

Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committees



What is a Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee?

A joint occupational health and safety committee (JOHS) is composed of both worker and employer representatives. Together, they should be mutually committed to improving health and safety conditions in the workplace. JOHS committees are a cornerstone for effective health and safety programs, and provide a forum for collaboration, consultation, and participation at the workplace. Committees identify health and safety issues and bring them to the employer's attention, and must be kept informed of health and safety developments in the workplace by the employer.

What do Joint Committees Do?

The committee's role is to help prevent workplace injury and illness. Some of the duties of joint committees are:

- ✓ Jointly develop a terms of reference for the committee
- ✓ Identify situations that may be unsafe and unhealthy
- ✓ Address workers' concerns and complaints
- ✓ Consult with workers and employers on how to improve health and safety
- ✓ Advise employers on OH&S programs and policies
- ✓ Conduct regular inspections
- ✓ Participate in incident investigations

Why are joint health and safety committees important?

Joint health and safety committees guarantee you the right to participate in health and safety issues at your worksite. It's through these committees that you and your co-workers can offer frontline solutions to make our workplaces safer and healthier, and ensure your employer is following occupational health and safety regulations.

Why should I become a BCGEU OH&S representative?

Getting involved with occupational health and safety is a great way for union members to contribute. As a safety committee member, you will help ensure your employer is following OH&S regulations. You can raise the profile of health and safety, and improve your working environment. It's also a great way to build new skills. Joint committee members receive annual training and build practical experience in problem-solving, planning, research, inspections and investigations.

If you'd like to become a BCGEU OH&S representative at your workplace, contact your local chair or area staff representative, or fill out the online form located at:

<http://former.bcgeu.ca/help-make-your-workplace-safer>