

THE SAFETY STAR

CSABC The Construction Safety Association of British Columbia

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IN THIS ISSUE

Merger Will Mean Better Construction Safety.....	1
CSABC Reaches out to Construction Workers through Poster Campaign.....	1
District of Saanich Breaks New Ground in COR Certification	2
Visit our enhanced CSABC website today!	2
CSABC Instructors Needed	2
The Seven Deadly Sins: Unsafe Work Practices Leading to Death and Injury in Construction	3
Pros Keep Worksites Running Well — and Safe	4



Merger Will Mean Better Construction Safety

The Construction Safety Association of BC (CSABC) is making a major move that will benefit safety throughout our industry — merging with the Construction Safety Network (CSN).

This was a joint decision that the two organizations made late last year. Now we're working together to complete the merger by June 2010.

The ultimate goal is stronger safety programs for all. After progressing on separate but parallel tracks for the last decade, we are uniting to create a whole greater than the sum of its former parts. The new organization will build on past successes, bringing greater focus and clarity to industry-wide efforts to make construction workplaces safer and more productive.

Meanwhile, it's business as usual. All of our existing safety programs and initiatives remain available to the industry and its workers. CSABC continues serving employers and workers from our existing location and with established phone, email and website contacts.

For more information, contact Cathy Lange, Executive Director for CSABC at 604.434.3222 or clange@csabc.ca.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The **CONSTRUCTION SAFETY ASSOCIATION OF BC** and the **CONSTRUCTION SAFETY NETWORK** are coming together as one dedicated full service safety organization for the construction industry.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL US OR VISIT US ONLINE.

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

www.safetynetwork.bc.ca
604 436 0232 | 1 866 860 0232



CSABC Reaches out to Construction Workers through Poster Campaign

In an effort to get the safety message out to young workers at construction sites, CSABC developed a poster campaign with high impact safety messages and graphics. During the month of November 2009, over 2,000 posters were posted at over 100 sites throughout the Lower Mainland. If you would like to order copies of the poster for your worksite please contact CSABC at 604.434.3222 or info@csabc.ca.

District of Saanich Breaks New Ground in COR Certification

Congratulations to The District of Saanich, the first municipality in BC to achieve COR certification. Achieving this was no small task, given the size and complexity of the organization. The District is comprised of 10 very diverse departments, ranging from parks and recreation to public works and fire. Each and every one of the District's 1500 employees, from front end staff through to senior management were involved in the process. Working together as a team created a sense of purpose, as well as a "buzz" of energy throughout the organization.

According to Saanich's Manager of Occupational Health & Safety, Ron Dennis, "COR Certification not only enabled us to upgrade and monitor our health and safety protection for employees, it resulted in increased productivity, improved attendance and decreased days lost to injuries. There are also financial savings, as municipalities can get rebates up to 15% on WorkSafeBC base assessments."

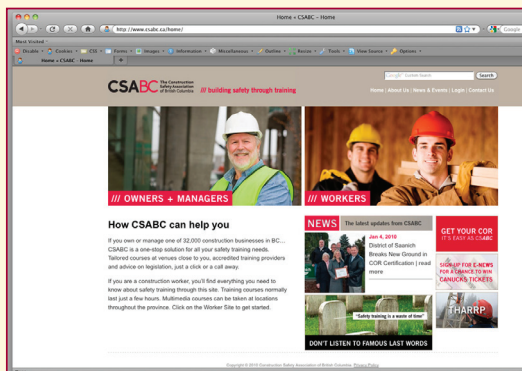
"COR certification enhances the quality of the organization and makes Saanich more attractive in terms of recruitment and retention. It reinforces the image of Saanich as both a great place to work and live," says Dennis.

Local governments can now achieve COR through the BC Municipal Safety Association. For more information, contact Steven Mah, Manager Audit Services at 778.278.3435 or visit www.bcmsa.ca



Front row (L to R): **Linda Bryant** (Saanich OH&S Supervisor), **Cathy Lange** (Exec Director CSABC), **Paul Murray** (Saanich Director of Finance and Corporate Projects)

Back row, (L to R): **Ron Beaudoin** (Saanich OH&S Clerk), **Ron Dennis** (Saanich Manager of OH&S), **Fred McCullough** (Saanich OH&S Advisor), **Mike Ross** (WorkSafeBC Occupational Safety Officer)



Visit our enhanced CSABC website today!

Find out what you should and could do to improve safety at the worksite through training with CSABC.
>> www.csabc.ca <<

If you own or manage one of 32,000 construction businesses in BC, CSABC is a one-stop solution for all your safety training needs. Tailored courses at venues close to you, accredited training providers and advice on legislation, just a click or a call away.

If you are a construction worker, you'll find everything you need to know about safety training through this site. Training courses can be taken at locations throughout the province. Sign up for our e-news while you're at it. You'll receive the latest construction safety and training news.

CSABC Instructors Needed

Do you have two years or more experience in construction? Health and Safety, and Instructors diplomas? Experience and passion for teaching? If you are interested in teaching the CSABC COR courses please forward your resume to Cathy Lange, Executive Director at clange@csabc.ca

The Seven Deadly Sins: Unsafe Work Practices Leading to Death and Injury in Construction

In the mid 1980's WorkSafeBC identified "11 deadly sins"¹ or unsafe work practices that are not necessarily responsible for the highest number of injuries, but can lead to some of the most life shattering types of death and injury in the workplace.

Even though it is more than 30 years later, many employers and workers still forget the deadly sins. Today's owners face a variety of risks when they undertake a construction project. Safety is a critical item on all construction projects for multiple reasons including protecting the welfare of employees, providing a safe work environment and controlling construction costs.

In an effort to reduce the number of injuries and accidents, more employers across the province are focusing on training employees in basic workplace safety. Safety training is important not only at the worker level, but at all levels within the organization. This is where CSABC can play an important role, as the association offers courses for supervisors, owners/managers, and workers that include a specific focus on meeting due diligence requirements.

Following are the seven lethal workplace sins specifically related to construction:

Asbestos Exposure Risks

Asbestosis, a scarring of the lungs, and mesothelioma, a tumor, result from exposure to asbestos many decades earlier and are one of the most frequent causes of fatalities in the construction industry. Asbestos is well recognized as a health hazard and is highly regulated. Nearly 42% of the fatal claims accepted by WorkSafeBC in 2007 were the result of exposure to asbestos.

Confined Space Risks

These risks involve exposing workers to situations or conditions that are immediately dangerous to life or to health such as insufficient oxygen, toxic (poisonous) air, or an explosive atmosphere. Proper training, equipment, and procedures are required.

Unsafe Excavation

This includes working in an excavation over four feet without adequately supporting or sloping the sides of the excavation or adopting other safeguards allowed by the regulation. An example is a worker who recently entered an unshored, unsloped 14 foot excavation and it collapsed on his head, killing him instantly.

Lack of Fall Protection

Falls are the most frequent and most costly types of injuries across the construction sector. They represent one quarter of all claim volumes and 44% of all claim costs. According to WorkSafeBC, lack of fall protection produces 20 times the serious injury rate of any other workplace situation.

Roll Over Dangers

Roll over dangers occur when operating mobile equipment failing to have rollover protective structures where required by regulation and failing to install or use seatbelts as required.

Lockout Violation

Lockout is the use of locks to prevent machinery or equipment from being started accidentally when maintenance work is being done. Every year, workers are seriously injured because machinery or equipment was not properly locked out. This could result in crushed limbs, severed fingers, even death.

Unsafe Practices Near Powerlines

This refers to working within specified minimum distances from unguarded overhead energized high voltage electrical conductors without complying with regulation.

Source: WorkSafe Magazine (May/June 2009, page 16)

Pros Keep Worksites Running Well — and Safe

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



When construction projects go well, it's because of frontline workers who wear hard hats and steel-toed boots. That definitely includes the people whose primary job is keeping sites safe — construction safety professionals. These professionals are critical to workers staying safe and productive, and projects running on time and on budget.

At WorkSafeBC, we take off our hard hats to construction safety coordinators. We also try to help them do their jobs. One way is to open a professional development arena. Called *Bridging the Gap*, it's an annual conference for construction safety pros. They can upgrade skills and knowledge, renew their passion for safety, compare notes, network and explore possibilities to excel in safety.

Our fifth conference will be next November. Why tell you about this when it's early in the year? I really hope you resolve to take part in the 2010 conference. Think about it later this winter when we publish the program.

Meanwhile, here are a few facts about the November 2009 conference where close to 200 participants from all parts of the province attended. They heard a strong safety message from BC Labour Minister Murray Coell, a speech that framed a series of presentations on major construction safety issues.

You can check key sessions yourself. They're online, available to thousands in the construction industry who couldn't attend the conference. This is solid, hands-on information, and you'll find it at www.bridgingthegap2009.com. The major sessions included information on:

Musculoskeletal Injuries — Demonstrations of risks and options to control them

Silica Exposure — A guide to creating a plan to control a substance as dangerous as asbestos

Tough Conversations — Conflict resolution tools to overcome friction and preserve relationships

The Economic Advantage of Safety — Costs of incidents, safety programs as effective management tools and how to establish and maintain them

Ladder Safety — Selecting the right ladder, using it correctly and dealing with hazards

Falls in Construction — Human factors in fall protection, regulatory requirements and proper planning

CSO Responsibilities — Construction safety officers' responsibilities under Vancouver bylaws and the Workers Compensation Act

Respirators — Construction industry uses, specialty applications and more

Risk Assessment — Five steps to minimize the adverse effects of accidental loss

In putting together the 2009 conference, WorkSafeBC was helped by an organizing committee that included participants such as, Construction Safety Association of BC, the Construction Safety Network, Canadian Society of Safety Engineering, Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC, BCIT and Hazmasters.

We all shared the same goal: to bring down the industry's injury rate. By educating construction safety pros, a key element of the work force, we expect they'll pass important safety knowledge on to employers and workers across BC.

Let me know what you think of this, or any construction safety issue. Call me at 604.214.6989 from the Lower Mainland, toll-free elsewhere at 1.888.621.7233. Or email Don.Schouten@worksafebc.com. I'd like to hear from you.

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