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COCA Update on WorkSafeBC Activities #461 January 14, 2010

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

CONSTRUCTION

Injury Type: Burn injuries (2 workers); smoke inhalation (1 worker) Core Activity: Maintenance of switch gear Location: Lower Mainland ID Number: 2009158880515 Date of Accident: 2009-Dec

Two workers were burned when an explosion occurred in an underground electrical vault. A worker on the surface suffered smoke inhalation while trying to assess the condition of the two workers in the vault.

Injury Type: Crush injury to arm Core Activity: Site preparation Location: Vancouver Island ID Number: 2009154960474 Date of Accident: 2009-Dec

A utility company's boom truck appeared to have a hydraulic problem near its stabilizer arm. As a backhoe operator assisted the boom truck operator, the stabilizer inadvertently moved and crushed the backhoe operator's arm.

Injury Type : Injuries to back, chest, head Core Activity :
Commercial construction Location : Lower Mainland ID Number :
2009114550254 Date of Accident : 2009-Dec

A worker fell about 9 feet from the top of the sidewalk hoarding.

Injury Type : Shoulder injury, temporary loss of feeling in legs
Core Activity : Replacing exterior siding Location : Lower
Mainland ID Number : 2009161480287 Date of Accident : 2009-
Dec

As a worker descended a scaffold, he slipped and fell at the 16-foot mark. The worker's fall was arrested by his fall protection equipment. He was lowered to the ground by emergency responders.

Injury Type : Close call Core Activity : Residential construction
Location : Central Interior ID Number : 2009160530419 Date of
Accident : 2009-Dec

A worker was using a backhoe to dig a trench for the installation of electrical service to a newly constructed home. To thaw the ground to make it easier to dig with the backhoe, the worker was operating a handheld propane torch. The flame from the torch melted a plastic natural gas supply line, igniting the natural gas.

Injury Type : Shock, undetermined injuries Core Activity :
Drywall taping Location : Lower Mainland ID Number :
2009161770312 Date of Accident : 2009-Dec

A worker was using stilts to do drywall taping on the ceiling of a single-family home. The worker fell onto a wooden subfloor.

Injury Type : Close call Core Activity : Excavation work Location : Lower Mainland ID Number : 2009157520320 Date of Accident : 2009-Dec

An excavator was being moved from a residential excavation site in a cul-de-sac to a parked lowbed (for loading). As the excavator headed down the icy slope of the paved roadway, it started to slide and rotate. Its bucket struck a parked vehicle before the excavator collided with a retaining wall at the end of a driveway. The excavator operator jammed the bucket into the road to prevent the excavator from toppling over. The excavator came to rest with one track suspended 2 feet off the road surface.

Injury Type : Broken arm Core Activity : General construction Location : Lower Mainland ID Number : 2009157410272 Date of Accident : 2009-Dec

A worker fell off a wood-framed scaffold and landed about 8 feet below.

Injury Type : Burns to head, arms Core Activity : Electrical work Location : Lower Mainland ID Number : 2009163640248 Date of Accident : 2009-Dec

An electrician was pulling wires into a live breaker box (208-volt three phase) when the ground wire contacted the bus bar.

Injury Type : Crushed hand Core Activity : Pile driving Location :
Central Interior ID Number : 2009034450393 Date of Accident :
2009-Dec

The lead support line on a pile-driving crane became tangled with the top corner of the leads. As a worker was trying to untangle the lead line, his hand was crushed by the whip line ball.

Injury Type : Blunt trauma injuries to back and arm Core Activity :
Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning service Location :
Vancouver Island ID Number : 2009120030511 Date of Accident :
2009-Dec

A worker was using a ladder to access a rooftop to work on a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system. The 14-foot fixed ladder, which had 6 inches of clearance between the rungs and the back wall, was frosty. The worker was climbing the ladder when he lost his grip on the ladder and fell about 6 feet.

Injury Type : Fractured arms, mild concussion Core Activity :
General construction Location : Lower Mainland ID Number :
2009165560165 Date of Accident : 2009-Dec

Co-workers found a new worker lying unresponsive on a concrete slab next to a toppled ladder. The worker had been on the ladder nailing exterior sheathing material.

Injury Type : Close call Core Activity : Hand locating

underground gas line Location : Lower Mainland ID Number :
2009161950615 Date of Accident : 2009-Dec

A worker was hand digging to uncover an underground gas line (3/4 inch diameter) when the shovel inadvertently ruptured the gas line.

Injury Type : Head injury Core Activity : Cleaning gutters
Location : Lower Mainland ID Number : 2009155270318 Date of
Accident : 2009-Dec

A self-employed unregistered worker was cleaning gutters on a 2-storey house. As he descended an aluminum extension ladder set up on a second-storey sundeck, he fell about 16 feet onto the asphalt driveway.

Injury Type : Close call Core Activity : Excavating near house
Location : Northern BC ID Number : 2009154930353 Date of
Accident : 2009-Dec

A backhoe was digging near a house when it broke a gas line whose location was known. The operator entered the excavation and crimped the line. The utility company sent a crew to deal with the emergency.

Injury Type : Multiple fractures, internal injuries Core Activity :
Residential framing Location : Vancouver Island ID Number :
2009110750726 Date of Accident : 2009-Dec

In preparation for lifting a pre-constructed wall into place, workers

removed guardrails. The wall structure was covered in frost. A worker who was not involved in the lift stepped onto the wall structure to retrieve his hammer, which was 7 feet from the edge. He slipped and fell 37 feet to the rocks below.

Injury Type : Serious injury to eye Core Activity : Residential framing Location : Lower Mainland ID Number : 2009165810247 Date of Accident : 2009-Dec

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

A young worker was operating a nail gun with coil framing nails when the wire coil flew off. It entered the worker's eye from underneath his safety glasses.