

THE SAFETY STAR

CSABC The Construction Safety Association of British Columbia

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Merging for Better Construction Safety



Safety must always come first, and the Construction Safety Association of BC (CSABC) and the Construction Safety Network (CSN) have been working hard to keep our industry safe with that shared philosophy. Now we have made a joint decision in the interests of all of our members and their employees that we believe will help us to make BC's construction industry even safer.

By June 2010, CSN AND CSABC will merge to form one new safety body, combining the strengths of both. Both teams have been successful in bringing down injury rates and reducing WorkSafeBC assessments. That work will continue.

BC's construction industry can count on the continuation of existing successful programs, such as the Certificate of Recognition Program that allows employers to earn rebates on WorkSafeBC assessments for improving their safety programs and culture. There will also be opportunities to innovate, creating new services to meet industry's changing needs.

Until the merger, it is business as usual. If you deal with either organization, you can continue to do so without interruption. All contact details remain the same for now:

www.csabc.ca 604 434 3222 | 1 877 434 3222

Reimbursement of CSABC Course Costs to Continue in 2010



As of January 2010 the CSABC Board of Directors announced that CSABC will continue to reimburse sector 72 companies for course costs up to \$500 plus tax (this is based on member pricing, and limited to one person per course). To qualify, you must achieve COR in the 2010 COR qualifying year. CSABC is also continuing to reimburse these same companies for all Supervisor course costs (this applies regardless of the year of certification, however you must maintain your COR in the year you receive the reimbursement).

Safety & Health Week (NAOSHWeek) 2010

The North American Occupational Safety and Health Week (NAOSHWeek), from May 2 to 8, 2010, is a time for employers, workers, and all partners in occupational health and safety to focus on preventing injury and illness in the workplace.

Your workplace can take part by:

- Setting new goals for workplace health and safety
- Creating awareness of these goals within and outside your organization
- Making a plan to accomplish these goals

Visit worksafebc.com for details on how your organization can participate.



Congratulations to Fedderly Transportation Ltd.

Congratulations to Fedderly Transportation Ltd., who recently achieved COR (Certificate of Recognition). Located in Fort St. John, Fedderly is a full service transportation company specializing in a number of services including equipment moving, oilfield hauling, and crane service.

“We have been in business for over 30 years and a safe and healthy work environment has always been important to us. Now that the COR program is available for our sector, it has allowed the industry to achieve an even higher standard of safety. In the past, safety in the trucking industry was regulated by the National Safety Code,” said Bob Fedderly, President of Fedderly Transportation.



According to Fedderly, the main type of injuries that typically occur in the trucking and transportation industry are slips and falls when using or accessing equipment. “In the shop, we make sure our staff is trained on how to properly lift equipment and boxes, to avoid back injuries. It is also important for our employees to be aware of the work environment, whether it be indoors or outside. For example, when employees have to work in icy conditions, there is the potential of a slip hazard no matter what footwear they have on.”

“In addition to the financial savings (including rebates of up to 15% on WorkSafeBC assessments), safety training reinforces our commitment to keeping our employees safe. They are a key part of our operation,” said Fedderly.

COR Year End Results Surpass Goal for 2009

CSABC’s goal of increasing the number of applications for COR by 20% was surpassed. Early numbers indicate a 38% increase. Although the final results are not yet tallied, approximately 214 companies submitted Health and Safety COR audits and 77 Return-to-Work audits. Of these, 66 companies were small employers, 23 of which also completed the Return-to-Work component.

In 2009, 121 courses ran with 1,125 participants. This included:

- 88 Owner, Supervisor, and Large and Small Auditor and Elective Courses with 804 participants
- One asbestos awareness course with four participants
- 32 fall protection courses with 317 participants

The Roofing Contractors Association of BC hosted Owner, Supervisor and Large and Small Auditor and elective courses as a result of making COR mandatory for their members in 2009. RCABC held five classes with a total of 60 participants and these are included in the numbers above.

Slips, Trips, and Falls: Hurting Your Workers and the Bottom Line?

Slips, trips, and falls continue to make up the majority of the penalties handed out monthly by WorkSafeBC. In the recent Jan/Feb 2010 issue of WorkSafe Magazine, 58% of incidents were related to a failure to provide workers with proper protective equipment and training to reduce the hazards of slips, trips, and falls that exist while working.



To reduce the number of slips, trips and falls at your workplace, make sure you understand why they happen and use properly designed workspaces and work methods.

Slips occur as a result of losing stability with your lead foot. This can happen as a result of moving from one type of surface area, such as a rough surface to another such as a smooth surface. Workers should make a point of adapting their walking style to compensate for changes in surface. At the same time, employers need to identify potential slip hazards. If the hazard cannot be eliminated, ensure appropriate warning signs or boards are posted to alert workers. Slips can also occur as a result of a walking surface that is wet, dusty or too resistant. At the very least slips can result in muscle strains but can be deadly if they happen around hazardous objects or machinery, or at heights. Wearing appropriate footwear for your worksite conditions is the first step in mitigating slips.

Trips occur as a result of your forward moving leg or foot getting caught while your body continues its forward motion. Common causes of trips are changes in the elevation of walking surfaces. Try to mitigate abrupt changes in walking surface height by replacing stairs with ramps wherever possible. However, be aware that you will need to increase the slip resistance of the ramp surface by approximately threefold in order to prevent slips as the ramp angle increases to as much as 20 degrees.

Slips and trips often precede falls from work surfaces. The same prevention methods for slips and trips should be applied to both ground level and elevated surfaces. To prevent falls from heights employ railings, guardrails, and fall protection systems where necessary.

Reduce slips, trips, and falls and improve your workplace and worksite through these simple housekeeping techniques:

- Keep floors clear of dust and debris – to make it easy to dispose of debris keep a broom and dust pan and waste bins close by.
- Don't allow equipment or materials to accumulate in the middle of floors, make sure everything is tucked up against a wall and clearly marked.
- Cords lying across walkways are another tripping hazard – zap strap multiple cords together and tuck them up against a wall or tape them down to the floor in 1 foot intervals. Ensure walkways stay clear.
- Eliminate abrupt changes in a walking surface or mark with signs.

It is not enough to keep your worksite clean, also make sure your company has an active health and safety plan in place. Employers are required to have a written fall protection plan in place for all work conducted above 3m (10 ft) and for work conducted in an area where workers are not protected by permanent guardrails. Be sure to provide training for new workers, enforce safety on-site, ensure workers have appropriate PPE and personal fall protection equipment and are instructed on how to use it, and that a proper fall protection system is in place.



For more information about injury prevention and best practices visit the Construction Safety Association of BC at www.csabc.ca or the Construction Safety Network at www.safetynetwork.bc.ca

You Need to Control the Dark Side of Power Tools

By Don Schouten, WorkSafeBC Manager of Industry and Labour Services – Construction



Over time, we've gotten used to power tools, taking for granted how they make construction work go smoother. But they have a dark side, too. Misused, power tools can be dangerous, even lethal.

Take steps to control the dark side with all power tools — including circular saws, chainsaws, table saws, angle grinders and pneumatic nail guns.

Steps for employers

- Provide workers with the right training and personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Maintain your power tools; any needing repairs should be red-tagged “Do Not Operate” and not used until fixed.

Steps for workers

- Apply your training, and plan for the task at hand.
- Follow manufacturers' instructions; ensure proper guarding is in place and functioning, and never circumvent safety features or take short cuts.
- Always wear proper PPE.
- If you're not sure about operating the tool or using PPE, ask someone who knows.

More information

WorkSafeBC has free downloads on safe power tool use.

You're a Pro — This series of four, short videos demonstrates the dangers and possible consequences of using power tools incorrectly (graphic content).

Check <http://www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/Multimedia/Videos.asp?ReportID=35773>.

Toolbox Talk Guides — These give short, easy-to-use information on power tool safety, and other construction safety issues.

Check <http://www2.worksafebc.com/Portals/Construction/ToolboxMeetingGuides-Topic.asp?ReportID=34588uations>.

Why bother?

Two WorkSafeBC case files show what power tools can do.

1. Cutting a drain hole in a residential roof, a worker positioned a skill saw behind the safety toe of his safety boot. The blade partially amputated a toe.
2. A carpenter worked while kneeling alongside a helper in a standing position using a nail gun with the trigger depressed. The carpenter stood; his head contacted the nose piece of the gun, and it drove a three-inch nail into his head.

Let me know your thoughts on this or any construction safety issue. Call me at 604.214.6989 from the Lower Mainland, toll-free elsewhere to 1.888.621.7233. Or email Don.Schouten@worksafebc.com.

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*We welcome your comments,
suggestions and story ideas.*