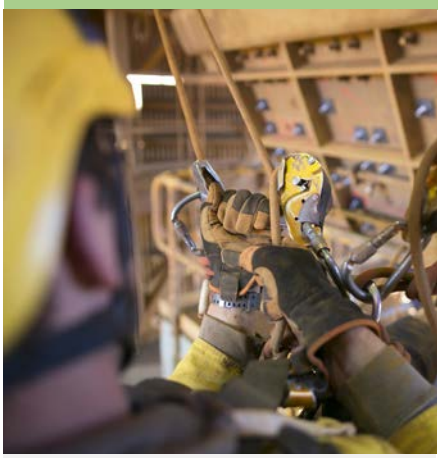
OH&S Safety Matters

September 2026



Turnarounds & Shutdowns

You'll hear the terms "**plant turnaround"**, shutdown, and outage being used, they imply a lengthy stoppage of a whole operation to conduct maintenance. The terms "maintenance turnaround", shutdown, and outage implies a lengthy stoppage to do maintenance on a major item of equipment in the facility. All these terms are very close in meaning, with the subtle differences between each term being related to the scale or extent of the work to be done. Ensuring workplace safety, zero harm to employees and contractors, being on budget and on time are the leading priorities. Successful shutdowns, and turnarounds, require all workers to understand the processes.

A turnaround is a planned break in production activities and may include preventative care of equipment, general corrective repair of faults, strip-downs, replacement and overhaul, or maintenance. **Unlike turnarounds, shutdowns are not always scheduled or planned** and can occur when accidents, natural disasters, or political upheavals occur. **Outages are a type of shutdown activity**, but unlike shutdowns, outages don't occur in an effort to protect people or equipment. They happen when power supplies are interrupted, equipment breaks down, or deliveries fail to arrive.

A successful turnaround or shutdown starts with a safe workforce, a well-trained team, documented procedures, and communication. Safety is at the core of everything, but in the unlikely event that an incident or accident was to occur emergency response procedures and a **standby response team** are considered to be must haves.

Investment in safety training ahead of a turnaround or shutdown is paramount. It is the employers responsibility to ensure that all workers are properly trained and oriented to do their work safely. This includes providing safety orientations, training workers on safe work procedures, providing ongoing supervision that includes general meetings, tailgate talks, and one-on-one mentoring.

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Harmonizing High Risk Training

Workplace safety is a continuous effort to protect employees' health, well-being, and productivity. It's more than a adherence requirement. The month of September focuses on national awareness campaigns, regulatory compliance updates, and emerging hazard management. The transition into autumn this year has organizations considering the latest news regarding the fast track initiative to harmonize high risk training across Canada.

Harmonizing High Risk Workplace Training

Canada's 14 federal, provincial, and territorial jurisdictions are currently harmonizing high-risk workplace training. This fast tracked initiative led by ministers nationwide ensures that safety certifications, are easily transferable across provincial borders without the need for repetitive recertification.

In the fall of 2026 federal, provincial and territorial ministers* responsible for labour will gather once again in Nova Scotia in the spirit of collaboration to advance nation-building projects and matters that impact Canadian workers from coast to coast to coast, with a focus on improving labour mobility and workplace safety.

In April of 2026 ministers gathered in Quebec to discussed progress on a commitment by First Ministers to advance labour mobility by accelerating work to recognize priority health and safety requirements in the construction sector. This will support major infrastructure projects across the country, building a stronger, more prosperous, more resilient Canadian economy.

To make it easier for workers, especially those in construction, to move between jurisdictions without requiring re-training, Ministers endorsed the work plan on harmonizing occupational health and safety training curriculum with accelerated time lines, allowing each jurisdiction to determine how to implement it.

Topics include:

Working at Heights (fall protection) and MEWP - Mobile Elevating Work Platforms training by January 1, 2027;

Consulting on training for Hoisting and Rigging and Trenching and Shoring by January 1, 2027; and

Collaborating on training for Entry-level Construction Worker and Construction Supervisor by May 2027.

Ministers also directed officials to identify tangible steps to advance an inter-jurisdictional training approach by the fall of 2026.

They also agreed to meet more frequently to ensure work continues to eliminate labour mobility barriers.

Ministers will meet again in the fall of this year in Nova Scotia and in the spring of 2027 in Saskatchewan to discuss progress made.

By reinforcing general safety practices through training, organizations reduce risks, strengthen resilience, and protect both people and the environment. As September begins, it's the perfect time to close gaps, and recommit to safety training as a shared responsibility.

Staying Safe at Work with Seasonal Training

Meteorologists are atmospheric scientists that continually analyze vast amounts of data throughout the year to understand and predict weather and climate.

A ground hog is a prognosticator that stays in an underground borrow and snoozes for six months of the year, pops its head out and provides a weather prediction. According to senior climatologists with Environment Canada, relying on a rodent to predict weather patterns is marginally better than flipping a coin. "Wiarton Willie, and Shubenacadie Sam are right about 30% of the time.

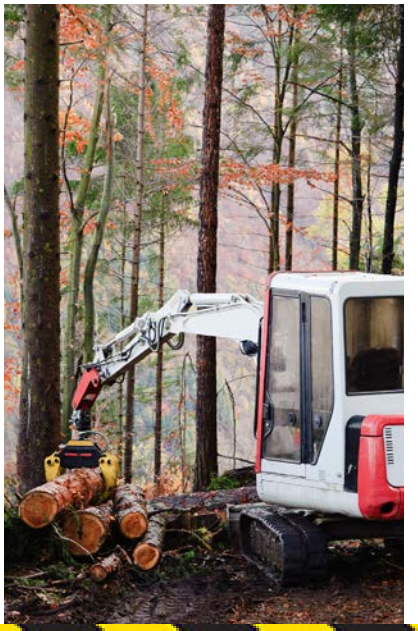
Fall will bring cooler temperatures, and unfortunately hazards such as frost and dangerous driving conditions. Seasonal training and education topics should be continually provided to workers throughout the year.

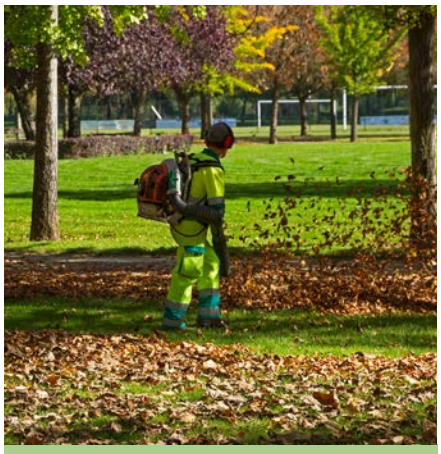
Having a tailgate meeting or a tool-box talk to discuss safety related topics about the coming autumn and winter hazards with employees is a meaningful way to help everyone stay safe and working. This will ensure workers have the information and training required to protect them from environmental conditions while performing their work tasks.

A skills gap in worker training is the difference between the skills that workers currently have and the skills they need to do their jobs well. To fix this gap, groups use a skills gap analysis to find missing skills and then deliver targeted safety training like up-skilling, coaching, or online and blended learning programs.

This time of year is when we can get those wide fluctuations in the temperature and freeze-thaw cycles. This combination can result in freezing rain, black ice on the roads and sidewalks, ice loading on trees and lets not forget the potholes. If uncontrolled, these hazards can increase the risk of loss to people, equipment, materials, production and the environment (PEME).

As Occupational Health & Safety Instructors we can deliver relevant seasonal safety training and issue our co-workers with "just the ticket" they need to stay safe and in compliance with the occupational certification requirements as they face this years autumn and winter hazards.





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Puzzle Answers

Here are the answers to the **August** Issue of the Safety Matters Crossword Puzzle.

Safety Terminology

Across

1. Risk
4. Spill
5. Audit
6. Hot
8. Training
12. Exposure
13. Lockout
14. Confined
15. Incident
16. Signs
17. Standards

Down

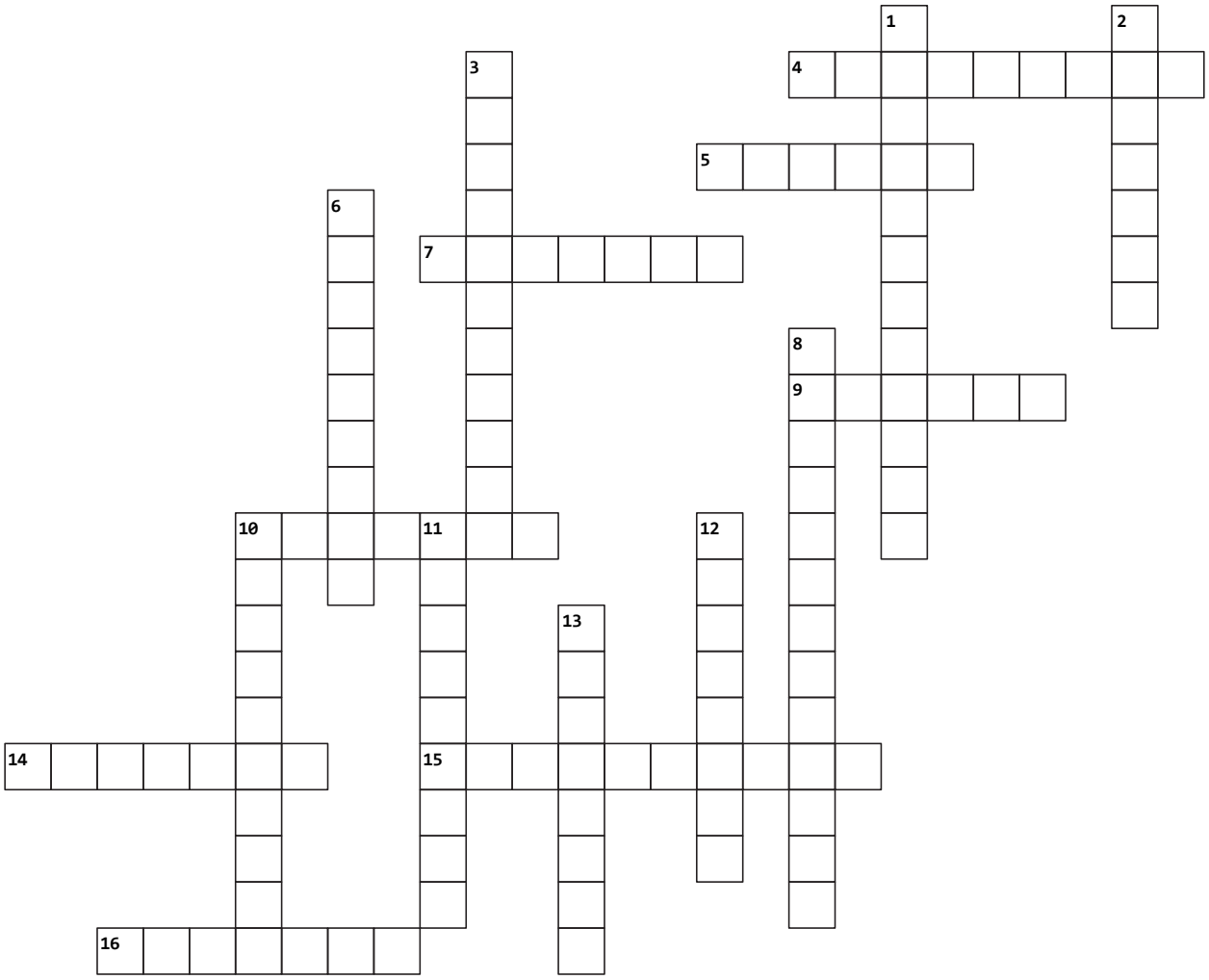
2. Investigation
3. Hazard
7. Ergonomics
9. Guarding
10. Permit
11. Committee

Upcoming challenge solve the Crossword Puzzle on the next page Play Now!

Shutdown / Turnaround Terminology Crossword

The OHS Registry ***Safety Matters*** crossword puzzles are ideal for people who love words, general knowledge, and testing their problem solving skills. So, what are you waiting for?

Print the puzzle to play now !



Shutdown / Turnaround Terminology Crossword

Clues for the Crossword Puzzle

Select a clue from the ‘across’ or ‘down’ lists. Think up possible answers to the clue. Each across and down clue is assigned a unique number. This number corresponds to the number for its answer in the grid. Words in the crossword puzzle will cross each other, this is the source of inspiration for the name of the game, crossword!

Who can complete the crossword challenge. Save your progress, the correct answers to the crossword challenge will be revealed in the next issue of ***Safety Matters***

Across

4. Closing valves or switches to cut off a machine from its power source.
5. A formal written system that gives permission for high-risk jobs like hot work.
7. The designated area outside the process used to stage equipment, materials, and tools.
9. Unplanned interruptions due to failures, emergencies, and other external factors.
10. Deciding which repairs, inspections, and upgrades must be done.
14. The final phase of getting the plant running and to return to service safely
15. Scheduled event for halting all or major parts of the plant for in-depth maintenance, upgrades, or inspections
16. Draining and cleaning out all chemicals or gases from a unit before opening it.

Down

1. Bringing contract workers, trailers, and gear onto the site before work starts.
2. Ensuring hazardous energy sources are isolated and inoperative before work begins.
3. Procure materials, reserve contractor and labour, and assemble safety protocols in advance.
6. Perform active maintenance, repairs, and real-time tracking.
8. Testing systems to make sure they work right before full start-up.
10. Creating time lines, ordering long-lead parts, and assigning contractors.
11. The initial training given to new workers or contractors about site rules.
12. Temporary stoppage of operations for maintenance, inspections, or repairs
13. Inserting solid metal plates into piping flanges to isolate active process hazards from equipment being worked on.

https://www.ohsregistry.com

The OH&S Registry website has been updated to include **online training and blended training program options**. We are thrilled to debut our new Registry website and **LMS - learning management system** to our clients, referral partners, and instructor visitors who are looking to get a better understanding of the breadth of the OH&S Registry services. The OH&S Registry website is live.

The site includes dropdown menus for the registry services offered, information about how to become an instructor, teaching standards, frequently asked question, access to the safety programs catalog, current newsletters and we have also structured the content, so you'll get more from a quick read.

There's a whole host of small but impactful downloads such as

tool box talks and safety articles, all to make the experience much better for you. We encourage all OHS Registry Instructors to explore the growing resources available from the OHS Registry.

Who will you impact with your instructor certification? A safer future doesn't happen by chance. You can make a difference at your worksite Today!

The OH&S Registry resources are only a click away.

2026 e-Catalogue is Available

Are you ready to tap into a wider network of training programs. Get access to 100% of the OH&S safety training programs by simply sending an e-mail and asking for a **FREE copy** of the OH&S training course library !

info@ohsregistry.com

For more Information

Point your smartphone camera at this QR code and take a picture to be redirected to the OH&S Registry Website. www.ohsregistry.com

Staying in Touch

We want you to be aware that you always have the opportunity to opt-out from receiving OH&S Registry electronic communications. To opt-out, simply call the OH&S Registry at 778.957.6407 or email info@ohsregistry.com and ask to be taken off the OH&S Registry Membership email list.

The OH&S Registry will never sell or rent your email address and should you decide that you no longer want to receive further electronic communications we will accommodate your decision to "unsubscribe".

We trust you will choose to continue to receive the OH&S *Safety Matters* newsletters and other promotional materials so you can stay up to date on new programs, best practice tips, and other OH&S Registry news.

We appreciate your business, and look forward to working with you to achieve your safety training goals. Thank you for being a subscriber!

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