

Staying safe at work



WORK SAFE BC

WORKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

British Columbia has laws to keep you safe at work

In Canada there are safety laws to protect you when you are working. These safety laws vary depending on the industry you are working in, the type of work you are doing, and the equipment you are using.

The role of WorkSafeBC

WorkSafeBC is a public agency that promotes workplace health and safety for the workers and employers of British Columbia (B.C.). WorkSafeBC also provides injured workers with compensation, medical benefits, and help returning to work safely after their injury.

WorkSafeBC can help you

Even if you come from another country to work on a temporary basis in B.C., WorkSafeBC covers you. You have the same rights and responsibilities as all other workers in B.C. as soon as you begin working here. That means if you get a work-related injury or disease while working in B.C., and you miss work because of it, you may receive compensation from WorkSafeBC to replace your lost wages. WorkSafeBC will also pay for your medical care including tests, treatments, prescription drugs, and surgery if needed, and will help you return to work safely.

The definition of work-related injury or disease

Generally, a work-related injury means that you were hurt while working and the injury was caused by something related to your job. Work-related diseases are those that happen because of the type of job that you are doing.

What to do if you are injured at work

Tell your supervisor or employer immediately. Even if the injury is not serious and you do not need to miss time from work, you should tell your employer. Also, you should see a doctor as soon as possible. If you need an ambulance or taxi to get from your workplace to a hospital or doctor's office, your employer will pay for it. Be sure to tell the doctor that you hurt yourself at work.

If you miss work due to your injury

If you have to take time off from work, call WorkSafeBC's Teleclaim Contact Centre at 1 888 WORKERS (1 888 967-5377). The telephone call is free from anywhere in B.C. WorkSafeBC staff will take all of your information over the phone, answer your questions, explain what is going to happen next, and help you start a claim for compensation and medical services. If you have trouble with English, you can talk with someone who speaks your language.



Your medical care will be covered

If you have a work-related injury, you will not have to pay for any of your related medical expenses. Also, it is against the law for your employer to ask you to pay for workers' compensation.

Your responsibilities

As a worker, you need to follow the safety rules at work. Ask for help if you do not know how to do something safely, and tell your supervisor if you see something dangerous at work.



You have rights as a worker in B.C.

The right to a safe workplace

You have the right to work in a safe workplace and be told if the work you are doing may be dangerous. Your employer must put safe work practices in place, and you must follow them. Your employer also has to make sure you have the training you need so you can protect yourself from any possible dangers at work and avoid being exposed to materials that could make you sick.

The right to report an injury

You have the right to call WorkSafeBC to report an injury that happened at work. It is against the law for an employer to tell you, or ask you, not to report your injury.

The right to refuse unsafe work

You have the right to not perform work if you believe there is a risk of harm or accident. If you have health or safety concerns at your work, you should let your employer know immediately.

It is against the law for an employer to fire you or punish you in any way for refusing to do unsafe work or for reporting unsafe work to your supervisor.

If something at work feels unsafe, tell your supervisor, and explain why you are not comfortable. In most cases, your supervisor will be able to fix the problem.

If your supervisor does not provide a satisfactory answer, then discuss it with that person's supervisor, someone from your safety committee, or a union representative if there is one at your work.



If you need further help

If your employer does not fix a safety problem, contact WorkSafeBC to discuss your concerns. Call 604 276-3100 if you work in the Vancouver area or 1 888 621-7233 if you work in another part of British Columbia. The phone call is free. You can tell us your safety concerns and do not have to leave your name if you do not want to.

For information in your own language

Visit **WorkSafeBC.com** where you will find information about workers' compensation in several languages.

If you have questions about WorkSafeBC services, call us, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. - to 4:30 p.m. at 1 888 967-5377 or 604 231-8888 and we will put you in touch with someone who speaks your language.

The Workers' Advisers Office can also help you

If you have been injured and need help with your claim or want to know more about workers' compensation, the Workers' Advisers Office can also answer your questions. Call them at 1 800 663-4261 or visit their web site at www.labour.gov.bc.ca/wab. Their services are also free.



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