

2005 Notice of Incidents Involving Young Workers

A Notice of Incident (NI) report is a preliminary report of an incident that WorkSafeBC officers respond to. The NI report is based on information obtained as soon as possible after the incident but before an investigation into causes has been completed.

This information may help you prevent similar accidents in your workplace.

THE NI INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

<p>Region: B.C.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marina operations: A young worker was found drowned in the water next to a marina dock. The worker had attended an employer-sanctioned party at the workplace the evening before. 2005-Dec
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemical pulp mill: Four contract workers and two mill employees were exposed to chlorine dioxide when a chlorine dioxide solution line ruptured. The old piping system had corroded enough to crack the Teflon liner. 2005-Jun
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydro-vac soil excavation: A young worker was exposing an underground gas line using a high-pressure hot water gun. The worker slipped, lost control of the wand, and was struck by a direct stream of scalding hot water. 2005-Feb
<p>Region: Central Interior</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Log hauling: A log loader was removing logs from the rear trailer of a logging truck. The logs inadvertently knocked a log off the front trailer, striking the logging truck driver (a young worker). 2005-Nov
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cable logging: A young worker (chokerman) walked into the landing, indicating that a cable had struck his head as he walked uphill to start another row.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas station: A gas station convenience store was robbed by two people with a knife and a gun. The young worker on duty alone at the time was not physically harmed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pole wood preserving plant: A young worker was struck in the face by a block of wood that shot out from under the tire of a wheel loader travelling over debris. The block weighed almost 10 pounds and travelled 40 feet before striking the worker.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restaurant: A coffee basket containing hot material was dislodged from a commercial coffee maker, and its contents fell onto the neck and back of a young worker.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotel: An unidentified person came up behind a room attendant and pushed the young worker to the ground.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sawmill (unscrambler/cleanup): A young worker was using a 2x4 board to clear wood waste jammed near the tail-end of a waste conveyor that was still in motion. The board was caught by the conveyor and crushed his finger against the metal conveyor sheeting.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planing mill: A young worker was removing metal banding from two bundles of lumber stacked on the tilt hoist. When the worker cut the banding from the lower bundle, the bundle collapsed. The worker was caught between the spilled lumber and another bundle of lumber sitting on the infeed transfer deck.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auto service or repair: A log truck driver (young worker) was servicing brakes in a maintenance shop. A nearby inflated truck tire standing upright on the shop floor blew off a rebuilt rim and knocked down the driver.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated forest management: A young worker was operating a tracked skidder when it experienced a brake line failure and lost its brakes. The skidder ran downslope about 300 yards, went over a cutbank, landed on a haul road, and flopped onto its side.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodworking: A young worker was cutting 1x4 lumber with a chop saw activated by a foot pedal. The unguarded foot control was inadvertently activated and the saw dropped, cutting off several digits of one of the worker's hands.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roofing: A roofer (young worker) was climbing on a 7/12 roof to attach a lifeline when he fell approximately 16 feet.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framing: A young worker fell through an open stairwell to a basement 8 feet below.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marina: Two workers were shot by an assailant suspected to be mentally disturbed. 2005-Mar
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fabrication and service: A welder (young worker) was welding the grousers on the tracks of a machine when sparks set his coveralls (behind his leather chaps) on fire. The coveralls were later inspected and found to be old, worn, and no longer fire retardant.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarry core drilling: A drill operator (young worker) was turning an air-track drill adjacent to a 14.4-kV power line. The top of the drill contacted the power line and the worker sustained high-voltage trauma.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roofing installation: A young worker was on a snow-covered steep-sloped (9/12) roof. He headed for a ladder, slipped, slid 8 feet to the edge of the roof, then fell 9.5 feet to the ground. The worker was wearing fall arrest equipment but the rope grab failed to arrest his fall.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sawmill: A young worker's fingers (one hand) were caught in the drive chain/sprocket at the strip transfer deck.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light industrial equipment, machinery, or parts or power tool service (less than 500 lb.): A company vehicle struck another vehicle as it pulled out of a side road.

Region: Lower Mainland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formwork for highrise construction: A young worker was climbing down from formwork when he slipped, struck another worker, and landed on a taper tie.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unloading tractor-trailer: A pallet jack was being used to move a load of hardwood to the edge of the deck of a transport trailer. A young worker stood on the raised forks of a lift truck, attempting to remove the pallet jack, when the jack's wheel fell off the trailer deck. The upper skid of product (approximately 1 ton) tilted and fell forward, pinning the worker between the load and the mast of the lift truck.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meat processing: As a young worker attempted to clear an emulsion from a metal grate on top of a mixer, the worker's arm got caught in the pivot point between the edge of the mixer and a bucket of meat products being elevated into the mixer.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Window and gutter cleaning: A young worker was cleaning the gutters of a house when he tripped and fell approximately 20 feet from the roof to the ground.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House or other wood frame construction or renovation: An interlocking retaining wall was built at one edge of an excavation, with a sloped surface above it. While attempting to pull up a roll of plastic sheeting from the excavation, a young worker fell 6 feet into the excavation.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cement manufacture: A young worker was brushing gravel off the bottom side of a moving unguarded horizontal conveyor belt with a gloved hand. The glove got caught in the conveyor belt and the worker's hand was pulled between the belt and the solid tail pulley.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gutter installation: A young worker removing old roof gutters from a townhouse slipped and fell 8 feet.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete products manufacture: 2005-Oct A young worker's thumb was severed below the knuckle when it was caught between the inside form and the outside steel form being stripped for a large-diameter concrete pipe.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicken catching: 2005-Sep While catching chickens for market, a young worker was run over by the front wheel of a forklift truck that was reversing inside a poultry barn.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drywall delivery (truck loading): 2005-Aug A young worker's ankle was crushed when a runaway forklift truck brushed against the passenger door of a delivery truck where the worker had climbed for safety. The worker's ankle was caught between the door and the floorboard.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail butcher shop and wholesale meat supplier: 2005-Aug A young worker was using a forklift truck to remove a pallet of meat from a refrigerated tractor-trailer. While seated on the forklift truck, the worker reached sideways to pull the back doors of the trailer further open. His foot slipped off the brake and onto the gas pedal. The lift truck accelerated forward, crushing the worker's hand between the back corner post of the forklift's OPS and a trailer door.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gravel pit: 2005-Jul A young worker's arm was caught between the conveyor belt and the roller below the feed hopper (power screener).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefabricated building manufacture: 2005-Aug Two workers were assisting a forklift operator by placing dunnage under a bundle of wood roof trusses (weighing approximately 2,200 lb.) loaded on a steel cart, to facilitate the cart being moved up an inclined loading ramp. As the forklift raised one end of the truss bundle, the bundle fell over and fatally crushed one of the workers (a young worker).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painting catskinner (chair-lift) station: 2005-Jul A young worker was painting a chairlift drive station/structure. His personal fall protection was attached to an inadequate anchor that gave way when loaded, causing the worker to fall to the ground 20 feet below.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacing gutters: 2005-Jul A young worker in an elevated boom lift was removing aluminum gutters from a condominium. As he pulled one section free, momentum carried it inside the limits of approach and it contacted an energized overhead 25-kV power line.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garbage collection: 2005-Aug A rear-loading garbage truck went out of control, crossed the median, and flipped onto the driver's side, landing partially on a car headed in the opposite direction. The young worker and the other worker in the garbage truck sustained strains and bruises; the worker in the car sustained more complex injuries.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chartered boat tours: 2005-Aug A young worker was guiding a cart loaded with approximately 300 pounds of goods backwards down a dock ramp. The cart went out of control and the worker was crushed between the cart and a building at the bottom of the ramp.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framing: 2005-Jul A young worker was installing plywood sheeting on the roof of a cabin. After picking up a sheet to move it into position, he lost his balance and fell 9 feet to the ground below.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine garbage collection: 2005-May A young worker was operating a forklift on a barge in water approximately 65 feet deep. The forklift was moving backwards and went over the unguarded stern of the barge into the water. The operator stayed with the forklift until it came to rest, then swam to the surface. Another worker on the barge entered the water and, with help from others on the barge, retrieved the operator from the water.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restaurant: 2005-May Two workers - one of them a young worker - were exposed to an unknown irritant substance that was released in the restaurant.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential painting: 2005-Jun A young worker fell approximately 20 feet from a ladder while painting the exterior of a house.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warehouse: 2005-Jun A young worker was driving a stand-up counterbalanced forklift in reverse. The lift truck ran into a metal stand and the worker's foot was caught under the rear of the vehicle.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compressor maintenance: 2005-Apr A young worker was servicing a portable compressor. Its cooling fan was enclosed by a wire guard that had a small section of wire missing. The worker's fingers contacted the rotating cooling fan blades through the small opening in the guard.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framing/installation of wood trusses: 2005-Apr A young worker standing on the top plate of an interior wooden 2x4 wall fell approximately 8 feet, landing on a bundle of wooden trusses.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree topping: 2005-Apr A faller (young worker) was struck by a felled tree.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service station: 2005-Mar A gas station attendant (young worker) was struck by a vehicle and dragged several kilometres down the road.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wholesale tire, battery, parts, and accessories store: 2005-Feb A young worker was using a rag to clean the conveyor belt chain of a chain-driven power transmission. The chain caught the rag and pulled the worker's hand into the sprocket drive.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analytical laboratory: 2005-Jan Three laboratory analysts (including 1 young worker) felt ill (nausea, stomach cramps, heaviness in limbs).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vinyl siding application: 2005-Jan A vinyl siding installer (young worker) fell 18.5 feet from an unguarded balcony on the third floor of an apartment building.
Region: Northern BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil and gas or mineral exploration, or prospecting: 2005-Nov An all-terrain vehicle (ATV) was incorrectly loaded, with 80 percent of its load on the rear wheels. The driver (a young worker) lost control of the vehicle, jumped off, and was run over.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil or gas drilling: 2005-Nov A metal bushing (small piece of steel) came loose from the elevators, fell approximately 14 metres, and struck a young worker.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion work on a sour natural gas well: 2005-Oct During well completion operations, which spanned several days, five workers - including one young worker - on a co-ordinated worksite (2 employers) were exposed to harmful levels of hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) and sulfur dioxide (SO₂) gases.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-slope roofing: 2005-Aug Workers were manoeuvring an aluminum railing (24 feet long) on a third-storey balcony. The railing contacted an energized 7200-volt electrical conductor 7.5 feet from the balcony edge. A young worker was electrocuted; a second worker was burned.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sawmilling fence components: 2005-Jun A young worker's arm became caught in a ten-blade horizontal edger saw.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wooden component manufacture: 2005-May A young worker was cutting small narrow strips of wood on a band saw. He had a push stick in one hand and was guiding a piece of wood with his other hand when the wood slipped.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil or gas production: 2005-Feb A production operator (young worker) lost consciousness for several seconds when he was exposed to hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) gas while removing a pressure gauge from an acid gas injection well. The worker was not wearing the required respirator.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil or gas well drilling: 2005-Jan A derrickman (young worker) on a drilling rig fell from the derrick when attempting to escape from the monkey board (platform up in the derrick) following the loss of well control, which had resulted in a large gas explosion and fire.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oil or gas well drilling: 2005-Jan <p>A young worker fell approximately 5 feet off of a drilling rig mud tank and was found unconscious.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Janitorial services: 2005-Jan <p>Two workers, one of them a young worker, were cleaning a laboratory when a small bottle of mercury (15 mL) spilled onto the floor. The workers attempted to clean up the mercury and were exposed to the liquid and vapour, requiring emergency treatment in hospital.</p>
Region: Vancouver Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baked goods manufacture: 2005-Nov <p>A young worker was trying to remove dough from the gears of a bun-making machine when two fingers became caught in the unguarded gears.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wood frame construction: 2005-Oct <p>A framer (young worker) fell approximately 14 feet from a roof with a 10/12 slope and struck a wood-frame scaffold before landing on the ground.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low-slope roofing: 2005-Aug <p>A young worker fell partially through a covered roof opening.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> House or other wood frame construction or renovation: 2005-Aug <p>A young worker fell 11 feet while removing roofing material.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drywalling: 2005-Jul <p>A young worker fell 9 feet onto a concrete floor off an elevated aluminum extension plank while applying drywall compound. The stepladder supporting the plank had toppled.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish processing or fish reduction: 2005-Jun <p>A young worker's arm was caught in a moving conveyor that the worker was cleaning.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building construction: 2005-May <p>A fire destroyed a condominium complex that was still under construction. At the time of the fire, a torch-on roof membrane was being installed. A drywaller (young worker) sustained minor injuries when evacuating the building.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed-wing IFR operation: 2005-Apr <p>A twin-engine aircraft with an engine fire crashed at the end of a runway while attempting to land. Both pilots, one of them a young worker, died.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fin fish farming: 2005-Jan <p>A young worker was attempting to secure a fish farm feed bag that had slipped from the forks of a forklift. Standing on the side of the forklift, the worker inadvertently activated the controls of the machine, crushing himself between the mast and the FOPS.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metal recycling: 2005-Jan <p>A young worker had a finger amputated while was cutting up lengths of scrap wire rope with an unguarded metal shear.</p>