

Occupational
Health and Safety

Field Visit Report

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OHS Case ID: **8947FQBZJPK**

Field Visit no: **8947FQBZJPK-8947-FV001**

Visit Date: **2026-SEP-01**

Field Visit Type: **INITIAL**

Workplace Identification:

WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Notice ID:

1151 RICHMOND STREET, LONDON, ON CA N6A 3K7

Telephone:
(519) 661-2111

JHSC Status:
Active

Work Force #:
15000

Completed %:

Persons Contacted:

Louise Koza, Director of Health and Safety and Wellbeing; Courtney Voss, Registered Biological Safety Officer; Darryl Stanley, JHSC Certified worker member.

Visit Purpose:

To investigate a complaint received by the MLITSD.

Visit Location:

Support Service Building 1393 Western Rd, London, Meeting Room 4167.

Visit Summary:

No orders issued.

Detailed Narrative:

This Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD) Inspector attended the workplace to investigate a complaint received through the MLITSD Contact Centre and to assess compliance with the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and its associated regulations.

The MLITSD was contacted regarding the following:

Exposure to chemical / biological or physical agent

There has been leakage of harmful material from the labs due to power failure

Harmful chemicals, isotopes, and micro biological material is leaking out of the freezers

Some of the water is leaking between floors

There are air quality concerns

The employer has several people into the area without the appropriate air quality testing

Areas of concern: Chemistry building, Material Science, Biological and Geological Science Building, Natural Science Centre.

MLITSD Hygiene Consultant Swarnjeet Kaur accompanied this inspector during this visit.

The employer representative was contacted prior to this visit.

MLITSD Staff Discussions, Findings and Actions:

Persons contacted stated that they were aware of these concerns; however, no specific details were provided to the employer.

On August 17, access to the areas of concern was restricted and locked out.

A hazardous materials (HazMat) team investigated the areas of concern, and air quality testing was conducted. The affected areas were cleaned, and all areas are now accessible.

**** Comments by MLITSD Hygiene Consultant ****

This workplace was visited in response to a complaint submitted to MLITSD.

Workplace parties were aware about the concerns. It was reported that there was a power outage on August 14 at the university and multiple buildings were affected. Power was restored in all buildings on August 17 except Chemistry building, Biological and Geological Building and Material Sciences Building, where power was restored on August 19. As reported, these buildings have research labs where biological samples are stored in fridges and freezers and chemistry labs where various chemicals are used for experiments.

It was reported that some of these freezers and fridges defrosted and caused water to leak on the floor. However, no biological or other samples from the labs were reported or observed leaking.

Hazmat and Health & Safety team with the support performed multiple sweeps of these buildings and used 5 gas monitors (O2, H2S, LEL, VOC, CO) to ensure these buildings are safe to enter. The first sweep when the power was not restored was performed with full PPE

Recipient	Inspector Data	Worker Representative
Name <u>COURTNEY VOSS</u>	Raul I. Rivas O.H.S.A. & B.O.S.T.A INSPECTOR PROVINCIAL OFFENCES OFFICER	Name <u>DARRYL STANLEY</u>
Title <u>HEALTH + SAFETY CONSULTANT</u> <u>BSO</u>	217 York Street, 5th Floor, London, ON N6A 5P9 CMHSPDNCCompliance@ontario.ca Tel: (519) 933-5897 Fax: (519) 672-0268	Title <u>WORKER REP</u>
Signature <u>C. Voss</u>	Signature <u>R. Rivas</u>	Signature <u>[Signature]</u>

You are required under the Occupational Health and Safety Act to post a copy of this report in a conspicuous place at the workplace and provide a copy to the health and safety representative or the joint health and safety committee if any. Failure to comply with an order, decision or requirement of an inspector is an offence under Section 66 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. You have the right to appeal any order or decision within 30 days of the date of the order issued and to request suspension of the order or decision by filing your appeal and request in writing on the appropriate forms with the Ontario Labour Relations Board, 505 University Ave., 2nd Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5G 2P1. You may also contact the Board by phone at (416) 326-7500 or 1-877-339-3335 (toll free), mail or by website at <http://www.oltb.gov.on.ca/> for more information.

The Government of Ontario wants to hear from you. You can provide feedback on this visit at 1-888-745-8888

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including SCBAs. The University also has an emergency response team and Fire Safety team to support these incidents.

It was reported that some chemicals in chemistry labs were found 'open' when the sweep of the building was being conducted by Hazmat and Health and Safety team. Principal investigators were informed about the findings. No elevated levels of VOCs or LEL was observed on 5-gas monitors.

It was also reported that Lab Safety Training includes steps to be taken when fume hoods are not working or a low air-flow alarm goes off. The training also includes how to respond to spills.

As reported, no injuries or illnesses were reported to the employer or JHSC. The employer has concluded the internal 'near-miss' investigation and corrective actions will be taken as required.

**** End of Hygiene Comments ****

No orders were issued.

NOT ALL AREAS OF THIS WORKPLACE WERE INSPECTED AT THE TIME OF THIS VISIT

Resources:

For further information on Occupational Health and Safety, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD) has a website at: www.labour.gov.on.ca

The call-in number for the MLTSD is 1-877-202-008 to report a fatality, critical injury, complaint, or work refusal in your workplace.

Pursuant to OHSA/90 Section 57, subsection (10a), THE EMPLOYER SHALL FORTHWITH POST A COPY OF THIS ENTIRE REPORT IN THE WORKPLACE WHERE IT WILL COME TO THE ATTENTION OF WORKERS.

Recipient	Inspector Data	Worker Representative
Name <u>CW</u>	Raul I. Rivas O.H.S.A. & B.O.S.T.A INSPECTOR PROVINCIAL OFFENCES OFFICER	Name <u>DR</u>
Title _____	217 York Street, 5th Floor, London, ON N6A 5P9 CMHSPLDNCompliance@ontario.ca Tel: (519) 933-5897 Fax: (519) 672-0268	Title _____
Signature <u>CW</u>	Signature <u>R.R.</u>	Signature <u>[Signature]</u>

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