



**YUKON WORKERS'
COMPENSATION
HEALTH AND
SAFETY BOARD**

OH&S

SUBJECT: ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS POLICY NO.: OHS - 02

BOARD APPROVAL: *[Signature]*

APPROVAL DATE: 93-12-09

BOARD ORDER NO.: _____

EFFECTIVE DATE: 93-12-09 **REVOKED**

JUL 12 2005

POLICY STATEMENT

SECTION
REFERENCE:

33 Occupational Health and Safety Act

POLICY:

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Occupational Health and Safety Act requires that where a serious injury or serious accident takes place at any worksite, the employer or person responsible for that workplace will immediately, or as soon as reasonably practicable, notify a safety officer or an officer's office of the injury or accident.

At an accident scene, no person may, except for the purpose of saving life or relieving suffering and protecting property which is endangered as a result of the accident, interfere with anything connected to the accident until a safety officer or Royal Canadian Mounted Police member has completed an investigation into the accident or authorizes interference with the accident scene.

POLICY

A. JURISDICTION

Occupational Health and Safety Officers will have the primary responsibility to investigate work-related accidents in the territory. Safety officers will conduct investigations in conjunction with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Fire Marshal's Office and/or the Coroner's Office as required. When safety officers suspect criminal negligence, they are obligated to contact and bring in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Fire Marshal's Office and/or the Coroner's Office.

B. PROTECTION OF EVIDENCE

The safety officer will go to the scene of the accident as soon as possible. In the event, the safety officer is not able to go to the accident immediately, the officer will appoint someone to isolate the scene of the accident.

If a serious injury or serious accident has not resulted in death, a safety officer may authorize a health and safety representative from the workplace to conduct the investigation on their behalf.

If a safety officer is not available, or an immediate investigation cannot be held or the employer is unable to notify a safety officer, then the employer may move or permit the movement of anything connected with the serious injury or accident, provided that details of the scene are first recorded by photographs, drawings or other means.

C. MEDIA RELATIONS

The potential liability of the employer, the consideration of the people involved and/or the relatives of the injured party make media relations a sensitive and important issue. The following instructions apply:

- (i) No officer will make any statement about any causes or fault. Premature conclusions can compromise the investigation and/or the employer and/or the worker.
- (ii) Names of any injured will be released only after notification of designated relatives.
- (iii) A standard, "the incident is under investigation", statement is all that will be given to the media.
- (iv) The President shall determine persons providing information to the media.