

OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE ACTION PLAN (ODAP)

Objective of the ODAP:

An action plan focused on aligning the efforts of the Occupational Health and Safety System and partners toward Occupational Disease Prevention, to prevent hazardous exposures in Ontario workplaces in order to reduce the incidence and burden of occupational disease.

Context:

The ODAP was developed in winter 2017, by a Reference Group made up of representatives from the occupational health and safety system partners, including; Ministry of Labour (Prevention, Operations and Policy Divisions), Health and Safety Associations, Specialized Research Centres (Centre for Research Expertise in Occupational Disease and the Occupational Cancer Research Centre) and Workplace Safety and Insurance Board as well as the Ontario Lung Association, Public Health Ontario and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. The Reference Group is chaired by the Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers. A number of Ministry of Labour advisory committees were also consulted in its development.

Over the course of several meetings, the Reference Group recognized that general awareness of Occupational Disease incidence, consequence and capacity for prevention was lacking among system and workplace parties, and needed to be fostered. In addition, given the broad scope and scale of Occupational Disease as an issue, some focus of effort would be required to make the Action Plan manageable and achievable. Thus, the Reference Group undertook a preliminary exercise to focus the work of the Plan around key exposure hazards based on Need (prevalence, severity & recognition as a hazard) and Impact (attainable and measurable outcomes plus available capacity and opportunity for intervention).

This led the Reference Group to focus initially (through a ranking exercise) on Noise, Allergens and Irritants leading to skin (e.g. dermatitis) and lung disease (e.g. asthma) and Diesel Exhaust.. The Reference Group also agreed not to lose sight of emerging exposures (e.g. nanotechnology), where knowledge exchange and research may not yet be fully developed.

The Action Plan describes new initiatives upon which system partners can align. It also supports the important ongoing work by the system and its partners on other hazardous exposures (e.g. asbestos, silica). Opportunities to engage other partners and stakeholders on ODAP activities will be explored, plus the Plan's effectiveness and priorities will be reviewed annually, and adjustments may be made.

In January 2018, following the first year of activities, the ODAP Implementation Team (See Appendix) reviewed progress to date along with recent research results and re-affirmed the Plan's goals, priorities and actions.

The table below presents Action Plan activities generated by the Reference Group to address the current priorities of the Action Plan.

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Approach	Activity Descriptions	Working Group (Lead) or Lead Organization	Timeline
1.0 Intelligence and Decision Support	1.1 Develop a strategy to embed “Occupation” and potentially other links to work into the Electronic Medical Record being led by e-Health Ontario and OntarioMD, to improve data on the relationship between work and health	EMR Working Group (MOL)	Short Term (1yr)
	1.2 Develop a plan for obtaining occupational exposure baseline data from Ontario workplaces to focus and support action to prevent occupational disease. <i>A potential pilot project to collect and standardize workplace exposure measurements (e.g. air sampling)</i>	Intelligence and Decision Support (OCRC)	Medium Term (1-3yrs)
	1.3 Develop and use existing exposure and disease surveillance data (e.g. WSIB data, OCRC Occupational Disease Surveillance System Project) to inform priorities, better target prevention efforts and generate research questions	Intelligence and Decision Support (OCRC)	Medium Term (1-3yrs)
2.0 Research and Data Management	2.1 Conduct a jurisdictional scan to review occupational disease legislation, regulations & guidelines in other jurisdictions.	MOL Policy	Short Term (1yr)
	2.2 Conduct a jurisdictional scan of prevention initiatives aimed at reducing workplace exposure to hazardous levels of noise, to explore potential prevention initiatives for Ontario	Noise Working Group (MOL PVO-SIB)	Short Term (1yr)
	2.3 Identify priority irritants and allergens for skin and lung disease to focus action plan activities (e.g. 2.6, 3.1)	Allergens and Irritants (CRE-OD, OLA)	Short Term (1yr)
	2.4 Identify what the current research reveals regarding emerging exposures to inform the health and safety prevention system; and develop future research questions (to fill knowledge gaps)	OHCOW (Engineered Nanomaterials WG in Ottawa)	Short Term (1yr)
	2.5 Explore and evaluate workplace exposure assessment tools (for all priority exposures)	Noise (IHSA), Diesel (WSN) and Allergens and Irritants (CRE-OD) Working Groups	Medium Term (1-3yrs)
	2.6 Assess worker knowledge of allergens and irritants (skin and lung) to target awareness efforts (e.g. survey tool)	Allergens and Irritants Working Group (CRE-OD)	Medium Term (1-3yrs)
	2.7 Integrate Action Plan priorities into MOL Research Programs (e.g. Research Opportunities Program)	MOL PVO	Ongoing
3.0 Awareness	3.1 Develop and implement a communications and marketing plan focusing on raising awareness of harm and prevention with respect to the priority exposures: noise and/or allergens and irritants and/or diesel hazards in the workplace, with an underlying theme of general occupational disease prevention. Designated Activity under System Operational Planning for Fiscal Year 2017/18.	Noise (IHSA), Diesel (WSN) and Allergens and Irritants (CRE-OD) Working Groups	Short Term (1yr)

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	3.2 Target specific sectors to raise awareness of priority allergens and irritants (potential for focus on employers)	Allergens and Irritants (CRE-OD) Working Group	Medium Term (1-3yrs)
4.0 Advisory and Support Services	4.1 Deliver educational opportunities and resources to increase the health and safety knowledge of individuals within the health and safety system on priority exposures (Noise, Allergens & Irritants, and Diesel) and general occupational disease incidence and prevention (e.g. Occ-tober)	Noise (IHSA), Diesel (WSN) and Allergens and Irritants (CRE-OD) Working Groups	Short Term (1yr)
	4.2 Target advisory and support services to workplaces falling under the expanded noise regulation	Noise Working Group (IHSA)	Short Term (1yr)
	4.3 Target advisory and support services to the action plan priority exposures for specific sectors	TBD	Medium Term (1-3yrs)
5.0 Education and Training	5.1 Inventory and align system educational resources to promote occ. disease prevention. Initially focusing on the priorities of noise, allergens/irritants, diesel and general occ. disease awareness	Noise (IHSA), Diesel (WSN) and Allergens and Irritants (CRE-OD) Working Groups	Short Term (1yr)
	5.2 Identify any gaps and a process to develop new resources to address them and/or support ODAP and system partners' ongoing occupational disease efforts.	Noise (IHSA), Diesel (WSN) and Allergens and Irritants (CRE-OD) Working Groups	Medium Term (1-3yrs)
	5.3 Review mandatory training initiatives and standards to identify opportunities to add or strengthen occupational disease prevention content.	MOL PVO (TSPB)	Short Term (1yr)
	5.4 Inventory and align existing system training initiatives to promote occ. disease prevention, initially focusing on the priorities of noise, allergens/irritants, diesel and general occ. disease awareness.	MOL PVO (TSPB) Noise (IHSA), Diesel (WSN) and Allergens and Irritants (CRE-OD) Working Groups	Short Term (1yr)
	5.5 Identify any gaps and a process to develop new training initiatives or standards to address them and/or support ODAP and system partners' ongoing occupational disease efforts.	MOL PVO (TSPB) Noise (IHSA), Diesel (WSN) and Allergens and Irritants (CRE-OD) Working Groups	Medium Term (1-3yrs)
	5.6 Develop and deliver health care practitioner education on general and specific occupational disease topics (e.g. work-related asthma)	Allergens and Irritants (CRE-OD) Working Group	Short Term (1yr)

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	5.7 Integrate awareness of occupational disease exposures (irritants and allergens- skin and lung) into career counselling and vocational services	Allergens and Irritants (CRE-OD) Working Group	Medium Term (1-3yrs)
	5.8 Provide/recommend tools to JHSC for health hazard identification and management (potential for building on activity 2.5)	Noise (IHSA), Diesel (WSN) and Allergens and Irritants (CRE-OD) Working Groups	Medium Term (1-3yrs)
6.0 Enforcement and Monitoring	6.1 Develop enforcement strategies for occupational disease priorities	MOL Operations	Medium Term (1-3yrs)
7.0 Programs	7.1 Explore NIOSH's "Buy Quiet" program and potential applicability for Ontario	MOL PVO-SIB	Medium Term (1-3yrs)
	7.2 Explore the integration of occupational disease and priority exposures with WSIB on premium or prevention program projects (e.g. Workwell)	WSIB	Medium Term (1-3yrs)
	7.3 Explore opportunities to incorporate occupational disease elements into Accreditation programs (e.g. assurance of controls, proper equipment/ventilation)	MOL PVO-TAB	Medium Term (1-3yrs)
8.0 Legislation and Regulations	8.1 Review and consider opportunities for regulatory changes	MOL Policy	Ongoing

Appendix: Implementation Structure

An Implementation Team oversees implementation of the activities under the ODAP. It supports the planning, execution and evaluation of activities to help ensure effective and timely completion and evaluation.

Implementation of the ODAP is assigned to 5 working groups staffed by interested Implementation Team members or their delegates.

Working Group	Lead	Organizations Participating
1. Noise	IHSA – Mike Russo	WSN, WSPS, PSHSA, OHCOW, MOL (Prevention, Operations, Policy & Communications)
2. Diesel	WSN- Mike Parent	WSPS, PSHSA, OHCOW, OCRC, Lung Association of Ontario, MOL (Prevention, Policy)
3. Allergens and Irritants (A+I)	CRE-OD- Linn Holness	WSPS, PSHSA, OHCOW, WSN OCRC, Lung Association of Ontario, MOL (Prevention, Operations, Policy)
4. Intelligence and Decision Support (I+DS)	OCRC- Victoria Arrandale	WSPS, PSHSA, OHCOW, WSN, MOL (Prevention, Data Management Branch), CRE-OD, WSN, PHO
5. Electronic Medical Record	MOL- Prevention Office	CRE-OD, OCRC, MOL (Prevention, Operations)