

Council of Construction Associations
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COCA Update on WorkSafeBC Activities #497 December 22, 2010

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Injuries at Work

CONSTRUCTION

Injury Type: Head injury, concussion
Core Activity: Stucco envelope upgrade
Location: Vancouver Island
ID Number: 2010161290676
Date of Accident: 2010-Dec

A stucco applicator was cleaning excess material from fascia boards and skirt roofing using a hand brush and water hose. The worker was working from a 7.5 foot aluminum sawhorse when he fell to the ground and struck his head on the concrete driveway.

Injury Type: Broken arm
Core Activity: Constructing temporary kiosks
Location: Lower Mainland
ID Number: 2010112010089
Date of Accident: 2010-Nov

A worker drilling a hole (quarter-inch diameter) in an object inadvertently drilled through the object and through the wall of a 100-pound propane cylinder behind it. As liquid propane escaped, workers were told to evacuate the area. A kiosk worker who tripped while running away injured one arm. The propane subsequently ignited and the fire damaged equipment and several kiosks on the site.

Injury Type: Life-threatening injuries
Core Activity: Traffic control
Location: Lower Mainland
ID Number: 2010157410285
Date of Accident: 2010-Nov

A traffic control person was sitting in a work truck to keep warm. The truck was parked near a rail crossing at a job site. An approaching train activated the rail-crossing signal, causing the crossing arms to lower. One crossing arm lowered onto the truck. The worker tried to move the truck but the truck crossed into the path of the oncoming train. The truck was pushed about 30 metres down the track and into the rail-crossing control shed.

Injury Type: Head injury, broken arm and leg
Core Activity: Drywall installation and finishing
Location: Lower Mainland
ID Number: 2010157410276
Date of Accident: 2010-Nov

A lone worker fell 11 feet down an unguarded elevator shaft at a house under construction. A contractor later arrived on site and found the injured worker sitting in his vehicle in a confused state.

Injury Type: Back and shoulder bruising and pain
Core Activity: Mill site expansion
Location: Northern BC
ID Number: 2010157440271
Date of Accident: 2010-Oct

While tightening drive belts on a newly installed sawmill debarker, a worker stepped onto a girder on the side of the unfinished building to gain more leverage. The girder released from the structure, and the worker fell 12 feet, to a conveyor trough below. The worker was not using fall protection at the time of the incident.

Injury Type: Sore ribs, minor cut to hand
Core Activity: Wood frame construction
Location: Lower Mainland
ID Number: 2010128230429
Date of Accident: 2010-Oct

A framer was working from a stepladder, setting a beam at the outside edge of the fourth floor of a wood-frame townhouse. The framer lost his balance and fell from the ladder and over the edge of the building. His fall was arrested by his personal fall protection equipment.

Injury Type: Injuries to both hands
Core Activity: Framing
Location: Lower Mainland
ID Number: 2010155730147
Date of Accident: 2010-Oct

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

A young worker was closing in a framed skylight when he stepped onto an unsupported piece of half-inch plywood. The plywood broke, and the worker fell 18 feet to the concrete floor below.

Injury Type: Back and neck injuries (1 worker); fractured ankle (1 worker)
Core Activity: General construction
Location: Lower Mainland
ID Number: 2010155070240
Date of Accident: 2010-Oct

Two workers fell about 7 feet when one of the bearers supporting a job-built wooden platform failed.

Injury Type: Exposure to isocyanates
Core Activity: Application of spray foam insulation
Location: Lower Mainland
ID Number: 2010107200190
Date of Accident: 2010-Oct

A worker was spray applying two-component, isocyanate-containing foam insulation in a newly constructed house when he experienced a severe asthmatic reaction.

Injury Type: Head injury, broken collar bone and ribs
Core Activity: Framing
Location: Lower Mainland
ID Number: 2010157410249
Date of Accident: 2010-Oct

A worker fell about 18 feet down an open stairwell in a townhouse building under construction. The board previously covering the stairwell opening had been removed because it interfered with chalk lines being snapped for framing layout.