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COCA Update on WorkSafeBC Activities #567 November 7, 2013

October 2013 Incident Reports from WorkSafeBC

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 Report covers incidents that occurred in the month of October 2013.

Injury: Fractured lower leg
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Residential construction
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

A worker fell about 6 feet from a scaffold platform.

Posted: 2013-Nov-05 **ID:** 2013137290235

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Moving a mobile crane
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

An operator was driving a crane up a steep driveway and had the boom out for traction. The boom caught a support wire, which pulled down telecommunications cables and compromised the utility pole.

Posted: 2013-Nov-05 **ID:** 2013165630268

Injury: Multiple fractures and other injuries to the upper body
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Interior painting
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

In preparation for painting, a worker was blowing dust off a wall. The worker slipped on the unguarded stairs and fell 10 feet to the main floor.

Posted: 2013-Nov-05 **ID:** 2013158920176

Injury: Head injury, fractured arm
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Structural concrete forming
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

A young worker fell 13-18 feet from a ladder or landing of the mast section of a tower crane.

Posted: 2013-Nov-05 **ID:** 2013117080254

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Culvert upgrading
Location: Interior B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

A worker was using a tracked excavator to move large rocks for a culvert upgrade. As the excavator was repositioning to a higher elevation, it contacted an overhead residential electrical service line.

Posted: 2013-Nov-05 **ID:** 2013157270311

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction, Public Sector
Core Activity: Storm sewer upgrade
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

A half-inch residential gas line was severed during machine excavation for a storm sewer upgrade. Line locates had been completed and were on site. One location to a house had been missed. After the line was severed, gas entered the storm sewer, requiring the evacuation of several homes on one side of the street.

Posted: 2013-Nov-05 **ID:** 2013161290513

Injury: Concussion; fractured ribs and bone in upper body
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Wood frame construction
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

A worker fell about 6 feet from a scaffold work platform.

Posted: 2013-Nov-05 **ID:** 2013137290230

Injury: Sore head, neck, back, knee
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Finishing carpentry
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

A worker in a crosswalk was struck by a vehicle.

Posted: 2013-Nov-05 **ID:** 2013114550283

Injury: Serious injuries to the head and lower body; fractured wrist
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Removing steel deck from atop steel I-beams
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

A young worker fell from the second storey to grade (about 22 feet) through an opening in the steel decking.

Posted: 2013-Nov-05 **ID:** 2013161950269

Injury: Electrocution, resulting in numbness, clamminess, and shortness of breath
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Electrical work
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

A worker was terminating control wires in a programmable logic controller (PLC) cabinet. The worker contacted the cabinet and a live control conductor (low-voltage), resulting in minor injuries to the worker.

Posted: 2013-Nov-04 **ID:** 2013166970224

Injury: Fatal (non-worker)
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Road work
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

A passenger vehicle struck a flat-deck work truck positioned in the passing lane of the highway during late-night road work. The driver of the passenger vehicle (a non-worker) was fatally injured. The workers were installing lane reflectors and removing temporary road markings.

Posted: 2013-Nov-04 **ID:** 2013157410243

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Power line construction
Location: Northern BC
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

A lattice power line tower had been placed by a helicopter and secured. When one of the guylines was released, the tower fell over in slow motion.

Posted: 2013-Nov-04 **ID:** 2013160670269

Injury: Injury to lower back and arm
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Framing
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

A young worker fell about 12 feet from a wood-frame deck.

Posted: 2013-Nov-05 **ID:** 2013114550280

Injury: Undetermined head injury
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Clearing debris after re-roofing and skylight installation
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

A young worker fell about 9.5 feet from a roof onto a fire escape landing, reportedly hitting his head on a guardrail.

Posted: 2013-Nov-05 **ID:** 2013170880119

Injury: Crush injuries to arm and upper body; back injuries; bruising
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Traffic control
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

A flag person was seriously injured when backed over by a loaded gravel truck with a pup trailer.

Posted: 2013-Nov-04 **ID:** 2013110750771

Injury: Bruising (2 workers)
Industry: Construction, Manufacturing - All, Manufacturing - Wood & Paper Products
Core Activity: Wood frame removal
Location: Interior B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

Two workers were working from an elevated work platform removing old wood trusses in a sawmill when an unsecured beam dislodged, striking the workers.

Posted: 2013-Nov-05 **ID:** 2013155980247

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Land clearing
Location: Northern B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

An uncertified faller miscalculated the height of a tree. When the tree fell, it contacted high-voltage primary distribution lines.

Posted: 2013-Nov-05 **ID:** 2013171900203

Injury: Back and neck injuries; multiple contusions and abrasions
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Framing or residential forming
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

The owner of a company sustained serious injuries when he fell about 20 feet while applying sheathing to the roof of a house.

Posted: 2013-Nov-05 **ID:** 2013138190265

Injury: Electrical burns
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Overpass construction
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

A worker was using a long-pole hand trowel to finish concrete when contact was made with an overhead high-voltage power line.

Posted: 2013-Nov-04 **ID:** 2013117080251

Injury: Crush injuries to foot
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Concrete reinforcing
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

A decking machine fell off its support rails and landed on the foot of a nearby worker.

Posted: 2013-Nov-04 **ID:** 2013128230352

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Excavating
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

An excavator contacted and damaged the plastic conduit containing an energized underground high-voltage (12.5-kV) line. The high voltage line had reportedly been disconnected and removed.

Posted: 2013-Nov-05 **ID:** 2013114550288

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Installation and rerouting of underground utilities
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

As an excavator was being positioned to assist in the unloading of sewer pipe from a flatbed carrier, the excavator contacted the 7.2-kV overhead power lines.

Posted: 2013-Nov-04 **ID:** 2013163750214

Injury: Cut to leg
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Construction
Location: Northern B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

While plunge-cutting plywood with a circular saw, a young worker was holding the saw blade guard open. When the cut was finished, the worker moved the saw to the side without releasing the guard. The saw blade contacted the worker's leg.

Posted: 2013-Nov-05 **ID:** 2013160670270

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Paving services or asphalt manufacture
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

While removing material on a roadway, an excavator contacted a gas line.

Posted: 2013-Nov-04 **ID:** 2013163710260

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction, Services (NES)
Core Activity: Installing lightning connectors
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

Two workers working from an aerial platform were installing a lightning arrester on a 25-kV 3-phase transmission system. As the lightning arrester was connected to the system, it failed. The failed lightning arrester was inspected and found to be marked with an 8.5-kV rating.

Posted: 2013-Oct-23 **ID:** 2013157600235

Injury: Fractured bone in lower body, fractured finger, bruising
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Framing
Location: Interior B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

A worker removed a plywood cover from a stairwell opening (5 feet by 10 feet) on the main floor of a house under construction. While the worker was moving the plywood sheet away from the opening, the worker stepped forward and fell through the opening to the concrete basement floor 11 feet below.

Posted: 2013-Nov-04 **ID:** 2013156240273

Injury: Lacerated hand
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Framing
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

A worker's hand contacted the blade of a circular saw.

Posted: 2013-Oct-23 **ID:** 2013173550102

Injury: Exposure to asbestos
Industry: Construction, Public Sector
Core Activity: Public school building
Location: Northern B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

When two maintenance workers lifted a ceiling tile, about 3 cups of vermiculite spilled onto one of them. Vermiculite was identified in the hazardous materials survey as containing a trace of actinolite. Fibrous actinolite is one of the six recognized types of asbestos.

Posted: 2013-Nov-05 **ID:** 2013166350196

Injury: Undetermined injuries to head and lower body
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Commercial construction
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

Both a worker and an unsecured manufactured garbage box fell about 7 feet from the forks of a small forklift.

Posted: 2013-Nov-05 **ID:** 2013114550269

Injury: Cracked vertebrae
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Partial building renovation
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

Inside a building stairwell, a worker fell about 10 feet onto a set of stairs while accessing a fabricated work platform that collapsed in the stairwell.

Posted: 2013-Oct-23 **ID:** 2013170880118

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Ground excavation
Location: Interior B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

A tracked excavator was being operated to remove ground material above a natural gas service line. The excavator inadvertently contacted and ruptured a 1.25-inch branch line.

Posted: 2013-Oct-23 **ID:** 2013157270287

Injury: Suspected fractures to arm and lower body
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Residential siding installation
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

A worker fell about 14 feet to grade while trying to adjust the work platform of a ladder-jack scaffold system.

Posted: 2013-Oct-23 **ID:** 2013124710263

Injury: Pain to one side of ribs, deep laceration to arm
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Steep slope roofing
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

A worker was ascending a roof to install a temporary anchor when he fell from the roof and struck a work platform plank before coming to rest on the ground 16 feet below.

Posted: 2013-Oct-23 **ID:** 2013173250173

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

The jib of a lower tower crane contacted the hoist line of a higher tower crane. The contact caused the partially rigged scaffolding tubes to be pulled off the crane landing platform on the fourth floor. They fell to grade, missing the workers below.

Posted: 2013-Oct-23 **ID:** 2013115134182

Injury: Serious burns to arms
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Commissioning of new electrical components
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

A worker contacted energized 34.5-kV electrical equipment in an enclosure of a high-voltage substation.

Posted: 2013-Oct-23 **ID:** 2013137290206

Injury: Fatal
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Commercial construction
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

A person fell from the 31st floor of a highrise building under construction.

Posted: 2013-Oct-07 **ID:** 2013163640191

Injury: Close call
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Industrial, commercial or institutional construction
Location: Northern B.C.
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

An excavator struck and ruptured a 42-mm (1.5-inch) natural gas line. The uncontrolled release of gas lasted for about 3 hours and resulted in the evacuation of a city block.

Posted: 2013-Oct-23 **ID:** 2013161980337

Injury: Fractured wrists
Industry: Construction
Core Activity: Roofing
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

A roofer fell about 20 feet from a roof into a sub-grade basement stairwell.

Posted: 2013-Oct-23 **ID:** 2013161761748

Injury: Close call

Industry: Construction

Core Activity: Excavator operation

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: 2013-Oct

While removing topsoil and replacing structural fill to an engineered, lock-block wall, an excavator contacted a underground secondary service line (120 to 240 volts).

Posted: 2013-Oct-23 **ID:** 2013171890276