



2026 Territorial Skills Competition Contest Description

Workplace Safety

Secondary

Date: April 16, 2026, 8:00 A.M.

Location: Yukon University, Gym

Duration of contest: 6 Hours

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1. SKILLS FOR SUCCESS FOR CAREERS IN SKILLED TRADES AND TECHNOLOGY

The Government of Canada has updated the previous Essential Skills framework to the new Skills for Success model in response to the evolving labour market and changing skill requirements. This model outlines nine fundamental skills Canadians need to thrive in work, education, training, and daily life.

Skills/Compétences Canada aims to highlight the importance of these skills, vital for success in trade and technology careers. Competitors can see how Skills for Success are integrated into contest descriptions, projects, and project documents. Recognizing these skills during the competition helps competitors match tasks with specific skills necessary for success and understand how these skills apply within their trade or technology programs and future careers.

The nine key Skills for Success, validated for workplace success, are:

1. Numeracy
2. Communication
3. Collaboration
4. Adaptability
5. Reading
6. Writing
7. Problem Solving
8. Creativity and Innovation
9. Digital

2. CONTEST INTRODUCTION

2.1. Description of the associated work role(s) or occupation(s):

https://www.skillscompetencescanada.com/en/skill_area/workplace-safety/

2.2. Purpose of the Challenge

The Workplace Safety competition evaluates participants' ability to apply Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) principles in realistic workplace scenarios. Competitors will demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and professional judgement expected of an entry-level OHS professional.

Specifically, competitors will be assessed on their ability to:

- Identify and assess actual and potential workplace hazards.
- Classify hazards across multiple hazard categories.
- Apply the hierarchy of controls to recommend effective corrective actions.
- Evaluate existing controls and assess residual risk.
- Communicate OHS findings and recommendations clearly, accurately, and professionally in both written and oral formats.

This contest is aligned with provincial/territorial and national Skills Canada Workplace Safety standards and reflects practices used by OHS professionals across Canada.

Associated Occupational Roles

This competition reflects tasks commonly performed by:

- Occupational Health and Safety Officers / Advisors
- Health and Safety Consultants
- Safety Coordinators
- Joint Health and Safety Committee members

2.3. Duration of Contest

Competition duration will not exceed 6 hours. Competitors will begin at 9:00AM and have until 4:00PM to complete all of their tasks, including tidying their work station. Competitors will be given an hour break for lunch provided by Skills Canada Yukon.

2.4. Skills and Knowledge to be Tested

Competitors will be evaluated on their ability to demonstrate:

- Knowledge of core OHS principles and workplace safety concepts.
- Hazard identification and assessment skills.
- Understanding of hazard categories CCOHS: Hazards:
 - Physical
 - Safety
 - Chemical
 - Psychological
 - Health
 - Workplace
 - Ergonomic
- Application of the hierarchy of controls [CCOHS: Hazard and Risk - Hierarchy of Controls](#):
 - Elimination
 - Substitution
 - Engineering Controls
 - Administrative Controls
 - Personal Protective Equipment
- Written and verbal communication

2.5. Contest Components & Tasks

The competition consists of three (3) major components, completed within the competition day.

1. Hazard Identification [CCOHS: Hazard and Risk - Hazard Identification](#) (40 Marks)

Competitors will observe an active Skills competition area and conduct a workplace safety inspection.

Task Expectations:

- Observe the work environment and activities being performed.
- Identify both actual hazards (visible and present) and potential hazards (reasonably foreseeable).
- Identify hazards across multiple hazard categories, including physical and psychological hazards.
- For each hazard:
 - Clearly describe the hazard.
 - Classify the hazard type.
 - Describe potential consequences if the hazard is not controlled.
 - Identify existing controls, if present.
 - Recommend appropriate additional controls using the hierarchy of controls.

Deliverable:

- Completed Hazard Identification Answer Booklet.

2. Hazard Control & Risk Assessment [CCOHS: Hazard and Risk - Hazard Control](#) (40 Marks)

Competitors will observe a second competition skill area and focus on hazard control and risk management.

Task Expectations:

Competitors will be assigned a specific hazard control focus and must:

- Identify hazards associated with a selected task or activity.
- Evaluate existing hazard control measures.
- Conduct a risk assessment considering severity and likelihood.
- Recommend additional or improved control measures.
- Develop a **Safe Work Procedure (SWP)** for one observed task that:
 - Identifies task steps.
 - Identifies associated hazards at each step.
 - Specifies control measures.

Deliverables:

- Completed Hazard Control Worksheet.
- Written Safe Work Procedure.

3. OHS Research & Communication (20 Marks)

Competitors will conduct research and deliver a 5-10 minute toolbox talk on **one** of the following topics. Assume your audience is a group of young workers.

1. Health and Safety Rights at Work

All workers have three safety rights at work: the right to know, the right to participate, and the right to refuse unsafe work.

In your safety talk:

- Explain what each of these rights means in plain language
- Give real-world examples of how a young worker might use each right on the job
- Discuss why some young workers hesitate to use these rights and how they can speak up safely and respectfully
- Share one key message you want young workers to remember about protecting themselves at work.

2. Psychological Health at Work

Psychological safety is part of workplace safety, and harassment and violence are not allowed by law. Talk about what psychological health at work means and what a young worker should do if they experience or see harassment or bullying.

In your safety talk:

- Explain what psychological health and safety means and provide examples of harassment, bullying, or workplace violence
- Discuss why young workers may be afraid to speak up about these issues
- Explain what a worker should do if they experience or witness harassment or violence
- Emphasize that everyone deserves a safe and respectful workplace

3. Hazards at the workplace

Hazards exist in every workplace, even jobs that seem “safe” or routine. They can be actual hazards that you see, or potential hazards that could happen. Being able to recognize actual and potential hazards and knowing what to do can prevent serious injuries.

In your safety talk:

- Explain the difference between an actual and a potential hazard, using examples young workers can relate to
- Describe common hazards found in entry-level or youth jobs
- Explain what a worker should do and who to tell if they notice something is or could be unsafe
- Highlight why reporting hazards is a responsibility, not “complaining.”

4. Impairment and Fatigue

Impairment isn't just about drugs or alcohol. It can include being hungover, very tired, stressed, or sleep deprived. Fatigue, stress, and sleep deprivation can also affect safety, especially for young workers juggling school, jobs, activities and personal responsibilities.

In your safety talk:

- Explain what impairment means, including being hungover, fatigued, stressed, or sleep deprived.
- Describe how impairment or fatigue can affect focus, reaction time, and safety on the job.
- Give examples of situations where young workers might be impaired or fatigued, like juggling school, activities, work, or late nights.
- Share what workers can do to prevent impairment or fatigue and stay safe while working.

Competitors are encouraged to use visual aids and props to make their presentations more dynamic. Please note electronic presentations such as PowerPoint, Google Slides, Prezi and Keynote are not allowed.

Competitors will be judged on their ability to:

- Motivate and engage a young worker audience
- Clearly explain the selected topic
- Deliver a health and safety message

3. EQUIPMENT, MATERIAL, CLOTHING

3.1. Equipment and material provided by Skills Canada Yukon:

- Hazard Identification Answer Booklet
- Hazard Control Answer Booklet
- Safety vests (for observation activities)

3.2. Required Clothing Provided by the Competitor

- Personal device (laptop or tablet) for research and written components
- Preferred software for word processing and note-taking

4. **HEALTH & SAFETY**

4.1. **Safety Orientation**

During orientation, Competitors will participate in a Safety workshop and they will be expected to work and maintain a safe working area during the competition.

List of required personal protective equipment (PPE) provided by Skills Canada Yukon:

- [list items provided by SCY. We have a stock of hard hats, safety glasses, face masks, ear plugs and earmuffs, latex and non-latex gloves, and safety vests.]

NOTE: Competitors who do not have the required protective equipment/clothing will not be allowed to participate in the competition

4.2. **Field Level Risk Assessment**

SCY will complete a Field Level Risk Assessment for every competition area in addition to a full walkthrough with a representative from Yukon Workers Safety and Compensation Board to identify potential hazards and create solutions. The primary goal of an FLRA is to identify and mitigate potential risks to ensure the safety of competitors.

5. **ASSESSMENT**

5.1. **Point Breakdown**

Judges will assess accuracy, completeness, application of OHS principles, and professionalism.

TASK	/100
Hazard Identification	/40
Hazard Control and Risk Assessment	/40
OHS Research and Presentation	/20
Total	/100

5.2. **Qualifying for the Skills Canada National Competition**

Competitors can secure a win in their specific competitions by demonstrating exceptional skills and abilities, and meeting or exceeding established evaluation

criteria. However, qualification for the Skills Canada National Competition is not solely determined by winning at the territorial level.

The decision to advance further depends on additional factors, such as the National Technical Committee's (NTC) assessment and/or the judges' discretion, which may take into account specific criteria beyond just event performance. These additional criteria could encompass a competitor's adherence to safety protocols, ethical conduct, teamwork, or overall professionalism, ensuring that those who represent the Territory at the national level not only excel in their technical skills but also embody the values and standards upheld by Skills Canada.

***Please note:** Not all territorial contest areas are eligible for the Skills Canada National Competition. Please refer to the SCNC website to determine if your skill area/level is eligible to compete.

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

6.1. Competition Rules

Refer to the competition rules of the Skills Canada Yukon Territorial Competition which can be found on our website.

- Cell phones are not permitted during competition activities, except for music during the research component if approved.
- Presentation software is not permitted.
- Cue cards and written notes are allowed for oral presentations.
- Competitors are evaluated on clarity, organization, technical accuracy, and professional conduct.

6.2. Ties

Tiebreaker #1: In the event of a tie, the candidate with the highest safety score will be declared the winner.

Tiebreaker #2: If a tie still remains, the competitor with the highest score in the Hazard Identification will be declared the winner.

6.3. Accessibility & Accommodations

Skills Canada Yukon is committed to providing a barrier-free environment which allows everyone to participate in our programs and competitions. We strive to be fully inclusive to all manner of disabilities and identities. SCY provides the opportunity for any competitor to disclose a disability on our competition

registration form. Requests for accommodations must be made at least 3 weeks prior to the competition date.

7. NATIONAL & TERRITORIAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

- 7.1. The Yukon National Technical Committee member for Workplace Safety is Chelsea LaRose. Email: ckalarose@gmail.com
- 7.2. Please contact yukon@skillscanada.com with questions or concerns related to the competition.