

The Role of Unifor's Health and Safety Department

The Unifor Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) department is responsible for and provides the content of health and safety-training programs, campaigns for better laws and enforcement, and provides information on workplace substances and programs to eliminate and control hazardous workplace conditions.

This department also helps local unions set up programs to eliminate hazardous conditions in the workplace and assists local union leadership and national representatives to conduct health and safety training programs.

Our work includes:

Building enthusiasm within the union for HSE culture; motivating our rank and file members by engaging and energizing activists, reaching out to the members and increasing understanding for hazard prevention.

Providing guidance and leadership for the union on all Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) issues including advising the Officers of the Union about issues and ideas for action.

Helping to prepare the union for the future by working to expand our leadership capacity among as diverse and broad a membership base as possible.

Across Canada

Working within all provinces and our Regional Councils from across the country to discuss HSE issues and build activism from within. We build leadership capacity through our education and training programs.

We work closely with all departments, locals, staff and activists to promote Health, Safety and the Environment specifically, this includes:

- Organizing and conducting HSE conferences, courses and training programs
- Conducting campaigns on HSE issues
- Assisting and advising staff and leadership with advice for collective bargaining, HSE complaints, concerns and issues
- Assisting with union-building campaigns, including Organizing

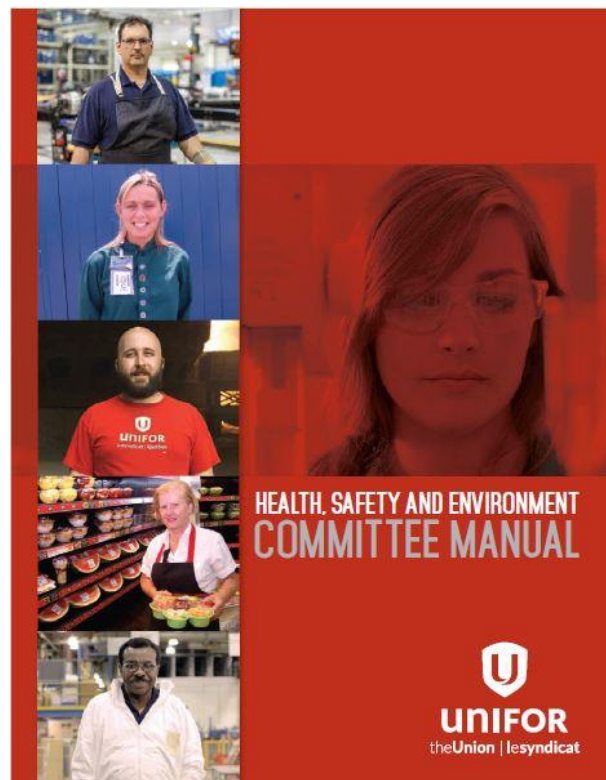
The department works closely with local union HSE committees, other unions and Labour Centrals in conducting HSE work, and reaches out to build strong relationships with community organizations engaged in this work.

In our workplaces

A sad fact is that in some workplaces, management pays little attention to health and safety issues. In those workplaces, it is all about doing the work as quickly as possible.

**People in workplaces like that are
often afraid to “make waves.”
Therefore, they keep quiet.**

Maybe you felt that way on a past job. That is why it is important to know that you are not alone. Help is always available from your Unifor Health and Safety Representative and the Unifor National Health and Safety department. We need to hear from you! Workers have much to offer when it comes to working healthier and safer. We encourage all of our members to expand their knowledge and to be diligent of work hazards including physical hazards, chemical hazards or mental health hazards.



Education

Through the approval of your Local Union Executive, we invite you to explore the many Health, Safety, Environment and Workers Compensation courses Unifor has to offer.

Courses are offered for one week at our Family Education Centre. Three-day and one-day courses can also be offered at your Local Union hall in your own community.

These courses are available to all Unifor units that have negotiated Paid Education Leave and/or Health and Safety Training Fund (HSTF) language in their collective agreements.

For more information on Health, Safety, Environment and Workers' Compensation contact:



Health & Safety Department

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Health, Safety and Environment
Santé, sécurité et environnement