

COCA WCB Update #382 November 22, 2007

**Council of Construction Associations**

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

CONSTRUCTION

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Injury Type : Back pain  
Core Activity : Residential construction  
Location : Vancouver Island  
ID Number : 2007154960267  
Date of Accident : 2007-Oct

A worker fell 10 feet, 5 inches to grade from a scaffold work platform. The scaffold did not have guardrails and no other fall protection equipment was provided.

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Injury Type : Cuts and abrasions to arm  
Core Activity : Construction  
Location : Vancouver Island  
ID Number : 2007120030289  
Date of Accident : 2007-Oct

Young worker (ages 15-24)  
Less than 6 months' experience at this task

A young worker was sharpening the end of a nail puller with a hand-held angle grinder. The grinder did not have a guard. When the 9-inch grinding disc shattered, shrapnel from the disc struck the worker's arm.

See a hazard alert poster about a similar incident where a worker died: <http://www2.worksafebc.com/fwd/g579.htm>

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Injury Type : Close call

Core Activity : Excavator operation  
Location : Lower Mainland  
ID Number : 2007157530319  
Date of Accident : 2007-Sep

An excavator was operating beneath a guy wire (approximately 20 feet above grade), a secondary power line, and a primary power line (14.4-kV). The excavator moved forward and caught the guy wire, pulling down the attached power pole (located across the street). The power lines grounded themselves on the excavator arm and de-energized. The operator jumped from the excavator and moved a safe distance away. Seconds later the primary line re-energized and burst into flames.

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Injury Type : Penetration wound to chest  
Core Activity : Framing  
Location : Northern BC  
ID Number : 2007154930358  
Date of Accident : 2007-Sep

A nail penetrated the chest of a worker using an air nailer.

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Injury Type : Close call  
Core Activity : Unloading materials from a truck  
Location : Lower Mainland  
ID Number : 2007158880434  
Date of Accident : 2007-Sep

As the boom of a mobile crane was being extended, its whip line was two-blocked. The whip line cable broke and the headache ball fell to the deck of the truck being unloaded, narrowly missing the rigger.

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Injury Type : Soft-tissue injuries to shoulder and arm  
Core Activity : Stucco application  
Location : Central Interior  
ID Number : 2007034450344  
Date of Accident : 2007-Sep

Young worker (ages 15-24)  
Less than 1 year's experience at this task

A young worker was on an end-frame scaffold, working on exterior stucco. The worker fell approximately 7 feet to grade. The scaffold did not have guardrails at this time, although they had been installed when the scaffold was erected.

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Injury Type : Close call  
Core Activity : Crane operation  
Location : Lower Mainland  
ID Number : 2007117080310  
Date of Accident : 2007-Sep

A self-erecting tower crane was working near high-voltage power lines without a safety watcher to monitor the crane's movement. The load line contacted the unguarded power line and was completely severed, causing the load block to fall to street level. It narrowly missed the crane operator, who was operating the pendant controls.

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Injury Type : Close call  
Core Activity : Roadside brushing  
Location : Northern BC  
ID Number : 2007136960379  
Date of Accident : 2007-Sep

A rubber-tired mechanical brusher was crossing a wood-decked bridge when the cross-ties broke. The machine rolled over and landed upside down in a slough.

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Injury Type : Fractured leg  
Core Activity : Land clearing, excavation, site preparation  
Location : Vancouver Island  
ID Number : 2007137290255  
Date of Accident : 2007-Sep

The driver of a service truck was injured while attempting to enter the truck to stop it from rolling down an incline.

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Injury Type : Back strain and contusions  
Core Activity : Steep-slope roofing  
Location : Central Interior  
ID Number : 2007107970507  
Date of Accident : 2007-Sep

A roofer unhooked his lanyard from the lifeline before descending from the roof on a ladder. He slipped and fell 9 feet to the ground, landing on his back.

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Injury Type : Close call  
Core Activity : Installation of waterproofing compound  
Location : Lower Mainland  
ID Number : 2007145130374

Date of Accident : 2007-Sep

A waterproofing primer was being applied to apartment decks. Flammable vapours built up inside and underneath a deck. When an open-flame propane torch was lighted, the vapours exploded.

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Injury Type : Fractured pelvis; internal bleeding  
Core Activity : Repair of marine pleasure craft  
Location : Vancouver Island  
ID Number : 2007159110060  
Date of Accident : 2007-Sep

A worker was inspecting a sailboat on stands in the dryland area of a marina, to see what repairs were needed. As he descended from the deck on a job-built wooden ladder, carrying some tools, he slipped and fell approximately 10 feet to the gravel surface below. The wooden ladder did not reach the top of the deck.

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Injury Type : Close call  
Core Activity : Concrete pumping  
Location : Lower Mainland  
ID Number : 2007157560393  
Date of Accident : 2007-Sep

During the concrete pour of a 4-storey apartment building's perimeter footings, a front outrigger of a 50-metre concrete pump truck was set up on a lock block because of the soft clay soil underneath. After a heavy rainfall, the supporting lock block slipped out from under the outrigger, causing it to sink its full depth (4-5 feet) into the clay. The boom of the concrete pump was extended 110 feet when the truck started to tip over. It stopped when the end of the boom came to rest in the freshly poured concrete. The boom narrowly missed three workers.

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Injury Type : Close call  
Core Activity : Mobile crane operation  
Location : Central Interior  
ID Number : 2007107970487  
Date of Accident : 2007-Sep

The load line of a 22-ton mobile crane hit a 24-kV overhead power line.

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Injury Type : Bruising to back, hip  
Core Activity : Steep-slope roofing

Location : Lower Mainland  
ID Number : 2007113830225  
Date of Accident : 2007-Sep

Young worker (ages 15-24)  
Less than 6 months' experience at this task

A young worker was using a shovel to remove old cedar shakes on a 12:12 roof when he slipped and slid down the roof. As he reached the end of the roof, he jumped for the gutter of a neighbouring house. He grabbed the gutter and then fell backwards, hitting first a fence and then the ground. He fell 24 feet from the steep roof. Fall protection had been set up and equipment left on the roof the previous night, but when workers accessed the roof the next day there was no adequate training or supervision to ensure they used the fall protection system.

Sections 3.22 to 3.25 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation deal with training and orientation of new (and young) workers. These sections of the Regulation came into effect on July 26, 2007. A guideline to help implement them is available at: <http://www2.worksafebc.com/fwd/g580.htm>

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Injury Type : Close call  
Core Activity : Site preparation for gravelling and paving  
Location : Northern BC  
ID Number : 2007154930335  
Date of Accident : 2007-Sep

A backhoe was preparing a parking lot site for paving when it contacted an underground gas line.

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Injury Type : Non-injury  
Core Activity : Steep-slope roofing  
Location : Lower Mainland  
ID Number : 2007157560406  
Date of Accident : 2007-Sep

A worker slipped on a residential rooftop. His fall protection equipment prevented him from falling 30 feet.