



# OCCUPATIONAL FIRST AID ATTENDANTS ASSOCIATION NEWS

ISSN: 1202-760X  
Printed:  
December, 1999

Issue 4, Vol. 1999

## The New First Aid Courses by Allan Zdunich

Since 1990, the Student Syllabus/Workbook and course content have had regular revisions to reflect new approaches in patient care. This is the first time the main textbook - the Reference and Training Manual - has been re-written in nine years.

Training Manual said: "The goal was to decide what information goes into the classroom." It is evident this is what happened with the course changes.

### The Courses

All four aspects of the Level 2 and 3 courses have been changed: the Reference and Training Manual (textbook), the Student/Instructor Training Guides (syllabus/workbook), the practice exercises, and the interim exam. Also, the final exam is being revised.

After the textbook was completed and the course content was defined, advisory meetings were held with FA Instructors throughout B.C. in September, October, and November. The response from Instructors has been positive and has led to some minor changes for the first classes in January.

Carswell describes the goal of the redesigned courses as: "To promote critical thinking rather than memorization of the steps. You will never be able to teach every situation. If the student knows the why, the what should fall in place."

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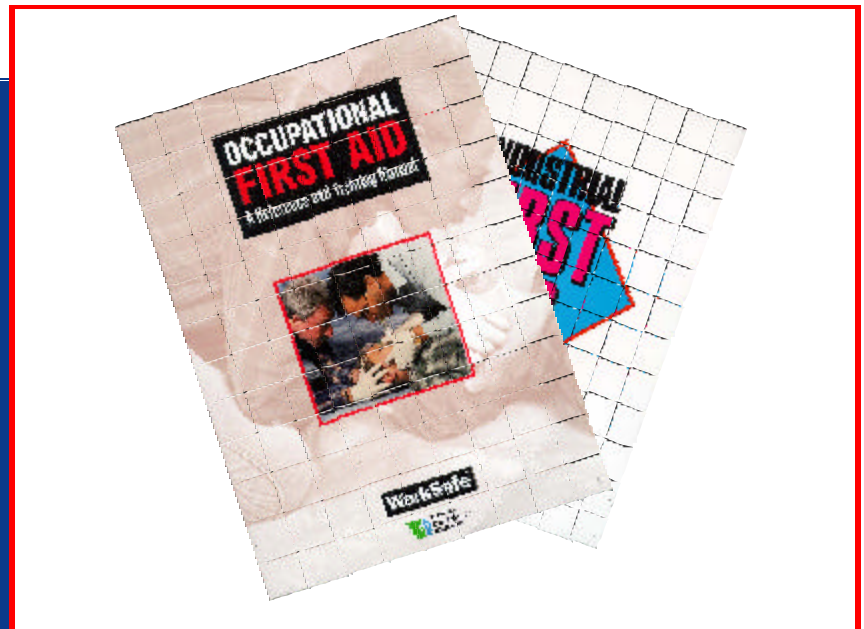
**The Level 2  
and 3 OFA  
courses will be  
changed  
starting  
January 1st,  
2000.**

### The Preparation

The WCB combined two different sources of information to structure its new courses: the latest treatments in the pre-hospital environment and the first aid practices in the field. Utilizing health care and emergency professionals, the Board considered the latest developments in emergency and pre-hospital medicine in other jurisdictions and combined those approaches with the views and practices of FAA's and others in industry here in B.C.

In 1993 and 97 the First Aid Officers held "Dacum" sessions throughout B.C. in order to develop a new FA curriculum. Two questions were posed: "What does the FAA do?" and "What should the FAA be able to do?" FAO Cliff Carswell who edited the

**A new look  
for the  
updated book**



#### INSIDE:

- New Course ...1
- New and Renewed Members ...2
- AGM Notice ...2
- OFA in AB ...3
- New 2&3 continued ...4
- Ballot ...5
- Job Board ...6
- Check out the Discounts ...7
- Swapmeet ...8