done when it was noticed the worker didn't have her hearing protection on?

- What other work-related injuries or illnesses can you think of that can take time to show impact? (others include: pneumoconiosis, carpal tunnel syndrome, lead poisoning, lung cancer, mesothelioma, laryngeal cancer, and silicosis.)

- What hazards are an everyday part of your job? What do you think can be done to decrease the risk of these hazards?

- At our workplace, how do we identify and report hazards? What role do Hazard Reports play in getting safety issues fixed?

- How can all employees (and managers) influence a positive safety environment?

- What are some ways that work-related injury impact our lives outside of the workplace?

WHERE FROM HERE?

Everyone in a workplace shares responsibility for safety, based on their own level of authority and ability. That's the central message behind the [Internal Responsibility System \(IRS\)](#).

Recital shows us the long-term effects of hazards in the workplace. Noise induced hearing loss reminds us that even if a situation doesn't seem dangerous at first, it can cause permanent damage in the future.

- Understanding the long-term effects of workplace hazards is key in preventing lasting injury, because, workplace injury hurts the most at home.
- Get the training you need to safely do your work. If it's not offered right away, ask for it.
- Ask your boss to explain safety rules, and follow them.
- Take the time to work safely. If you're feeling way too rushed, talk to your supervisor.
- Don't take shortcuts, even if other people do.
- Always use safety equipment, including safety equipment and personal protective gear and clothing.
- Operate machinery and tools properly.
- Be an advocate for safety. Help others to speak up too.
- Report anything you feel is unsafe.
- Work with your supervisor and boss to make positive change happen.

For more information about when hearing protection may be required for work, contact the [Nova Scotia Occupational Health and Safety Division](#) at 1-800-952-2687.

For more workplace safety tools and resources visit worksafeforlife.ca.