

Council of Construction Associations
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COCA Update on WorkSafeBC Activities #482 July 28, 2010

Construction Rates Hit by Longer Duration of Claims

The preliminary assessment rates for 2011 have been announced by WorkSafeBC.

(The rates are described as preliminary because they have not yet been approved by the WorkSafeBC Board of Directors. This approval is expected by October.)

In 2009, the Construction industry saw a significant decline in the number of claims and in the Injury Rate. This paralleled the decline in these measures for the province over all. These measures have been impacted by the recession, resulting in a drop in claims registered, and recent business process changes coinciding with the implementation of the Claims Management System (CMS).

Unfortunately, there was a significant increase in the Duration of Construction claims in 2009. This increase is probably also be due to the effects of the recession. With fewer jobs to go back to, workers may have stayed off claim longer. Employers may also have been focused on securing new jobs rather than on Return to Work plans for injured workers.

To sum up, there was a 22% drop in the Injury Rate but a 23% increase in the Duration of claims.

We need to focus on Return to Work plans to reduce our rates.

The best way to improve performance on Return to Work is to seek help from the new Construction Nurse Line when you need it. The service is free (you already pay for it with your assessments). For help with:

Return to Work; Disability Management; Claim Updates, call:

604-279-8155, or 1-877-633-6233

The changes in some of the construction rate groups are shown below.

All rates shown below are \$ per \$100 payroll.

Examples of preliminary rates decreases are:

These reductions are excellent news during a time of fragile recovery from global economic upheaval.

Masonry drops from \$3.50 to \$3.02

Painting or Wallpapering decreases from \$3.36 to \$3.12.

Power Pole, Powerline, or Transmission Line Installation, Service and Repair decreases from \$3.42 to \$3.14

Concrete Placing decreases from \$3.87 to \$3.28

Steep Slope Roofing decreases from \$12.10 to \$11.72

Highway Maintenance decreases from \$3.23 to \$3.06

Examples of preliminary rates increases are:

Industrial, Commercial and Institutional increases from \$3.64 to \$3.93

Plumbing, Heating, Residential Air Conditioning increases from \$1.90 to \$2.26

Home Building increases from \$4.35 to \$4.66

Low Slope Roofing increases from \$6.18 to \$6.52

Electrical Work increases from \$1.41 to \$1.71

Structural Moving increases from \$4.06 to \$4.36

The complete list of WorkSafeBC preliminary rates for 2011 can be viewed online at:

http://www.worksafebc.com/insurance/premiums/2011_prelim_rates/classification/browse_sectors_and_subsectors/subsector.asp?id=7210