



Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee

Wednesday September 9th, 2026, 2:00 pm to 3:15 pm

Location – Support Services Building 4210

MINUTES

Start Time: 2:03 pm

1. Land Acknowledgement

2. Approval of the Agenda

- Approved.

3. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting (June 10th, 2026)

- Approved.

4. Business arising from previous meeting.

4.1 Campus Updates

- Director, Health Safety and Well-Being (HSW) reported on campus activities.
- A Health and Safety Advisor has joined the HSW team.
- Service for Hazardous Waste Disposal RFP is completed and successful proponent has been awarded
- Director, HSW updated on laboratory safety initiatives including fume hood verification and maintenance.
- Director, HSW reported to the committee on updates to Worksafe@Western, planned changes to include access to training records within platform, improved dashboarding to assist with managing safety on campus for Researchers and Principal Investigators within laboratory settings.

4.2 Campus and adjacent Construction

- Director, Health Safety and Well-Being (HSW) advised that phases of construction are on going and will continue to have impact on campus.
- Committee discussion on wayfinding and routing for campus members as there will be sidewalk and pathway closures.
- Facilities Management, Director Operations, advised committee that updated signage is being deployed to assist with managing pedestrian traffic around outdoor construction areas
- City of London's road works project continues at Western Road and Phillip Aziz Avenue.
- Accessibility concerns around temporary routes brought forward be PMA representative.

5. Review and Assess Trends

5.1 Accident/Injury Report

- Reported incidents year to date thru August 2026, 300 incidents have been reported on campus: 161 First Aid related incidents, 58 Lost Time related incidents, 58 Health Care related incidents and 20 Near miss/Hazard reports.
- The committee reviewed reported incidents that occurred in June, July and August 2026.
- Monthly incident numbers were compared to incident data from previous years (2024 and 2025) to identify any potential trends for further investigation. July 2026 had a elevated number of reports compared that month in previous years. Wildfire smoke and extreme weather events work potential factors
- Section 52 notices were reviewed.

5.2 Critical injuries

- None to report.

5.3 Workplace Inspections

- A report Inspections completed inspections was presented to the committee.
- Inspections completed in Faculty of Engineering, Student Experience, Power Plant and Animal Care and Veterinary Services.
- 34 Corrective actions were assigned to units since JOHSC meeting on June 10 2026
- Open actions for completion were reviewed by committee

5.4 Work Refusals

- HSW reported on 1 work refusal. The was resolved as a stage 1 and the worker returned to work.

5.5 Safety Recommendations Submitted to the JOHSC

- None to report.

5.6 Workplace Violence and Harassment Report (Bill 168)

- The committee was advised of an incident that Western Special Constable Services investigated resulting in a trespass notice to a member of the public.

6. New Business

6.1 Power Outages

- The committee reviewed power outage events that occurred in Summer 2026.
- The health and safety of people and animals are the highest priority during operational disruptions such a loss of power.
- 2 sustained power outages occurred in early July and mid-August on campus.
- There were reports of indoor building condition that had elevated temperatures and, in some cases, alternative work plans were made by unit leaders to assist with worker safety.
- The August power disruption occurred on August 14th and this impacted multiple buildings. Normal operations were restored on the same evening to most areas however 4 buildings in the Science precinct were on backup power for several days more.
- Western limited access to the 4 buildings with no power or only backup power.

- Power was fully restored on August 19th to the 4 remaining buildings. Western's health and safety professionals, Facilities Management staff and Principal Investigators worked together to ensure all systems are operating normally, and the buildings were safe for administrative and research staff to return. Their work included thorough inspections and air quality testing.
- Alert WesternU notifications were used during the power outage to update community members.
- Director, Facilities Management Operations, advised that FM are reviewing procedures for building closures for possible improvements to include locally posted signage.

6.2 Classroom Safety – Medical Clearance

- UWOFA representative presented a concern from a member related to possible respiratory illness in classroom settings related to a program who has a clinical training component.
- Occupational Physician advised that programs with clinical components complete screening for Tuberculosis (TB) and other infectious illnesses prior to participation.
- It is the responsibility of the physician, nurse or practitioner to complete the clearance, or arrange treatment or further testing if required.
- Students who are not yet cleared are to work under the direction of the Health Unit and medical professionals related to attending classes or clinics.
- It is important to respect the privacy of students who are submitting medical clearance documentation. Faculties/departments may refer cases to the Workplace Health Physician for investigation, but only accommodation recommendations will be communicated back.

6.4 Laboratory Safety – Fume Hoods

- Facilities Management contracted a third party vendor to complete face velocity testing of laboratory fume hoods in the summer. This testing is completed annual to verify the engineering control measures in labs are working to keep workers safe when working within the hood
- Fume hoods with low face velocities that would put workers at risk we assigned work orders for repair.
- HSW Advisor informed committee on procedures used for additional testing in the event that a fume hood's velocity was high. This involved verification of containment with qualitative smoke tests. This was done in some cases that the hood was assessed as safe to use.
- The laboratory safety committee is reviewing the fume hood safety procedures.

6.4 Ministry of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skill Development Site Visits

- HSW reported to the committee related recent site visits by Ministry inspectors.
- The committee reviewed two reports. There were no orders from the Ministry in either case.

6.5 Environmental Survey – Air Quality

- The committee reviewed a report related to an investigation into an indoor area with previous water damage.
- At the time of the leak, the unit and facilities management took corrective actions to clean and dry the area to minimize the conditions for possible mold growth or proliferation.
- UWOSA representative shared supporting information published by Health

Canada related to mold in indoor environments if it is allowed to proliferate.

7. Adjournment

End Time: 3:21 pm

Upcoming Meeting Dates

2026

Oct 28th, Dec 9th

2027

Jan 13th, Feb 10th, Mar 24th, May 5th, June 23rd

Worker Representatives (Attendees in bold)

Cheryl Wright, UWOSA

Christina Blancher, CUPE 2692

Christopher Yates, CUPE 2361

Darryl Stanley, CUPE 2361

Felix Lee, UWOFA

George Dugbartey, PSAC610

Gurpreet Dhami, PMA

Jeff Van Haarlem, OPSEU

Lesley Oliver, PMA

Lewis Pellar, IUOE

Peter Chidiac, UWOFA

Wendy Dunn, UWOSA

Employer Representatives

Bryan Wakefield

Craig Clifford

Chris Bumbacco

Mike Gaylard

Robert Thompson

Resources

Jane O'Brien

Jean-Claude Aubin

Kyle Pollard

Louise Koza

Guest

Elias El-Zouki

Sonya Malone