

## CONSTRUCTION SITE SAFETY

The health and safety responsibilities of all parties on a construction project are specified in the current Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations for Construction Projects. Responsibilities are prescribed in particular for constructor, employer, supervisor, and worker. Each party has specific responsibilities to meet on a construction project.

The Town of Markham Building Standards Department believes construction site safety should be the number one priority for all parties involved in building construction. Since 1994, the Town of Markham has had a Health and Safety Program for its building inspection staff, establishing construction site safety as our top priority.

For the most part, our Health and Safety Program deals directly in-house between the Town of Markham and its staff for issues such as foot and head protection. However, a major segment of our program is governed by the quality of construction site safety afforded by each builder or contractor. For building inspectors to conduct their inspections, proper safety measures must be in place. Safety measures involving the following,

- > Ladders
- > Scaffolds
- > Guardrails
- > Trenches and excavations
- > Access to inspection areas
- > Propane storage and
- > Wall bracing

Under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, The Town of Markham is considered to be a supervisor and a building inspector is considered to be a worker. Each party has their own responsibilities. As a supervisor, the Town of Markham must “*take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of the worker*”.

As earlier stated, The Town of Markham believes construction site safety to be their number one priority for its building inspection staff. To fully recognize this commitment, the Town of Markham must ensure construction sites comply with the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations for Construction Projects prior to permitting an inspection to occur. Therefore, a building inspection will not be conducted where any of the following are encountered;

- ?? improperly built and secured ladders or scaffolds
- ?? missing guard rails
- ?? improperly sloped, shored or protected trenches and excavations
- ?? access to inspection areas are improperly built, erected and unsecured creating an unsafe condition.

Remember, if you haven't provided the required level of site safety - you are not ready for an inspection.

**John Wright**  
Director Building Standards

*“Raising Standards - Meeting Needs”*