

COCA WCB Update #380 November 12, 2007

Council of Construction Associations

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Please post or distribute this important information on injuries/incidents.

CONSTRUCTION

Injury Type : Close call
Core Activity : Highrise construction
Location : Vancouver Island
ID Number : 2007117640364
Date of Accident : 2007-Sep

A section of shotcrete (60 feet long by 30 feet high) failed. The sidewalk and pedestrian protective hoarding slid into the building excavation.

Injury Type : Electrical burns to hand
Core Activity : Mechanical installation
Location : Lower Mainland
ID Number : 2007158880405
Date of Accident : 2007-Sep

A plumber was preparing to drill into an overhead concrete slab. During this preparation, a wire nut (marrette) covering a live 347-volt conductor for lighting became dislodged. The worker contacted the uncovered conductor, sustaining electrical burns.

Injury Type : Light bump to the head
Core Activity : Backfilling an excavation
Location : Lower Mainland
ID Number : 2007155730530
Date of Accident : 2007-Sep

During backfilling operations, a mini-excavator fell approximately 5

feet into the basement foundation. The operator jumped clear before the machine went over the edge.

Injury Type : Close call
Core Activity : Water line installation
Location : Lower Mainland
ID Number : 2007145130351
Date of Accident : 2007-Sep

A gas pipeline was ruptured when one side of a trench excavation partially collapsed.

Injury Type : Close call
Core Activity : Framing
Location : Lower Mainland
ID Number : 2007157530295
Date of Accident : 2007-Sep

Wood trusses (60 feet long) were being installed on a single-storey building. Because of inadequate training and supervision, the workers did not use enough temporary truss braces. The braces failed, causing half of the trusses (about 20) to overturn and push out part of the wood-frame exterior wall.

See a video about long span trusses that presents the basic rules to prevent a truss system from collapsing: <http://tinyurl.com/33s9ht>

Injury Type : Laceration, bruising, abrasions
Core Activity : Plumbing installation
Location : Lower Mainland
ID Number : 2007117080280
Date of Accident : 2007-Sep

Young worker (ages 15-24)
More than 2 years' experience at this task

A vent shaft opening in the 14th floor of a highrise building was covered but the cover was not secured. A young worker fell through the opening and landed one storey below.

See a hazard alert poster about a similar incident in which a worker was seriously injured: <http://tinyurl.com/3x9n68>

Injury Type : Cracked shoulder bone, rib, vertebra; lung injury; bruising

Core Activity : Repair of electrical pole cross-arms
Location : BC
ID Number : 2007117640362
Date of Accident : 2007-Sep

Young worker (ages 15-24)
Worker's experience at this task is unknown

A lineman (a young worker) was preparing to overbuild a telecommunications lead with a 3-phase light-angle cross-arm and stringing equipment. The worker descended the pole, using the two-belt system to climb past the neutral traveller. He used the rope belt to secure himself below the traveller and released the pole strap from the right-side D ring. When he leaned back into the second rope belt, the snap on the left-side D ring came free. The worker fell away from the pole and as he fell, he grabbed the telecommunications lead, which was located 12 feet below his initial position. The lead slowed his fall but he continued to fall another 20 feet to the ground.

Injury Type : Broken nose, bruises
Core Activity : Log home construction
Location : BC
ID Number : 2007131490245
Date of Accident : 2007-Aug

A worker was installing roofing components on a log home under construction. The worker was standing on top of a wall when he lost his balance and fell approximately 12 feet to grade.

Injury Type : Close call
Core Activity : Asphalt paving
Location : Central Interior
ID Number : 2007130570295
Date of Accident : 2007-Aug

A skid-steer front-end loader was removing about 4 inches of soil in preparation for paving a residential driveway. It struck a cement block containing the 120-volt electrical service for the residence, severing the electrical conductor. Underground utilities had not been accurately located before excavating began.

Injury Type : Close call
Core Activity : Concrete pumping
Location : Central Interior
ID Number : 2007107270068
Date of Accident : 2007-Aug

The operator of a concrete pumper retracted and stowed the front right outrigger of the unit while the 90-foot boom assembly was in a fully extended vertical position. The carrier unit upset and the boom crashed to the ground.

Injury Type : Contusions to chest, leg, elbow
Core Activity : Wood frame construction
Location : Central Interior
ID Number : 2007143950211
Date of Accident : 2007-Aug

As a worker walked on a sheet of oriented strand board (15/32-inch OSB) that covered a stairwell opening, the board broke. The worker fell through the opening approximately 10 feet to the next landing, and then fell approximately 5 feet more to the next floor.

Watch a video about preventing falls through openings:

<http://tinyurl.com/374q89>

See a hazard alert about a similar incident in which a worker was seriously injured: <http://tinyurl.com/3x9n68>

Injury Type : Pain in upper back and neck
Core Activity : Structural concrete forming
Location : Lower Mainland
ID Number : 2007127840025
Date of Accident : 2007-Jul

Workers were setting up falsework at a construction site. As one worker removed a joist, he inadvertently struck a shoring post, causing the falsework to collapse. A second worker, who was standing on top of the falsework, fell approximately 10 feet to the floor.