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COCA Update on WorkSafeBC Activities #558 July 29, 2013

Incident Reports Reinstated

At the request of COCA, WorkSafeBC has reinstated the publication of Incident Reports for the Construction Industry. The Reports also have more detail.

These reports, which are summaries of workplace incidents, serve as a valuable reminder of the need for workplace health and safety.

The reports are useful for Toolbox Talks, Health & Safety Committee discussions, and especially for the orientation of new workers.

Please feel free to post the information on your Safety Bulletin Boards.

This first report in the new series covers incidents that occurred in the month of May, 2013.

The June report will be sent out shortly.

Injury: Minor injury to one finger
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Road building
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-May

A 7-ton roller was compacting the sub-base in preparation for paving. The operator was working the drum incrementally to the edge of the road when it caught a soft spot in the substrate at the embankment edge. The operator attempted to correct the roller but the substrate gave way, taking the roller with it. The machine rolled onto its side and slid down the steep embankment (1.5/1) for about 5 metres. The operator, who was wearing his seatbelt and a hardhat, sustained minor injuries.

Posted: 2013-Jun-07 ID: 2013124800146

Injury: Fatal
Industry: Construction, Forestry, Services (NES), Trucking
Core Activity: Transmission line installation
Location: Interior B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-May

A water truck backed up along a narrow section of a forest service road. The vehicle approached the edge of the road surface, where one tire on the passenger side of the vehicle went off the road. The vehicle tipped over and travelled about 110 metres down a 100% slope, then struck a tree.

Posted: 2013-Jun-07 ID: 2013166950138

Injury: Lacerated fingers
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Roofing
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-May

A worker was using a grinder equipped with a wood blade to cut battens when he lost his balance and the blade contacted his hand.

Posted: 2013-Jun-07 ID: 2013163710138

Injury: Facial injuries, hand injury, scrapes and bruising
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Installing flashing
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-May

A worker accessed a three-frame-tall scaffold (frames of 5 feet by 5 feet) where a ladder was placed on the top of the work platform. When the worker used the ladder, the scaffolding tipped over. The worker then fell to the ground.

Posted: 2013-Jun-13 ID: 2013165370191

Injury: Bruising to back
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Roofing work
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-May

While a worker was carrying metal roofing material across a wet, sloped barn roof, he slipped, slid down the roof, and fell 12 feet, 4 inches to the ground. No fall protection equipment was being used at the time of the incident.

Posted: 2013-Jun-07 ID: 2013161480206

Injury: Injury to head, possible fracture to arm, lower body pain
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Transfer station and material sort
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-May

Two workers were on a conveyor belt tensioning it at the tail pulley. One worker fell off the end of the conveyor belt and landed on the ground 24 feet below.

Posted: 2013-May-31 ID: 2013165830109

Injury: Broken arm; lower body contusions
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Pressure washing
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-May

A young worker fell 12 feet from the unguarded edge of a sloped roof to the patio deck below.

Posted: 2013-Jun-07 ID: 2013155070116

Injury: Fatal
Industry: Construction, Forestry, Public Sector
Core Activity: Grading road
Location: Interior B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-May

A grader was grading uphill on a gravel road with a 10 percent slope, preparing for a logging operation. For an unknown reason, the grader reversed out of control and proceeded down the slope backwards. It is believed that the operator exited the grader while it was travelling backwards and was subsequently crushed by the grader blade.

Posted: 2013-Jun-07 ID: 2013157380177

Injury: Head injury; multiple fractures
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Low slope roofing
Location: Interior B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-May

A roofer was working on a roof with a 3/12 pitch. He was found on the ground, unresponsive, by a co-worker who had been working on the other side of the roof and did not witness the incident.

Posted: 2013-Jun-07 ID: 2013143950141

Injury: Loss of consciousness, injuries to head
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: House renovations
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-May

A worker was trying to access a 5-foot scaffold on a sloped driveway, when he fell.

Posted: 2013-Jun-07 ID: 2013166710146

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Mobile crane operation
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-May

A mobile crane was moving a water treatment container (3,000-gallon capacity) from one location to another. The plastic failed around the lifting pick points and the container reportedly fell about 4 feet.

Posted: 2013-Jun-07 ID: 2013154890213

Injury: Possible back injury
Industry: Construction, Trucking
Core Activity: Spreading gravel
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-May

While spreading gravel along a sloped roadway, a dump truck became unstable and rolled onto its passenger side.

Posted: 2013-May-31 ID: 2013163710133

Injury: Bruising
Industry: Construction, Public Sector
Core Activity: Equipment operation
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-May

A bulldozer was pushing garbage near a sloped embankment when the right side of the tracks sunk in. The operator then put the transmission into reverse and bulldozer started to roll onto its side. It rolled over one-and-a-half times, coming to rest on its side. After it came to rest, the operator was able to escape from the cab through an escape door.

Posted: 2013-May-31 ID: 2013117080161

Injury: Head and hand lacerations
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Commercial construction
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-May

A worker at ground level was assisting a second worker in a scissor lift to position a 3.3-meter (10.75-feet) sheet metal interior wall beam that weighed about 30 kg (65 pounds). The clamp supporting the beam slipped and the beam fell about 3 metres, striking the worker at ground level.

Posted: 2013-Jun-07 ID: 2013129920194

Injury: Broken wrist
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Steep slope roofing
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-May

A young worker climbing a ladder lost his balance. He fell about 8 feet, breaking the fall with one arm.

Posted: 2013-Jun-07 ID: 2013161920103

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Offloading material with truck-mounted crane
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-May

While offloading shingles at a private residence, the boom of a truck-mounted crane contacted and severed a 25-kV overhead power line. The operator felt current while standing on the truck's deck and jumped to the ground. The materials on the deck caught fire, as did the tires and hydraulic lines. The fire department and utility company both attended the site. The truck and crane were ordered to be removed by tow truck for testing and recertification. See a [video](#) about what to do if you are operating a machine that contacts a power line.

Posted: 2013-May-31 ID: 2013165810134

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Excavator operation
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-May

While digging a trench, an excavator contacted a 4-inch gas line. There were no injuries and all buildings in the area were evacuated.

Posted: 2013-May-24 ID: 2013163710123

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Flying steel at commercial/institutional construction site
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-May

While booming out to place a 715-pound bundle of reinforcing steel, a 35-ton truck-mounted crane tipped onto the load-side outriggers. The boom jib struck an excavator and narrowly missed a worker before coming to rest on the ground.

Posted: 2013-May-24 ID: 2013161290165

Injury: Burns to head and arms
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Gas station fuel tank removal
Location: Northern B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-May

A worker was using a gas-powered cutoff saw to cut steel piping from an underground fuel storage tank. A fire erupted, burning the worker.

Posted: 2013-May-24 ID: 2013161980148

Injury: Concussion, head laceration, arm contusion
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Attic insulation installation
Location: Interior B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-May

A worker was transitioning from a roof to a ladder. The worker unhooked his personal fall protection system and began to descend the ladder. The worker slipped on the top rung of the ladder and fell about 9.5 feet to the ground below.

Posted: 2013-Jun-13 ID: 2013156240127

Injury: Serious head injuries
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: House renovation/framing
Location: Northern B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-May

A young worker fell 8.5 feet through an uncovered opening in the floor of a home renovation project.

Posted: 2013-May-31 ID: 2013160670104

Injury: Sprained wrist
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Site Surface Preparation
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-May

A worker was bent over setting a grade stake when he was struck by the bucket of a backhoe travelling in reverse.

Posted: 2013-May-17 ID: 2013128230186

Injury: Partial amputation of fingers
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Wood frame contracting
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-May

A worker was pushing a small piece of wood through a 10-inch table saw when his hand contacted the running blade.

Posted: 2013-May-17 ID: 2013110750341

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Drilling fencepost holes with power auger
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-May

A natural gas service line was struck while drilling fencepost holes with a power auger. The gas vented to atmosphere for almost 5 hours, until the utility company could isolate and repair the damaged line. Meanwhile, surrounding roads and businesses were shut down.

Posted: 2013-May-17 ID: 2013157410119

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Crane operation
Location: Interior B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-May

The operator of a 45-ton mobile crane was lifting a 60-foot I-beam over the rear of the unit when the soil under the driver-side rear outrigger gave away. The boom of the crane sliced through the ground floor of a residential construction site.

Posted: 2013-May-24 ID: 2013107970054

Injury: Abdominal bruising
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Water well drilling
Location: Interior B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-May

During water well drilling operations, a worker was struck in the abdomen by a drill rod that kicked back. The worker was thrown from the drill platform.

Posted: 2013-May-17 ID: 2013144250052

Injury: Fatal
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Cutting concrete foundation vertically
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-May

A concrete foundation was cut into sections to facilitate its removal. One section fell onto a worker.

Posted: 2013-May-17 ID: 2013166710140

Injury: Burns to arms, neck, head
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Mixing paint
Location: Interior B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-May

A worker was transferring and stirring paint in a metal tank when a flash fire from the paint fumes occurred.

Posted: 2013-May-17 ID: 2013166930079

Injury: Amputated finger, lacerated finger
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Installing soffit material
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-May

A worker was ripping cedar soffit material (about 3.5 inches by 0.75 inches by 60 inches) with a cordless circular saw. He had cut as far as he could, then stopped and repositioned his hand behind the blade to finish the cut. When he started the saw, it kicked back, contacting his hand.

Posted: 2013-Jun-07 ID: 2013170150054

Injury: Amputated finger
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Crane operation
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-May

A crane erector was installing the becket (dead end) of a load line at the tip of a tower crane. The worker's finger was caught between the trolley line and load line becket.

Posted: 2013-May-24 ID: 2013154890201

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Driveway site preparation
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-May

A skid-steer excavator contacted an underground natural gas service line while moving a dirt pile in preparation for driveway grading at the front of a residential construction site.

Posted: 2013-May-09 ID: 2013110111244