

COCA WCB Update #396 May 8, 2008

Council of Construction Associations

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

CONSTRUCTION

Injury Type : Back injury
Core Activity : Framing
Location : Lower Mainland
ID Number : 2008156730166
Date of Accident : 2008-Apr

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

Two workers were standing on the top plate of an exterior wall, installing fascia board on a new, detached garage. One of them (a young worker) fell 8.5 feet to grade, landing partly on a stack of 6 sheets of plywood and partly on gravel.

Injury Type : Broken vertebrae
Core Activity : House construction
Location : Central Interior
ID Number : 2008116120063
Date of Accident : 2008-Mar

A worker fell off a steep roof (slope of 8/12). The distance from the roof edge to ground was approximately 19 feet.

Injury Type : Close call
Core Activity : Concrete pumping
Location : Lower Mainland
ID Number : 2008145130115
Date of Accident : 2008-Mar

A concrete pump truck tipped over sideways while pumping concrete. Its

boom was fully extended (32 metres) but the outriggers were not fully extended. No one was injured but two buildings were damaged.

Injury Type : Back injuries (1 worker); cuts and scratches (1 worker)
Core Activity : Roofing
Location : Lower Mainland
ID Number : 2008161760199
Date of Accident : 2008-Mar

A truck-mounted crane was offloading plywood onto a cedar-shingle roof. As the plywood was being stacked on top of a pallet of shingles, the shingles slid down the roof. The sliding shingles hooked the vertical lifelines belonging to two workers and detached the roof anchor to which both workers were attached. The workers were pulled off the roof and fell just over 16 feet to the ground.

See WorkSafeBC's toolbox guides about safe work practices for roofers:
<http://www2.worksafebc.com/fwd/g681.htm>

Injury Type : Close call
Core Activity : Crane operation
Location : Lower Mainland
ID Number : 2008115132097
Date of Accident : 2008-Mar

As a tower crane was slewing, its jib contacted the boom of a mobile crane. The tower crane operator had not been notified that the mobile crane was in his airspace.

Injury Type : Close call
Core Activity : Natural gas pipeline construction
Location : Northern BC
ID Number : 2008154930092
Date of Accident : 2008-Mar

During installation of a natural gas distribution line, a rubber-tired backhoe contacted an underground high-voltage conductor.

Injury Type : Close call
Core Activity : Tower crane operation
Location : Lower Mainland
ID Number : 2008115132093
Date of Accident : 2008-Mar

The controls of a tower crane failed, causing the hook and block assembly to contact the underside of the jib and break the hoist line.

The hook and block assembly, weighing approximately 700 pounds, fell approximately 80 feet to the roadway below.

Injury Type : Close call
Core Activity : Tower crane operations
Location : Lower Mainland
ID Number : 2008115132092
Date of Accident : 2008-Mar

The securing pin on the hoist winch drum of a self-erecting tower crane failed. The hoist line spooled off the drum, and the hoist line, hook and block assembly, and load fell to the ground.

Injury Type : Exposure to airborne mercury
Core Activity : Partial demolition of building
Location : Central Interior
ID Number : 2008111970075
Date of Accident : 2008-Mar

Workers removing asbestos-containing roofing felt discovered approximately 30 grams of elemental mercury in the roof decking. Their HEPA vacuum had inadvertently picked up and dispersed some of the mercury. A mercury analyzer measured airborne concentrations in the work area of up to 2.5 mg/m³ (10 times the 8-hour exposure limit). Two workers were directly exposed to mercury and seven others were in the vicinity.

Injury Type : Close call
Core Activity : Building renovation
Location : Lower Mainland
ID Number : 2008157560086
Date of Accident : 2008-Mar

A worker was hand digging ahead of a backhoe, trying to locate a gas line. The worker misjudged the depth of his digging, which resulted in the backhoe rupturing the 1.25-inch gas line.