

# OHS Insider Newsletter – June 2026



The June 2026 edition of the OHS Insider Newsletter takes a practical look at the kinds of safety and environmental issues that can quietly create risk until they become expensive, disruptive, or dangerous. This month's issue focuses on the gap between policy and real-world execution, with articles that help OHS leaders strengthen prevention, improve decision-making, and build more defensible systems.

One of the central themes in this issue is spill prevention and emergency containment. The newsletter explains why spills remain such a serious workplace hazard, from slip-and-fall incidents to chemical exposure, fire risk, environmental contamination, and operational shutdowns. It also walks through the basic ingredients of an effective spill response program, including worker training, material-specific spill kits, clear containment procedures, and strong housekeeping and maintenance practices. The takeaway is simple but important: spill response cannot begin when the spill happens. It has to be built into the workplace before the emergency starts.

The June issue also looks at green purchasing through an OHS and business lens. Rather than treating sustainability as a branding exercise, the newsletter frames environmentally responsible purchasing as a practical workplace strategy that can reduce waste, lower operating costs, improve compliance,

and extend the life of equipment and materials. It makes the case that buying “green” is not only about environmental values. It can also support workplace health, strengthen supplier relationships, and improve long-term business performance.

That business case continues in the feature on environmental ROI. This article speaks directly to a challenge many EHS and OHS professionals face every year: how to win executive support for environmental initiatives in organizations where spending decisions are driven by financial return. The newsletter explains how return on investment works, why companies rely on it, and how safety and environmental leaders can use it more effectively when building proposals. It also highlights an important shift from trailing indicators to leading indicators, reminding readers that if you want leadership buy-in, you need to show not just why a program is important, but how it protects money, operations, and future performance.



Another standout article in this edition tackles a problem many organizations do not see clearly enough: hazard assessments that no longer reflect reality. The piece argues that many companies believe they are protected because hazards have been identified, controls have been documented, and workers have been trained. But serious incidents often happen when a known hazard is no longer being controlled the way the paperwork says it is. The newsletter describes this as “known hazard drift,” where shortcuts, changed conditions, production pressure, and normal workarounds slowly erode control effectiveness over time. It is a strong reminder that compliance on paper is not the same as control in practice, and that supervisors play a critical role in catching this drift before it leads to injury.

The June newsletter also includes a practical piece on worker safety in waste management. It covers the physical, biological, chemical, and environmental hazards that waste workers face, from sharp materials and contaminated waste to vehicle movement, airborne exposures, heat, and wildlife encounters. It reinforces the need for proper PPE, safe lifting, traffic management, hygiene practices, and training tailored to the realities of the job. In a sector where routine work can still carry serious hidden exposure, the article gives readers a useful reminder that prevention depends on both systems and day-to-day discipline.

For readers who rely on OHS Insider to stay on top of regulatory developments, the newsletter's Month-in-Review section provides a quick scan of key updates across Canada. The June issue highlights federal changes involving the Human Pathogens and Toxins Act, new PPE requirements in British Columbia, proposed head protection rules in Ontario, hygiene requirements for construction projects in Manitoba, stronger endangered species fines in Newfoundland and Labrador, new electrical safety legislation in the Northwest Territories, and Yukon's tougher administrative monetary penalty regime, among other developments. The message across jurisdictions is consistent: employers are facing more detailed expectations, more enforcement tools, and less room for passive compliance.



The case alerts section adds even more value by showing how these legal and compliance issues play out in the real world. This month's cases cover topics such as termination for refusing a COVID vaccination policy, fines for unsecured lockers, inadequate training and supervision, carbon monoxide exposure, excavation enforcement, and falling materials. Together, the cases underline a familiar but critical lesson: organizations usually get into trouble not because hazards

were unknown, but because controls were weak, training was incomplete, supervision fell short, or obvious risks were left unresolved.

The issue wraps up with guidance on handling pesticides and herbicides safely, covering PPE, mixing and loading risks, application methods, storage, chemical drift, and emergency preparedness. It is another useful reminder that safe chemical handling depends on more than product labels alone. It requires training, proper equipment, disciplined procedures, and clear response planning when exposure or spills occur.

Overall, the June 2026 OHS Insider Newsletter is a strong issue for safety leaders who want more than surface-level reminders. It connects environmental responsibility, hazard control, worker protection, and legal defensibility in a way that feels practical and timely. If your organization is trying to improve prevention, strengthen execution, and stay ahead of compliance risk, this month's edition is well worth reading.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW THIS MONTH

<https://ohsinsider.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/jUNE-2026.mp3>

## IMPORTANT DATES

**June 1–Alberta**–Deadline to comply with driver experience records [rules](#) for commercial carrier Class 1 tractor-trailers.

**June 1–Alberta**–Deadline [to comment](#) on proposed changes to WCB Funding Policy.

**June 1–Nova Scotia**–Revised [Air Quality Regulations](#) take effect.

**June 1–Québec**–Deadline [to apply](#) for Productivity-Skills program funding for AI training.

**June 1–Yukon**–New WSCB administrative monetary penalties [regime](#) for OHS and workers' compensation violations takes effect.

**June 5–Nationwide**–Deadline to comment on proposed changes to [List of Pests Regulated by Canada](#) (LRP).

**June 8–Ontario**–Deadline to comment on [proposed](#) e-bikes safety regulations.

**June 12–Newfoundland & Labrador**–Deadline to [apply](#) for 2026 Job Creation Partnerships (JCP) funding.

**June 17–Alberta**–Deadline [to apply](#) for Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction (TIER) grants

## THIS MONTH'S CONTENT IN FULL

- [Spill Prevention and Containment in Emergencies](#)
- "Green" Purchasing in the Workplace Ask the Expert
- How to Use Return on Investment to Win Executive Support for Your Environmental Program
- [Why Your Hazard Assessment Is Lying to You](#)
- [Worker Safety in Waste Management](#)
- [Month In Review](#)
- [Handling Pesticides & Herbicides Safely](#)

## ADDITIONAL TOOLS AND READING

- [What to do when workers defy your mandatory](#)

## vaccination policy

- Materials Stacking Safety & Compliance Gameplan
- OHSI Due Diligence Scorecard
- Respiratory Protection Equipment Compliance Game Plan
- OHSI Excavations Compliance Game Plan