

## Due Diligence can prevent workplace injury: Masotti

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According to Paul Masotti, personal safety begins in the work place.

"I'm here to educate you on occupational safety and how it effects you," Masotti, an occupational health and safety consultant from Masotti Safety Management in Port Colborne told several business people at a free seminar entitled "Due Diligence in the Workplace," which was held Oct. 16 at the Port Colborne Fire Hall.

The two-hour seminar, hosted by Safe Communities Port Colborne, was aimed to provide information as it relates to corporate and personal due diligence pertaining to occupational health and safety and rules and regulations in the Criminal Code of Canada.

"It's about networking together to work with each other to promote safety and wellness," said Lori Kleinsmith, program manager for Safe Communities Port Colborne.

During the seminar, Masotti introduced amendments made to the Canadian criminal code (also known as Bill-C45) and how it relates to personal and corporate due diligence. Masotti said the bill established new legal duties for workplace health and safety, and imposes serious penalties for violations that result in injuries or death.

It also establishes rules for attributing criminal liability to organizations, including corporations, for the acts of their representatives and also creates a legal duty for all persons directing work to take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of workers and the public.

Anyone failing to do so may face criminal prosecution, Masotti said.

"And it's the big stuff. Companies can get fined any where from \$200,000 to \$500,000. That's a lot of money," Masotti said.

Masotti said due diligence in the workforce means taking every reasonable precaution to prevent an injury or illness from occurring while establishing reasonable standards of care to ensure the well being of an employee is protected.



**Due Diligence can prevent workplace injury: Masotti.** Paul Masotti, an occupational health and safety consultant with Masotti Safety Management in Port Colborne, talks about understanding due diligence and reasonable standards of care in the work place Oct. 16.

Taking care in due diligence, Masotti said companies can provide reasonable care by considering eight options: examining the potential harm level; examining the likelihood of harm in the workplace; looking at alternatives to measure safety; have proper training and education for employees; knowing safety policies and procedures; have open communication about protocols, monitoring protocols and disciplinary action for any safety violations.

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