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COCA Update on WorkSafeBC Activities #565 October 15, 2013

September 2013 Incident Reports from WorkSafeBC

These 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 Report covers incidents that occurred in the month of September 2013.

Injury: Pain down one side of the body
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Installing fibreglass batt insulation
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

A worker slipped on a cut of piece of sprinkler pipe, then fell onto construction drywall debris 8-10 inches high.

Posted: 2013-Oct-07 ID: 2013162000338

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Excavation
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

An 80-foot-long section of a 50-foot-high rock wall collapsed.

Posted: 2013-Oct-07 ID: 2013110750714

Injury: Multiple fractures of leg, cuts to hand
Industry: Construction, Services (NES)
Core Activity: Electrical work
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

A journeyman electrician was on a flat roof, 29 feet above grade, pulling a "fishing line" to pull wires through a conduit. The worker walked backwards into an parapet wall (about 1 foot high) at the edge of the roof, then fell 29 feet to a concrete surface at grade.

Posted: 2013-Oct-07 ID: 2013112010224

Injury: Fatal (1 worker); whiplash (1 worker)
Industry: Construction, Warehousing
Core Activity: Auto glass delivery
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

A delivery worker travelling in the fast lane of a 2-lane highway struck a flag truck behind a sweeper working in that lane. The delivery worker was fatally injured.

Posted: 2013-Oct-07 ID: 2013116090020

Injury: Electric shock
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Geothermal drilling
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

While working on an energized electrical plug, a worker contacted 480 volts.

Posted: 2013-Oct-07 ID: 2013122700261

Injury: Bruising and soreness to back of head
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Applying caulking material to finished wall
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

A worker fell about 4 feet off a step ladder.

Posted: 2013-Oct-07 ID: 2013171890265

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Erecting access scaffold system
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

While erecting a system scaffold (universal rosette system) on the exterior of a 3-storey commercial building, a worker dropped a 5-foot-long, 1.5-inch-diameter aluminum scaffold pole. The pole fell from the roof level of the building to grade, striking an unguarded sidewalk and narrowly missing three persons.

Posted: 2013-Oct-07 ID: 2013161950251

Injury: Scrapes and bruises
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Commercial construction
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

A worker fell into a cavity about 4 feet deep that was formed from 3/4-inch crushed drain rock. A contributing factor in this incident may have been that an excavation was under construction near this worksite.

Posted: 2013-Oct-07 ID: 2013113830135

Injury: Undetermined head injury
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Exterior painting
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

An aluminum ladder slid laterally from its position against the exterior of a home. The worker on it fell about 8 feet to grade, then was injured when the falling ladder struck his head.

Posted: 2013-Oct-07 ID: 2013166920228

Injury: Injuries to head and upper body
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Power line construction
Location: Northern B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

A worker lost control of a rubber-tired wheel loader while travelling down a road. The machine left the road and stopped abruptly, ejecting the operator from the machine.

Posted: 2013-Oct-07 ID: 2013160670247

Injury: Amputated finger, lacerated finger
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Installation of laminate flooring
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

While a worker was ripping a piece of laminate flooring, his hand contacted the table saw blade.

Posted: 2013-Oct-07 ID: 2013163750176

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Concrete pumper truck operations
Location: Interior B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

A worker operating the wireless remote for a concrete pump truck lost control of the boom and volume control when power in the pumper truck failed. The worker was not able to shut down the pumper via the remote, thus another worker shut down the down the pumper truck's engine. The hose was reported to have been whipping around, striking the scissor-lift and the worker who was placing the concrete in the column. No injuries were reported.

Posted: 2013-Oct-07 ID: 2013165870320

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Concrete forming
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

A reusable concrete wall panel form (gang panel), part of the stair core, failed after the forms had been poured to the top, about 15 feet. The concrete being poured was "high flow concrete" with a retarding additive.

Posted: 2013-Oct-07 ID: 2013114550246

Injury: Back injury
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Residential construction
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

While carrying lumber on his shoulder, a young worker slipped and fell on crushed gravel underfoot.

Posted: 2013-Oct-07 ID: 2013155070168

Injury: Crush injuries to leg; bruising to upper body
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Concrete formwork
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

A rigger climbed an unsecured zone steel column to disconnect it from a tower crane. The column collapsed, pinning the rigger to the deck.

Posted: 2013-Oct-07 ID: 2013122700248

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction, Public Sector
Core Activity: Installing new sanitary line
Location: Northern B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

An excavator contacted a live overhead three-phase 25-kV distribution line while doing excavation work in a ditch.

Posted: 2013-Sep-17 ID: 2013165560155

Injury: Broken ribs, compressed vertebrae
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Housekeeping
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

A new, temporary worker was injured when a wood platform collapsed. The platform and worker fell 9 metres (30 feet) into the ventilation shaft.

Posted: 2013-Oct-07 ID: 2013165410261

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Removal of existing decommissioned fuel tanks
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

A worker was using a cut-off saw to score the exterior of a decommissioned 10,000-gallon underground fuel tank, to prepare for removal and disposal. Vapour from residual interior sludge ignited, causing an explosion.

Posted: 2013-Oct-07 ID: 2013157520211

Injury: Fractured bone in lower body
Industry: Construction, Services (NES)
Core Activity: Transmission tower decommissioning and upgrade
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

A worker fell 3-4 feet from the deck of a rented mobile crane truck onto a steel barge deck. He was offloading lattice tower sections onto the beach staging area.

Posted: 2013-Oct-07 ID: 2013161290439

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction, Tourism & Hospitality - All, Tourism & Hospitality - Accommodation
Core Activity: Excavating for installation of water system
Location: Northern B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

While excavating for installation of a water system upgrade, a 1.5-inch, 80-psi natural gas line was severed.

Posted: 2013-Oct-07 ID: 2013165800179

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction, Public Sector
Core Activity: Road maintenance
Location: Northern B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

While conducting maintenance activities on a road, an excavator contacted an overhead 240-volt power line and pulled over the utility pole with the attached transformer and 25-kV line.

Posted: 2013-Oct-07 ID: 2013165800178

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction, Trucking
Core Activity: Road building
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

A dump truck hit a guy wire, causing the top third of the utility poles to break off and pull down the overhead high-voltage power lines.

Posted: 2013-Oct-07 ID: 2013165410256

Injury: Injuries to leg; pain and discomfort in lower body
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Framing activities
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

A worker fell through an uncovered and unguarded stairway opening.

Posted: 2013-Oct-07 ID: 2013155070169

Injury: Fatal
Industry: Construction, Manufacturing - All, Manufacturing - Metallic & Mineral Products
Core Activity: Heavy equipment operation
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

A worker was trying to unload a self-propelled elevating work platform (SPEW) from a lowbed trailer. The front wheels of the SPEW were on the back end of the trailer and the back wheels were on the ground. The worker was found beside the lowbed trailer with severe injuries. The worker later succumbed to his injuries.

Posted: 2013-Sep-17 ID: 2013120030167

Injury: Sore back
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Concrete forming
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

A worker stepped backwards off an unguarded end work platform and fell 10 feet.

Posted: 2013-Sep-17 ID: 2013163710218

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Concrete forming / framing
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

A self-erecting tower crane operator inadvertently slewed rigging chains attached to the load block into 12.5-kV (high-voltage) overhead power lines while trying to test the machine's safe limits. The base components of the tower crane became energized, causing the machine's wood cribbing (outrigger pads) to light on fire. Also, plastic de-watering equipment (pipes and storage tank) that were touching the machine's electrical power cable became energized and caught fire.

Posted: 2013-Sep-17 ID: 2013160580265

Injury: Crush injury to foot
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Highway construction
Location: Northern B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

While an auger unit was positioning the head of a vertical auger to pick up a length of casing, a worker's foot was crushed between the auger and the casing driver.

Posted: 2013-Oct-07 ID: 2013165800177

Injury: Red mark on arm, singed area on head
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Renovations
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

While using a jackhammer, a worker contacted a 12-kV electrical line.

Posted: 2013-Sep-17 ID: 2013163710214

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Site services
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

An excavator breached a live 2-inch gas line, resulting in an uncontrolled release of natural gas into the atmosphere.

Posted: 2013-Oct-07 ID: 2013155070160

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction, Manufacturing - All, Manufacturing - Other Products
Core Activity: Commercial construction
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

A metal modular fence panel fell from the upper level of a building under construction.

Posted: 2013-Sep-17 ID: 2013117080244

Injury: Undetermined internal injuries
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Renovation work
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

A worker fell from the attic space of a building onto the plywood subfloor 8 feet, 4 inches below.

Posted: 2013-Sep-10 ID: 2013161770237

Injury: Broken bones in face and arms, facial laceration
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Commercial construction
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

A concrete finishing worker stepped on an unsupported section of temporary floor formwork and fell 17 feet, 8 inches to the concrete grade. The plywood, measuring 48 inches by 31 inches, was secured only to a supporting 4x6 timber on one edge and a neighboring 15-inch-long 4x6 stub halfway across the plywood.

Posted: 2013-Sep-06 ID: 2013161290422

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Shotcrete and shoring
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

An excavator was moving an air compressor when the operator lost control of the excavator and load and rolled into an excavation.

Posted: 2013-Sep-10 ID: 2013157530322

Injury: Possible amputation injury to finger
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Structural concrete forming
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Sep

A worker injured one finger while using a hand-held circular saw.

Posted: 2013-Sep-10 ID: 2013117080241