

COCA WCB Update #392 March 17, 2008

Council of Construction Associations

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

CONSTRUCTION

Injury Type : Lacerations, bleeding from ears

Core Activity : Wood frame construction

Location : BC

ID Number : 2008159110027

Date of Accident : 2008-Feb

Young worker (ages 15-24)

More than 2 years' experience at this task

A young worker was installing the trim board on the joist ends of a sundeck 4 metres (13 feet) above grade. The worker was wearing a fall arrest harness with a 3-foot shock-absorbing lanyard attached to a rope grab on an anchored lifeline. The worker fell over the edge of the sundeck and hit the ground. The investigation determined that the rope grab was not properly positioned, allowing the worker to hit the ground.

Injury Type : Close call

Core Activity : Excavating

Location : Lower Mainland

ID Number : 2008105910033

Date of Accident : 2008-Feb

As an excavator was exposing a sewer lead, its bucket caught a small discarded piece of 4x4 buried in the ground. The end of the board was buried beneath a 12-kV energized conductor, which was damaged as it was pulled up with the 4x4. The line contacted the edge of the bucket, then was de-energized when the elbow at the nearby junction box popped.

Injury Type : Close call
Core Activity : Concrete formwork
Location : Lower Mainland
ID Number : 2008114550033
Date of Accident : 2008-Feb

The load line of a tower crane contacted one of the high-voltage disconnects of the 12-kV overhead power system.

Injury Type : Close call
Core Activity : Snow removal
Location : Northern BC
ID Number : 2008158820062
Date of Accident : 2008-Feb

A tractor with a front bucket and rear blade was removing snow from the parking lot of an institution when it contacted and broke the gas line into the building. The leak was capped by the utility company. The next morning when workers opened the building they smelled gas. The building was evacuated and ventilated immediately. A second break in the line was found 5 feet below the surface.

Injury Type : Fractured vertebra, arm abrasions
Core Activity : Concrete formwork
Location : Lower Mainland
ID Number : 2008157560044
Date of Accident : 2008-Feb

A worker picked up an unsecured and unmarked piece of plywood that was covering an opening in the floor. The worker stepped forward and fell through the opening, landing on the concrete parkade 10 feet below.

See a hazard alert poster about a similar incident in which a worker was seriously injured:

<http://www2.worksafebc.com/fwd/g659.htm>

Injury Type : Fatal (non-worker)
Core Activity : Construction site
Location : Lower Mainland
ID Number : 2008155400022
Date of Accident : 2008-Feb

A child exploring a job site was crushed when 22 sheets of 5/8-inch drywall fell over. The insecurely stacked drywall weighed approximately 1,800 pounds.

Injury Type : Close call
Core Activity : Highrise construction
Location : Lower Mainland
ID Number : 2008157560040
Date of Accident : 2008-Jan

As a nearly new zoom-boom forklift was stripping wall formwork, its boom bent.

Injury Type : Temporary loss of consciousness
Core Activity : Industrial, commercial, or institutional construction
Location : Lower Mainland
ID Number : 2008095610116
Date of Accident : 2008-Jan

A worker was going around a large building under construction to lock exterior doors. The worker walked through an area with strong epoxy paint vapours and temporarily lost consciousness.

Injury Type : Close call
Core Activity : Structural steel construction
Location : Lower Mainland
ID Number : 2008117080041
Date of Accident : 2008-Jan

An I-beam weighing 14.5 tons was rigged at grade level using two separate synthetic slings choked to the I-beam. Abrasion protectors were used. The slings were attached to the load hook of the tower crane, and the I-beam was raised to an adjacent roof to control and place the beam with a tag line. The choker slings were then rigged at different lengths so that the lower part of the beam could be seated on the angled plate on top of the column. As the workers on the roof were receiving the load, the longer choker sling started to slip. This sling eventually severed, and the end of the I-beam fell onto the roof. The crane operator was able to lower the other end of the I-beam onto the roof.

Injury Type : Fractured leg
Core Activity : Suspended slab formwork construction
Location : Lower Mainland
ID Number : 2008155270046
Date of Accident : 2008-Jan

A worker was using a hammer to separate a bundle of frozen 2x6 joists that had been placed on top of the aluminum beams of suspended slab formwork. When he attempted to step onto the bundle to use it as a

work platform, he slipped and fell 8.5 feet to the concrete floor below.

Injury Type : Bruising to back, ribs
Core Activity : Construction
Location : Central Interior
ID Number : 2008107970053
Date of Accident : 2008-Jan

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

A young worker was on a ladder, installing tar paper on a wall. The ladder slipped out and the worker fell about 8 feet to the ground.

See a list of online resources for preventing falls in construction:
<http://www2.worksafefbc.com/fwd/g660.htm>