

Staying safe at work





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Three key rights

- ① Right to know about workplace hazards
- ② Right to participate in health and safety activities
- ③ Right to refuse unsafe work

There are laws to keep you safe at work

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

WorkSafeBC can help you

WorkSafeBC is a public agency that promotes workplace health and safety for workers and employers in British Columbia. Even if you come from another country to work temporarily in B.C., WorkSafeBC covers you. You have the same rights and responsibilities as other workers in B.C. as soon as you begin working here. It doesn't matter whether you are working full time, part time, or on contract.

This means if you have a work-related injury or disease while working in B.C. and you miss work because of it, you will receive compensation from WorkSafeBC. We will also pay for your medical care, including tests, treatments, prescription drugs, and surgery, if needed. WorkSafeBC will also help you return to work safely after an injury.

Your rights as a worker in B.C.

You have the right to work in a safe workplace.

① The right to know about workplace hazards

Your employer is responsible for telling you about any potential hazards in the workplace that the employer is aware of. Your employer must put safe work practices in place to protect you against those hazards. Your employer must also make sure you have the training you need to protect yourself from hazards at work, such as materials that could make you sick.

② The right to participate in health and safety activities in the workplace

You have the right to take part in health and safety meetings and safety talks. If you notice something that's unsafe or you have an idea that will help make the workplace safer, bring it up at a meeting or tell your supervisor or employer.



3 The right to refuse unsafe work

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

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

If something at work feels unsafe, tell your supervisor. Explain why you think it isn't safe. 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.

Your responsibilities

As a worker, you need to follow the safety rules at work. This includes following your employer's safe work practices. Ask for help if you don't know how to do something safely.

What is a work-related injury or disease?

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

What should you do if you are injured at work?

Tell your supervisor or employer immediately. Even if your injury is not serious and you don't 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 is required to pay for it. Be sure to tell the doctor that you hurt yourself at work.

What should you do if you miss work because of your injury?

If you have to take time off from work, call the WorkSafeBC Teleclaim Contact Centre at 1.888.WORKERS (1.888.967.5377). The call is free from anywhere in B.C. WorkSafeBC staff will take your information, answer your questions, explain

Injured at work?

- 1 Tell your supervisor immediately.
- 2 See a doctor as soon as possible.
- 3 If you have to miss work, call 1.888.967.5377.



If you're injured at work, you have the right to call WorkSafeBC to report the injury. It is against the law for an employer to tell you or ask you not to report your injury.

If you have to miss work, call 1.888.967.5377.

what will happen next, and help you start a claim for compensation and medical services. If you have trouble with English, you can ask to talk to someone who speaks your language.

Your medical care will be covered

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

If you need more 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 Lower Mainland or 1.888.621.7233 if you work in another part of B.C. The phone call is free. You can tell us your safety concerns and you don't have to leave your name if you don't want to. You can also ask to talk to someone who speaks your language if you have trouble with English.

For information in your language

Visit [worksafebc.com](https://www.worksafebc.com) for information about workers' compensation in several languages.

If you have questions about WorkSafeBC services, call the Prevention Information Line at 604.276.3100 in the Lower Mainland or 1.888.621.7233 toll-free in Canada. You can reach us Monday through Friday, from 8:05 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We will put you in touch with someone who speaks your language.

The Workers' Advisers Office can also help you

If you or your dependants disagree with a WorkSafeBC decision, the Workers' Advisers Office can give you free help and advice. The Workers' Advisers Office is independent from WorkSafeBC. You can call them at 1.800.663.4261 or visit their website at www.labour.gov.bc.ca/wab.