



Alberta Human Resources and Employment (HRE)

UPDATE ON ALBERTA'S REGULATORY REVIEW PROCESS AND ITS IMPACT ON MINING

**By Don Hindy
Director of Mines**

May 11, 2001



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- **Last met with WMEA in 1999.**
 - **Talked about the mines inspection program in Alberta.**
 - **Informed WMEA that a Regulatory Review Process had just begun.**
- **That review process is almost complete.**

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- **Intent of Today's Presentation:**
 - **To update WMEA on regulatory changes that may impact the mining sector,**
 - **Particularly, changes to the:**
 - **Mines Safety Regulations**
 - **General Safety Regulations**
 - **First Aid Regulations**

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- **The 1999 process:**
 - **Was driven by an mandatory 5-year regulatory review cycle, and**
 - **An intent to consolidate existing regulations into a single “Occupational Health and Safety Regulation”.**

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- **Existing WH&S Regulations included:**
 - **Mines Safety Regulation**
 - **General Safety Regulation**
 - **Chemical Hazards Regulation**
 - **Explosives Regulation**
 - **Noise Regulation**
 - **First Aid Regulation**
 - **Ventilation Regulation**

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- **When completed, the new Occupational Health and Safety Regulation will:**
 - **Be one or two booklets.**
 - **Reduce duplication and repetition.**
 - **Reflect the latest input from stakeholders.**
 - **Be adopted sometime around Oct. 31/01.**

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- **To coincide with the adoption of the new OH&S Regulation, all pre-existing WH&S Regulations will be formally repealed -- including the Mines Safety Regulation.**

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- **Regulatory changes that impact mining:**
 - **Expiry date for existing Mines Safety Regulation extended until the new OH&S Regulation has been adopted. (Approx.. Oct. 31, 2001)**

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- **Regulatory changes that impact mining:**
 - **Adoption of the new CSA Standard M421-00 *Use of Electricity in Mines.***
(Mr. Ron King will address this topic.)

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- **In the new Regulation:**
 - **A need to inform the Director when electrical distribution systems are disconnected and abandoned.**

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- **In the new Regulation:**
 - **Certification testing of Rubber-Tired, Self-Propelled (RT-SP) mobile equipment in excess of 32,000 kg.**
 - **Periodic service brake testing of RT-SP Mobile Equipment - Units > 32,000 kg.**
 - **Only 30% of fleet brake tested each year.**
 - **Total fleet tested over 3-year period.**

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- **In the new Regulation:**
 - **Few changes to sections related to underground coal mining.**
 - **Requirement for brake testing of u/g equipment.**

NOTE: Currently there are no underground coal mines in Alberta.



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- **In general:**
 - **Adoption of some International (ISO) Standards in place of Canadian and North American Standards.**

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- **A requirement to have a written Health and Safety Plan:**
 - **Documented hazard assessments - with workers involved in the process.**
 - **Existing and potential hazards identified.**
 - **Identified hazards eliminated or controlled.**

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- **The H&S plan must contain:**
 - **A corporate H&S policy and statement of management commitment**
 - **Hazard assessments**
 - **Hazard elimination / control measures**
 - **Regular work site inspections**
 - **Qualifications and training of workers**
 - **Emergency response procedures**
 - **Incident investigation; and**
 - **Plan administration**

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- **A section on “Working Alone” (Which will be enforced after May 1, 2001)**
 - **Documented hazard assessments, with hazard elimination or control.**
 - **Related Employee Training.**
 - **Effective communications system.**
 - **Re-assessment as conditions change.**

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- **“Working Alone” Legislation applies to all industries in Alberta.**
- **Where employees:**
 - **Have cash and merchandise control.**
 - **Meet clients away from the base office.**
 - **Perform hazardous work.**
 - **Travel alone.**
 - **Are at risk of violence due to isolation.**

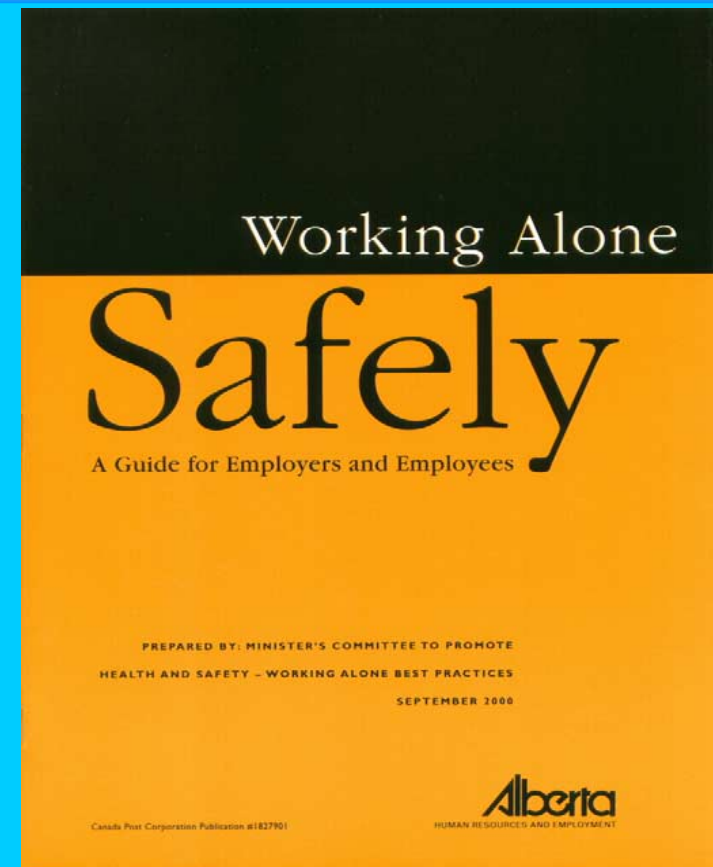
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- **Working Alone Legislation:**
 - **An Essential component is an effective means of communications - by which to summons HELP.**
 - **Does not prohibit anyone from working alone.**

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- **Guide to employers & workers**
- **Industry best practices**
- **Checklists for different situations**



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- **E-mail address for WH&S is www.whs.gov.ab.ca**
- **Phone number for WH&S is 1-866-415-8690.**

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- **In the new Regulation:**
 - **Access to first-aid records is restricted to:**
 - **Individuals requiring access for:**
 - **Medical treatment**
 - **Work site inspections**
 - **Accident and incident investigations**
 - **Evaluation of health and safety programs.**
 - **Workers' Compensation Board**

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- **Individuals with access to first aid records must keep the information confidential.**
- **On request, a worker may be given a copy of his own first aid records.**



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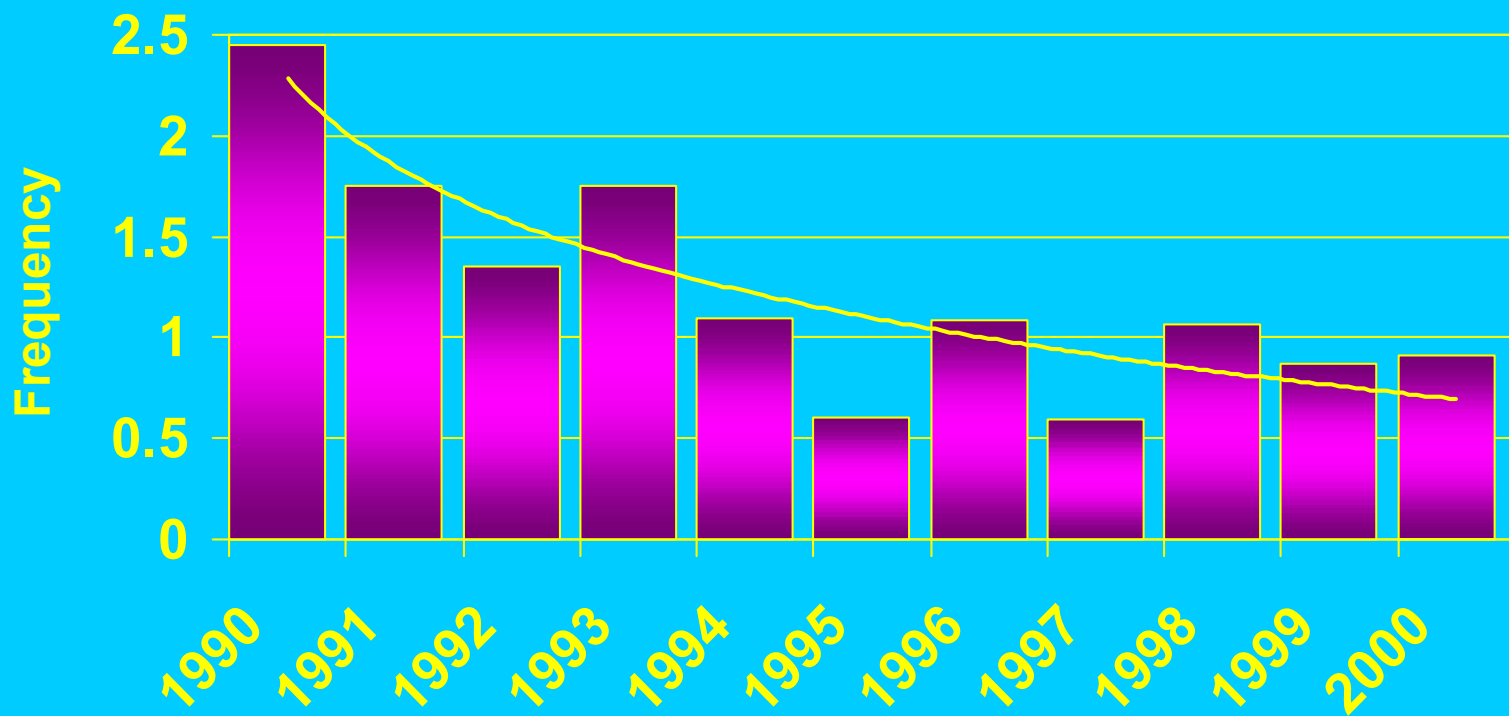
- **Other Items:**

- **An explanation document will be available for all new regulations.**
- **Standard slide presentations are being prepared for training.**
- **Inspectors will help employers understand any changes.**

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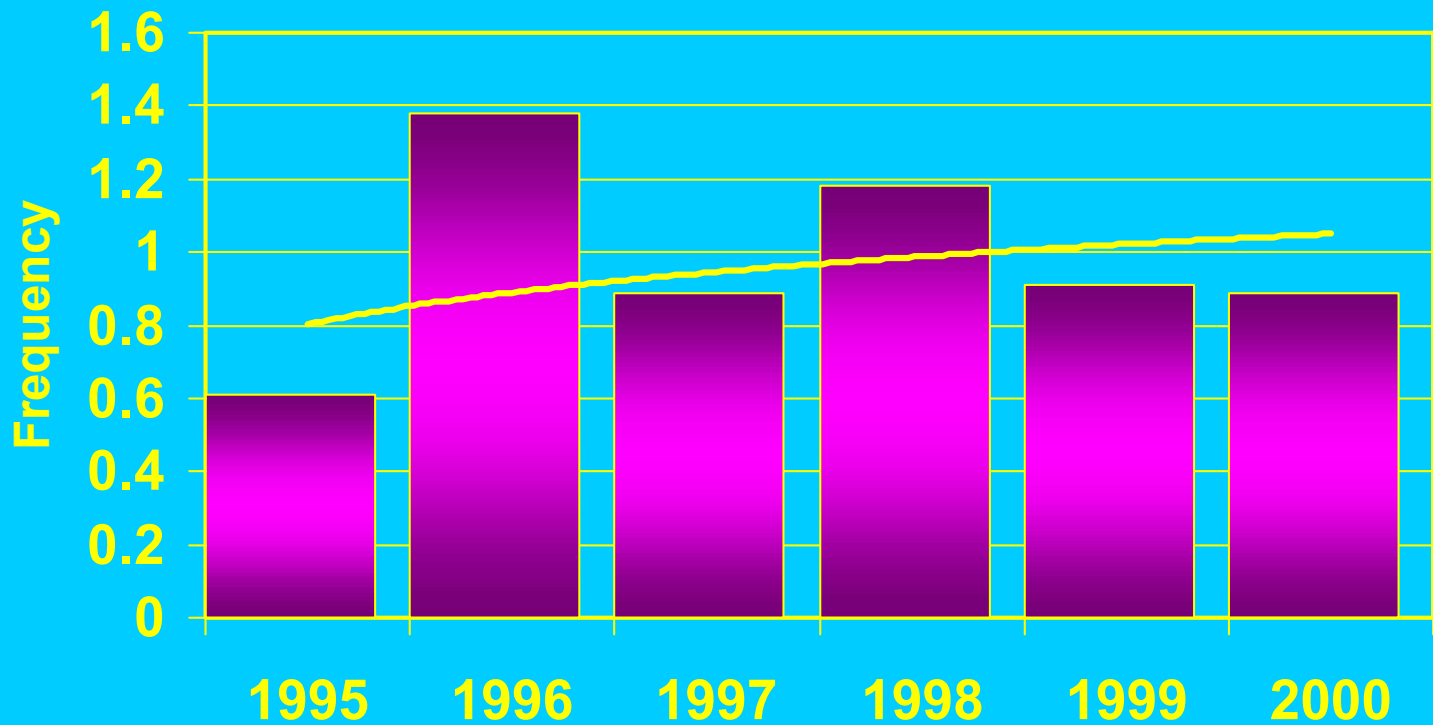
LTA Frequency - Surface Mines



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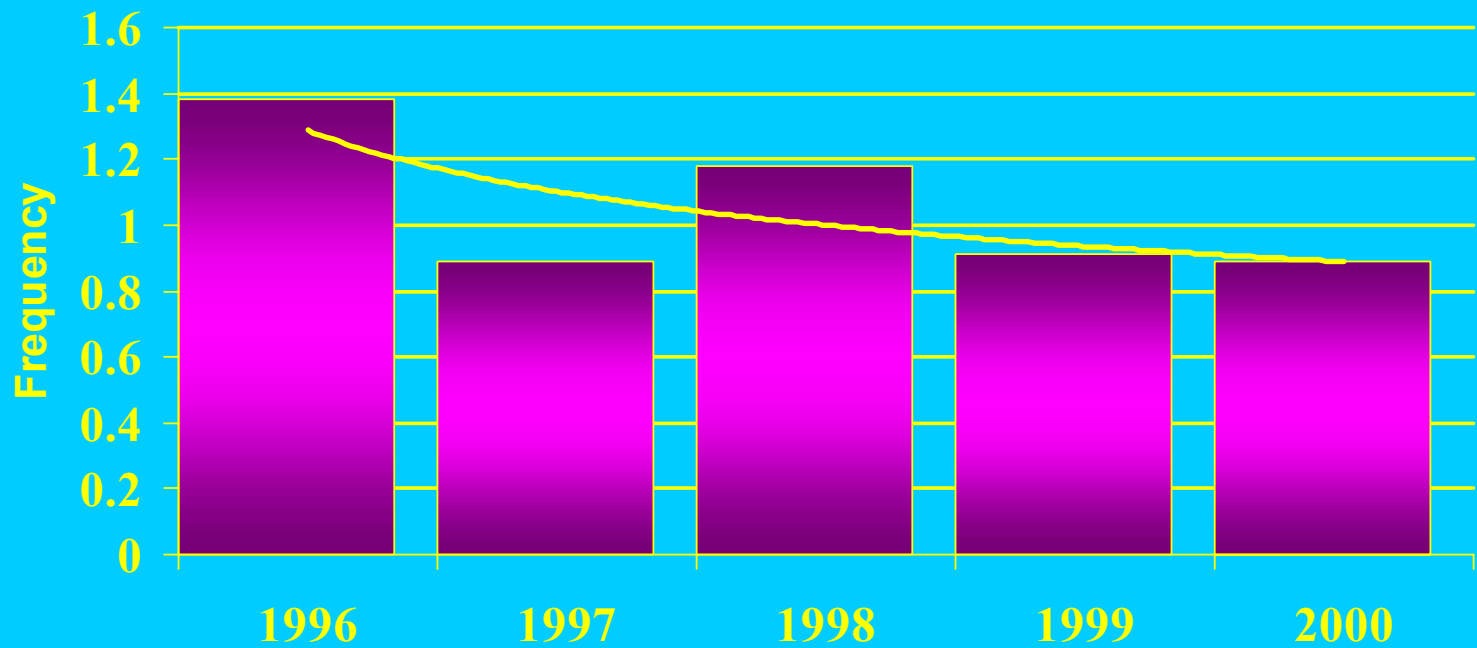
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