

# WorkSafe

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**On the front cover:** Neon skates are recommended by the electric vehicle manufacturer, Tesla, to help aid loading and unloading. Skates can be used if a vehicle is stuck in parking mode or the parking brake won't release. They reduce drag friction by 66 percent, allowing the operator to stay within working load limits while using the wire rope (winch).

## Getting back to business

There is much to look forward to this summer as restrictions are lifting on gatherings, travel, and businesses. We are now in Step 3 of BC's Restart, which means employers can transition from COVID-19 Safety Plans to communicable disease management. As the province reopens, we encourage you to continue your commitment to preventing the spread of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases, such as seasonal influenza and norovirus. Our "WorkSafeBC update" (page 18) outlines the fundamental components of communicable disease prevention.

In our cover story (page 7), we speak with employers in the auto towing, recovery, and recycling sectors about the risks involved in handling electric vehicles and the high-voltage batteries that power them. We also have a story about how an employer in the manufacturing sector is investing in safety to prevent musculoskeletal injuries (page 12).

In "Ask an officer," occupational hygiene officer Felix Wang talks about how to prevent hearing loss (page 5), while our "Safety talk" shares tips for reducing risks when transporting agricultural workers to and from worksites (page 16).

We hope you enjoy a summer that feels more normal and connected while keeping workplace health and safety top of mind.



**Terence Little**  
Editor-in-chief

# WorkSafe

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**WORK SAFE BC**

## Contributors



### Sarah Ripplinger

Sarah is a marketer, writer, editor, and journalist. She brings us two articles in this issue. In our cover story, she writes about the need for safety protocols and procedures for workers who handle electric vehicles and the high-voltage batteries that power them (page 7). In our “Safety spotlight,” she writes about how an employer’s investment in safety is preventing musculoskeletal injuries (page 12).



### Gord Woodward

Gord has run his own communications and business-consulting firm for 27 years. He brings us “Ask an officer” on hearing loss prevention (right) and writes about how to reduce risks when transporting agricultural workers to and from worksites (page 16).



### Chandra Chisholm

Chandra is the assistant editor of *WorkSafe Magazine*. She writes about transitioning from COVID-19 safety plans to communicable disease prevention as the province moves ahead with Step 3 of its Restart plan (page 18).

## Ask an officer

# Preventing the most common work-related disease: hearing loss



### Felix Wang

Occupational Hygiene Officer

Region: Port Moody

Years on the job: 4

We talked with occupational hygiene officer Felix Wang about employer responsibilities for hearing loss prevention, and WorkSafeBC’s new Hearing Test Submission (HTS) system. The system — the first of its kind in Canada — provides detailed information aimed at helping you improve your hearing conservation program.

### Q. My workplace has a lot of loud noise. How can this affect my workers?

A. It’s not the first thing people think of when they imagine workplace hazards, but noise-induced hearing loss is one of the most common work-related diseases. Too much exposure to workplace noise can cause permanent and irreversible damage. It typically happens gradually and can be a serious concern for workers of all ages.

### Q. As an employer, what are my responsibilities for hearing loss prevention and hearing protection?

A. You’re responsible for determining if workers are exposed to hazardous noise in your workplace. If they are, you must implement a noise control and hearing conservation program. In most cases, measuring the noise in your workplace is the first step.

You need a hearing conservation program if the noise level in your workplace regularly exceeds 85 decibels over an 8-hour work day, or if there is impact noise that exceeds 140 decibels.

If you’re in the construction industry or if you have labels on equipment indicating hazardous levels of noise, it’s already been established that your workers are exposed to potentially harmful noise.

Your program needs to show how you will control the risk of noise-induced hearing loss. When hazardous noise can’t be eliminated or reduced by other means, you’re responsible for providing appropriate hearing protection for your workers, such as earplugs or earmuffs. Remember, each worker and workplace is unique, and there’s no

one-size-fits-all type of hearing protection. It's important to provide the right type of hearing protection for your work environment, as well as different styles and sizes to allow for worker preference, comfort, and fit.

**Q. What do I include in a noise control and hearing conservation program?**

**A.** You need a written plan to document how you will reduce the level of noise and other ways you will protect workers from hearing loss. Your program must include noise measurement, worker education and training, engineered noise controls, hearing protection devices, hazard awareness (including warning signs), and hearing tests for workers conducted by an industrial audiometric technician. There is a [template](#) on [worksafebc.com](#) that can help you create your program.

All the elements are connected, but without education and training, your program is not complete. Make sure workers thoroughly understand the risks and the use, maintenance, and limitations of their hearing protection equipment.

At a minimum, you should review your program annually.

**Q. How will the new Hearing Test Submission (HTS) system benefit me?**

**A.** The HTS system makes it easier for industrial audiometric technicians to submit a hearing test to us. It also lets them create a Hearing Loss Prevention Report for you to use to inform your hearing conservation program.

Audiometric technicians benefit from the new system's interface that cuts submission time and lets them compare a worker's hearing to their last test, regardless of who did previous tests. They can see, on the spot, if the worker's hearing is getting worse.

Workers also benefit from this real-time data. The technician can consult with workers at the

time of the test if they detect changes in hearing consistent with noise-induced hearing loss.

And employers benefit from having more information to improve hearing loss prevention. When you log into the Hearing Loss Prevention System, you can see all your workers' test results, and you can download reports to identify and address gaps in your hearing conservation program. There is a guide to [understanding workers' hearing test results](#) on [worksafebc.com](#).

**Q. What can workers do to protect themselves from noise hazards in the workplace?**

**A.** Workers need to know the noise risks and hazards in your workplace, so make sure that's part of your training and orientation program. Be sure they understand the control measures you have in place, such as using a tool that generates less noise than another. They also need to know how to wear hearing protection properly, make sure it fits, and use it whenever they are in a noisy environment.

**Q. Where can I get more information on noise-induced hearing loss?**

**A.** We're here to help. Visit [worksafebc.com/hearing-loss-prevention](#) for resources. You'll find a [noise control and hearing conservation program template](#) and samples for both small and large employers, information on selecting and using hearing protection devices, and tips for protecting your and your workers' hearing.

You can also contact our Prevention Information Line with questions. Call 604.276.3100 in the Lower Mainland, and toll-free at 1.888.621.SAFE in other areas of B.C.

Looking for answers to your specific health and safety questions? Send them to us at [worksafemagazine@worksafebc.com](mailto:worksafemagazine@worksafebc.com), and we'll consider them for our next "Ask an officer" feature. 

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On the cover



With more electric and hybrid vehicles on the road in British Columbia each year, employers need to take steps to protect workers from hazards such as fire and electrical shock.

# The evolution of electric vehicle safety

By Sarah Ripplinger

## As B.C. outpaces other provinces in zero-emission vehicle sales, some industry experts say there's a need for improved safety protocols and procedures for handling electric vehicles and the high-voltage batteries that power them.

The Automotive Retailers Association (ARA) recently released [electric vehicle \(EV\) safety guidelines](#), developed in partnership with WorkSafeBC.

Geared toward the towing, recovery, and recycling industries, the guidelines outline safety considerations for workplaces that come into contact with EVs and the high-voltage lithium-ion (li-ion) batteries that power them. They are part of a mounting effort to provide clarity for employers about their responsibilities and steps they should take to protect workers from hazards such as fire and electrical shock.

“When EVs first came out, we had to go to manufacturers’ websites to find the emergency services protocols for the vehicles to know how to properly dismantle them,” recalls Jim LeBrun, industry relations advisor for Powerhouse Recycled Auto and Truck Parts in Cumberland, B.C., a director at the ARA and chair of their B.C. Auto Recyclers Division.

A lot of companies that dismantle vehicles and recycle or sell their parts have avoided EVs because of the lack of information on how to handle them safely, notes Ken Hendricks, a senior advisor with the ARA. Those that do can process anywhere from as few as 2 or 3 EVs to as many as 50 per year — still a small fraction of the thousands of cars processed at many auto wrecking sites each year.

As the market for EVs trends upward, the number on the road, in salvage yards, and being towed is increasing. In December 2020, there were approximately 54,000 light-duty EVs registered in B.C., and 9.4 percent of all new light-duty vehicle sales in the same year were EVs. That’s up from 1 percent in 2016 and 4 percent in 2018, according to [the Province’s zero-emission vehicle reports](#).

Added incentives for EV car ownership, a growing desire for green technology, and the mandate under the provincial *Zero-Emission Vehicles Act* that all new car sales be exclusively EVs by 2040, will likely continue to fuel demand.

## EV hazards are well established

Unlike standard combustion engine cars, fully electric vehicles, such as Teslas, use hundreds of li-ion battery cells to power an electric motor. While EVs must meet all federal and provincial safety standards, the sheer volume of high-voltage li-ion batteries housed within them presents unique hazards. This is because the batteries typically contain highly flammable electrolytes and chemical compounds.

Short-circuiting, overcharging, external heat or fire, impact, punctures, or water ingress can start an irreversible thermal event in a li-ion battery known as thermal runaway. The amount of heat generated by cells in one area can spread to adjacent cells, setting off a chain reaction that can eventually result in a fire or explosion.

“All lithium-ion batteries have a residual charge that, even when the battery seems to be dead, can be a risk to workers in terms of a fire or electrical hazard,” notes Mukesh Sharma, an occupational hygiene officer in WorkSafeBC’s Risk Analysis Unit.

This makes it important to keep EVs with potential battery damage at least 50 metres away from combustible materials, according to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) guidelines.

In most fully electric vehicles, the main battery pack is found between the wheelbases and is connected by a high-voltage cable, often orange in colour for easy identification. But other batteries can be located throughout the vehicle, says Michael Chafe, senior regional health and safety manager at Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc., and ARA project member. “Until technology that can detect these batteries is widely available,” says Chafe, “industry is reliant on manual inspection processes to remove these items from waste streams.”

Plug-in and non-plug-in hybrids, such as certain Toyota Prius models, have a mix of an electric motor and a combustion engine, and come with similar risks. In 2019, a plug-in hybrid SUV rolled into the ocean at a boat launch in Port Moody, B.C., and burst into flames after being towed from the water, likely due to a short in the battery caused by salt water damage.

EV batteries, which range from 200 to 800 volts, pose a risk of electrocution because of the current flowing through the network of cables, so it’s critical to ensure that all power sources are completely disconnected



**Tesla vehicles have a tow mode that can make loading and unloading the vehicle safer. Proper training ensures workers know how use safety features on electric and hybrid vehicles.**

before dismantling EVs. In addition, the electrolytes, hydrogen fluoride, and other fumes from burning batteries can expose workers to noxious substances and a potential risk of explosion from contact with a spark or flame.

### **The start of comprehensive EV guidelines**

The ARA's EV guidelines put B.C. at the forefront of developing EV safety standards for the automotive aftermarket in North America, says Hendricks, who spearheaded the undertaking with help from WorkSafeBC Small Business Initiative funding.

Starting in early 2020, a task force conducted a needs analysis to collect industry data. It established a technical advisory committee consisting of representatives from the recycling and towing industries, as well as BCAA and WorkSafeBC, to oversee and provide feedback on industry surveys, reports from subject matter experts, and the final guidelines documents.

While the guidelines provide a first step, Hendricks says the ARA is now working on more comprehensive EV safety training and certification programs it hopes to roll out later this year.

"There's still more work to be done in terms of standardization," says Chafe. For example, "The high-voltage cable is often orange so it can be easily identified, but it's not mandatory for car manufacturers to use that colour."

He suggests a multilayered approach of outreach and education, proper labelling by manufacturers, industry standards for manufacturing and recycling products that contain batteries, and technology for detecting batteries in all kinds of products, not just EVs.

### **EV aftermarket best practices**

Powerhouse has been recycling vehicles since the 1960s, and hybrids since the early 2000s. However, the EVs they purchase require special precautions, says LeBrun.

“Whenever an EV comes onto the lot, it’s immediately flagged with caution tape. We isolate it from the other vehicles, remove the fuses, and disconnect the battery.”

Only senior dismantlers handle EVs after undergoing training on proper safety protocols, including wearing lineman or highwire gloves to protect against electric shock, along with other personal protective equipment (PPE).

Doing everything in a safe and efficient manner is the best way to save money at the end of the day, says LeBrun. “As an industry, we are very safety conscious. We want all of our workers to stay safe so that they can go home uninjured.”

Mitchell’s Towing also implemented separate protocols for handling EVs, says owner Mitchell Martin, including using soft straps to avoid metal-on-metal contact with an EV’s battery when towing. They also keep fire blankets on hand in case a vehicle ignites.

The Tesla Motor Club is now the largest auto club serviced by Mitchell’s small business of around 27 workers. The majority of Tesla vehicles they tow right now — around 10 per day — are for service or software issues, such as doors that won’t open or a dead battery. But he anticipates towing an increasing number of vehicles involved in collisions as more EV rubber hits the road.

At regular toolbox talks, Mitchell’s shares bulletins from Tesla about software and hardware updates that could impact how workers interact with EVs, along with information about safety and PPE best practices.

“Workers need to know which panels to remove to re-engage the vehicle’s 12-volt battery, for example,” says Martin. “For some Teslas, the vehicle’s software can allow us to put it into tow mode, which elevates the airbag suspension or puts the vehicle into neutral so that it can roll freely onto the truck deck.”

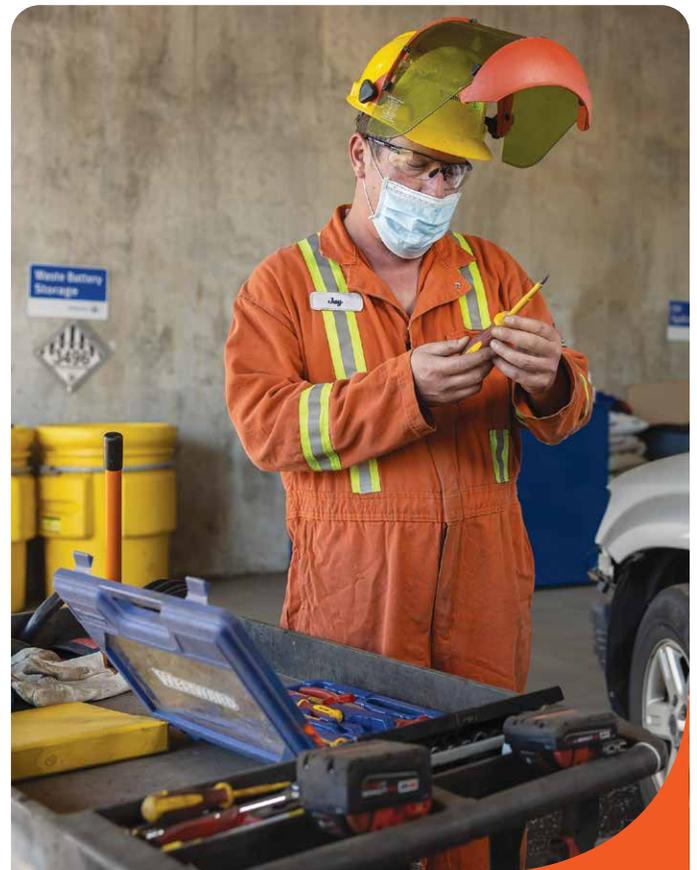
Schnitzer Steel conducted a thorough risk assessment before welcoming EVs onto its lots. While EVs are still a minor part of the company’s metals and auto recycling business — consisting of over 100 units and 3,000 employees throughout Canada and the United States, including around 100 workers in B.C. — Schnitzer is planning ahead. This involves consulting safety and training materials through the ARA and NFPA.

“EVs are a huge part of the greener tomorrow, and these vehicles are just starting to gain traction,” says Chafe. “If you don’t know about a risk, you can’t control it. The more we know about what safety precautions to put into place, the more we can plan and budget for them as part of our workplace safety strategy.”

He emphasizes that it’s important to find practical, attainable solutions to addressing these hazards, especially for smaller operations. “We want to share what we’ve learned and what we’re doing with other employers; it’s about keeping workers and communities safe, not competing with other businesses.”

### For more information

Find the Automotive Retailers Association electric vehicle guidelines at [ohs.ara.bc.ca/ev-guidelines](https://ohs.ara.bc.ca/ev-guidelines). You can also search for “electric vehicles” on [worksafebc.com](https://worksafebc.com). ☺



**A worker visually inspects insulated tools before processing a hybrid vehicle for recycling.**

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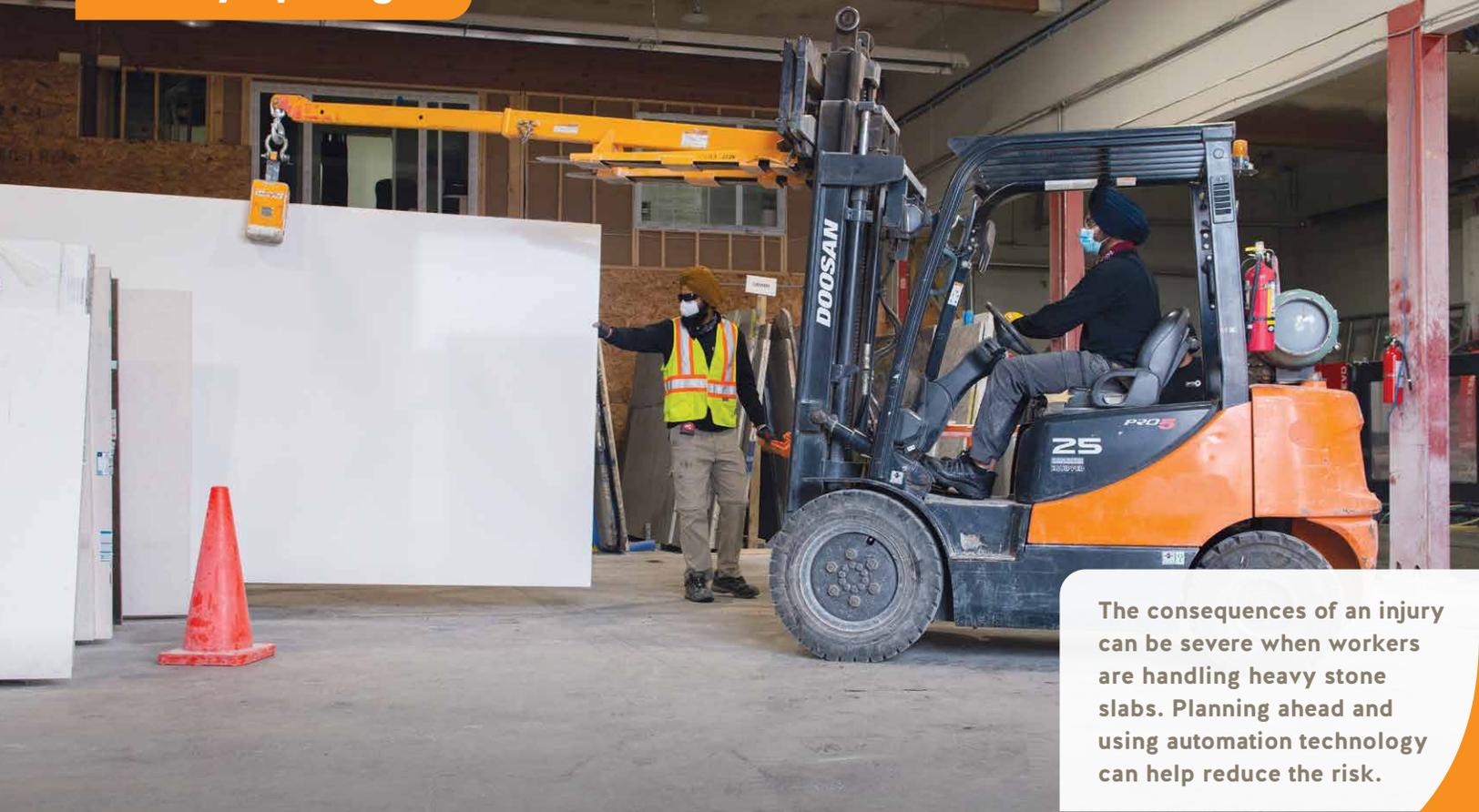


## Wear your hearing protection while working.

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The consequences of an injury can be severe when workers are handling heavy stone slabs. Planning ahead and using automation technology can help reduce the risk.

# Rock-solid injury prevention

By Sarah Ripplinger

Onyx Stones and Custom Cabinets invested in safety by integrating automation technology in its shop to minimize manual handling of heavy stone slabs. This automation, combined with careful project installation planning, goes a long way to reduce the risks of musculoskeletal injuries for workers.

“Lifting stone countertops that weigh a couple hundred pounds is no joke,” asserts Bikram Sahi, owner of Onyx Stones and Custom Cabinets. Having worked in the stone fabrication industry since 2012, Sahi has heard his fair share of horror stories about improper handling of large quartz, granite, or marble countertops during installation or when they are being cut and ground down at the shop.

“The consequences can be severe,” says Sahi. “Every time a slab falls on someone, the outcome can be very bad.”

Onyx fabricates and installs stone countertops and manufactures cabinetry and closets, mostly for new construction projects or home renovations. Onyx has tripled its capacity and doubled its revenue since opening the shop in 2015 in Prince George, B.C. It also recently expanded its operations into Kamloops — an achievement largely attributed to the company’s focus on automation and the careful planning that goes into each installation.

Since opening its doors, Onyx has had only one injury claim, which involved a worker sustaining a cut on their hand. Onyx’s secret, says Sahi, is to bake safety into every part of its operations, from using the right equipment to minimize manual handling of heavy

**“These initiatives are going to be game-changers. Educating employers and workers on musculoskeletal injury risks will help create an overall healthier, safer working environment for everybody.”**

—Chelsea Wilson, WorkSafeBC occupational safety officer

slabs, to visualizing and planning an installation before a worker arrives at a jobsite.

Onyx’s investment in the automation technology is also paying off with a history of zero musculoskeletal injury (MSI) claims — a rare feat in this industry.

### **Risky business**

Workers in the stone fabrication industry are at risk of MSIs when lifting, moving, and unloading stone countertops from trucks or containers. These work tasks can lead to injuries to the back or joints, and impact injuries from falling materials.

“MSI risks are present in every industry, but they are even greater when lifting materials that are heavy and awkward to maneuver,” notes Chelsea Wilson, an occupational safety officer at WorkSafeBC based in Prince George. “The human body is not designed to lift heavy materials that are awkwardly shaped like countertops, which is why we want employers to look at tools that can help reduce back and shoulder injury risks.”

In the stone fabrication industry, the average time a worker is away from work to recover from an MSI is more than 48 days. Some workers may be assigned to modified duties, but others may need to recover off the job for six weeks and up to a year, says Wilson.

### **Measure twice, cut once**

While workers are trained on how to properly lift countertops, machines perform a lot of the manual work at Onyx. Forklifts and booms move larger uncut slabs that can weigh in at more than 159 kilograms (350 pounds) and stretch to 3.2 metres long (10.5 feet) and 1.6 metres wide (5.25 feet).

A computer numerical control (CNC) machine automatically cuts stone countertops to a specified size using digital templates, avoiding the need for workers to cut materials with saws and hand grinders.

The high precision of the CNC machine also virtually eliminates the need to make adjustments to the

countertop during installation, when awkward angles and tight spaces can increase the risk of injury should an edge need to be shaved down, says Sahi.

In addition to the automated machinery, Sahi purchased a long ramp to allow countertops to be rolled into the company’s cube van and onto the worksite, avoiding the need for any manual lifting.

“What Onyx has done is exactly what we hope other employers will do to reduce their MSI injuries,” says Sylvie Stekelenburg, a WorkSafeBC Prevention Field Services manager in Prince George. “It’s a good example of what we’re hoping to see as we move forward with our manufacturing high risk strategy.”

The three-year strategy will focus on high-risk activities in the manufacturing industry, including those that can lead to MSIs. WorkSafeBC officers will guide employers through steps to address tasks that have a high risk of resulting in MSIs — “teaching them how to fish in a sense,” says Wilson. Workers will also be involved in this collaborative process, she adds.

WorkSafeBC’s MSI Initiative, which is happening in tandem with the high-risk strategy, focuses on MSI risks in industries that are not represented by other strategies or initiatives, such as large retailers and supermarkets.

“These initiatives are going to be game-changers,” says Wilson. “Educating employers and workers on MSI risks will help create an overall healthier, safer working environment for everybody.”

### **A well-made plan**

Hazard identification and risk assessment are a big part of Onyx’s planning process. Each job is mapped out in advance, including doing a dry run of the install.

Workers are trained to visualize how the countertop will be carried through the space and where it will be set down. Measurements are taken of all doorways, hallways, and rooms the finished countertop may need to go through to reach its final destination. Appliances,

furniture, and decorations that could catch on the stone or get knocked over are moved out of the way.

“It’s often when a worker tries to save a slab that injuries happen,” says Sahi. “I always say: ‘no body part under the slab, ever.’”

A manager, or more senior employee, who is trained in all safety procedures is always on site to oversee jobs with juniors and new hires. If the team is dealing with a particularly large or awkward stone, more workers are brought in to lend a hand.

“Even if it only takes 10 or 15 minutes, it’s better to have more workers there than to have something go wrong,” asserts Sahi.

The sales team is instructed to manage workloads so workers don’t feel pressured and aren’t overly rushed on the job, Sahi adds, because it’s ultimately the business that loses if an injury occurs.

“You lose so much when a worker is injured, and the harm they experienced can stay in the back of your mind,” he says. “Workers can be very hard to replace. You basically need to train up another person, which can take a couple of months to a year because there is no formal training for what some of my workers do in this trade.”

### Cutting-edge equipment

Always on the lookout for the latest and greatest tools for his team, Sahi visits trade shows in search of new equipment. He found a stone lifter that automatically locks and unlocks based on whether or not it’s carrying

a load. “This saves us a step by no longer having to do this manually,” Sahi notes. “It is also much safer than the other type of lifter where workers sometimes need to squeeze into tight spaces to undo a latch.”

While leasing or purchasing equipment does add up, Sahi says the cost-savings from greater efficiency and safer and happier employees far exceeds those upfront costs. It has allowed him to keep costs down while growing his business and hiring more workers.

“These are my dream machines,” says Sahi. “They make it so easy for my workers, and much less risky.”

### For more information

- To learn more about the risks in stone cutting and production and how to prevent injuries, visit [worksafebc.com/stoneshops](https://worksafebc.com/stoneshops).
- To learn more about how to prevent MSIs, visit [worksafebc.com/ergonomics](https://worksafebc.com/ergonomics).
- WorkSafeBC’s 2021–2023 manufacturing high risk strategy is designed to reduce injuries in manufacturing by helping employers implement their safety programs and control risks at the workplace. Search for “high risk strategy” on [worksafebc.com](https://worksafebc.com) to learn more. 🗣️

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Inspectors from Commercial Vehicle Safety Enforcement and WorkSafeBC safety officers conduct an inspection on a vehicle used to transport farm workers.

# Transporting farm workers safely

By Gord Woodward

Transporting agricultural workers to and from their worksites can put them at risk of injury due to vehicle collisions, rollovers, and other incidents. Follow these tips to help reduce the risks.

During a shift, farm workers may have more than one workplace — one of which may be on wheels. Vehicles that transport workers to or from work are considered workplaces, and have their own hazards and potential for risk. As employers, farm labour contractors are responsible for the safe transport of their workers.

One of the biggest safety issues is maintenance and repairs, says Mike Nielsen, a Prevention Field Services manager with WorkSafeBC.

“We continue to see a lot of mechanical deficiencies,” he says. Of the 20 vehicle inspections that have taken place so far this year, 12 violations cited mechanical issues and 6 resulted in vehicles being placed out of service. Commercial Vehicle Safety Enforcement (CVSE), which partners with WorkSafeBC to conduct inspections, says the majority of defects encountered

by its inspectors are related to braking systems, tires and wheels, steering components, and lighting.

Other common risk factors are speeding and drivers who don't have the required qualifications.

These factors can lead to a variety of incidents — all with potentially serious consequences. Farm workers have been injured when the vehicle transporting them crashed, rolled over, or collided with another vehicle. They've been hit or run over while standing near a vehicle loading or unloading. And they've been injured when the vehicle moved suddenly before everyone was seated or had buckled up their seatbelts.

Employers are responsible for workplace safety, even when the workplace is a vehicle. This starts with hiring qualified drivers and ensuring all workers are properly trained. Employers also need to have a thorough maintenance program to ensure vehicles are in safe driving condition.

## Five tips to reduce the risks

Here are some ways to reduce the risk when transporting farm workers to and from a worksite:

## 1 Perform regular mechanical checks and maintenance

“Make sure the vehicles are in sound operating condition by performing regular maintenance,” Nielsen advises. Older vehicles and vehicles that get a lot of use may require more frequent upkeep due to wear and tear. Every vehicle needs a comprehensive mechanical review at the start of the season as well as regular maintenance with a check sheet at scheduled intervals set by the carrier.

## 2 Inspect the vehicle before and after every shift

“Use a checklist for pre-trip and post-trip inspections,” says Nielsen. Perform a thorough inspection of the vehicle with a check of all items on the list, including brakes, tires, steering, seats and seat belts, exhaust, and lights. If you come across any defects that might compromise the safe operating condition of the vehicle, immediately tell your supervisor and don’t proceed with picking up any passengers. Also remember to give your trip inspection report to your employer within the required 20 days.

## 3 Only qualified drivers should get behind the wheel

Drivers need to have the right license classification for the work at hand. Note that some drivers may need a Class 4 license.

Only drive if you’re well-rested, alert, and are familiar with the vehicle you’ll be operating. “It could be as simple as knowing where the jack is stored in case of a flat tire,” Nielsen says. Make sure you know your responsibilities as a driver, which include the following:

- Ensuring first aid kits and fire extinguishers are always available in vehicles
- Following posted speed limits
- Ensuring every passenger wears a seat belt if the vehicle is equipped with seat belts
- Correcting unsafe conditions immediately and reporting them to your supervisor

## 4 Ensure you’re trained in vehicle inspection and safe operation

Health and safety training for drivers includes how to perform pre- and post-trip vehicle inspections, what to expect while on the road, and where to go

for help if something with the vehicle isn’t right. Your employer should provide annual refresher training courses to keep drivers current.

If you encounter language barriers during training, visit [worksafebc.com](https://worksafebc.com) to find free health and safety resources in a variety of languages. Also consider calling on translators if necessary.

## 5 Know your limits

As a driver, follow the safe seating capacity of the vehicle as stated by the manufacturer. Don’t overload the vehicle. Ensure that each passenger has at least 41 cm (16 in.) of seating space.

As a passenger, be sure to use your seat belt at all times if the vehicle is equipped with them. Get in and out of the vehicle safely using a good handhold. Don’t create distractions for the driver. If there are any safety issues, such as the smell of exhaust, report them right away to your supervisor or employer.

WorkSafeBC, along with the CVSE and Employment Standards, will be conducting unannounced inspections of vehicles transporting farm workers throughout the summer. You can avoid delays and disruptions if you keep your fleet of vehicles in good operating condition.

**“Make sure the vehicles are in sound operating condition by performing regular maintenance. Use a checklist for pre-trip and post-trip inspections.”**

— Mike Nielsen,  
Prevention Field Services manager

## For more information

Visit [worksafebc.com/agriculture](https://worksafebc.com/agriculture) for a variety of free health and safety resources for agriculture, including information on an employer’s responsibilities for providing a safe workplace.

For information about commercial vehicle safety rules, regulations, and training, visit [cvse.ca](https://cvse.ca). ☺

As the Province moves through the steps of its Restart plan, employers need to continue to focus on health and safety to reduce the risk of communicable diseases in the workplace.



# From COVID-19 Safety Plans to communicable disease prevention

By Chandra Chisholm

As more British Columbians have access to vaccines, the overall risk of COVID-19 transmission has greatly decreased and the restrictions on gatherings, travel, and businesses are starting to lift. Employers need to remain vigilant to keep their workplaces healthy and safe because COVID-19 and other communicable diseases, such as seasonal influenza and norovirus, still pose a risk.

In March 2020, the B.C. government declared a provincial state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Employers were required by order of the provincial health officer to develop a COVID-19 Safety Plan that outlined the protocols and policies that employers had in place to reduce the risk of transmission in the workplace, and post a copy of their plan.

Now that widespread vaccination has helped to better manage the risk of COVID-19, there is no longer a need for employers to maintain a COVID-19 Safety Plan. The Province's [Restart plan](#) outlines a four-step plan to lift COVID-19 restrictions. Step 3, which started

July 1, 2021, marks the start of a transition period for how COVID-19 is managed in workplaces.

## Changes introduced with Step 3 of BC's Restart

Now that B.C. has moved to Step 3, employers are no longer required to maintain a COVID-19 Safety Plan. Instead, the provincial health officer has advised employers to develop a communicable disease plan that includes measures to reduce the risk of communicable disease transmission in their workplaces.

Developing a communicable disease plan involves focusing on the basic risk-reduction measures that have become familiar during the pandemic, such as staying home when sick, washing hands regularly, disinfecting surfaces frequently, and increasing airflow.

WorkSafeBC has created [Communicable disease prevention: A guide for employers](#) to assist employers in understanding the components of communicable disease prevention. Employers do not have to write or post plans for communicable disease prevention or have them approved by WorkSafeBC. However, some employers may benefit from documenting their plan and our guide provides a template for that purpose.

## What are communicable diseases?

Communicable diseases are illnesses caused by an infectious agent or its toxic product that can spread from person to person. Examples of communicable diseases that may circulate in a workplace include COVID-19, norovirus, and seasonal influenza.

Preventing communicable diseases at your workplace is part of an effective [occupational health and safety program](#). It involves understanding the level of risk, implementing appropriate measures, communicating policies and protocols, and updating them as required — just as you would with any other hazard.

The BC Centre for Disease Control reported that there were virtually no cases of [seasonal influenza](#) last flu season, thanks to the extraordinary measures in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This illustrates just how effective prevention efforts can be in stopping the spread of communicable disease.

## Communicable disease prevention

Preventing communicable disease involves implementing ongoing measures to reduce the risk of transmission in your workplace. The fundamental components of communicable disease prevention include the following measures, which are to be maintained at all times:

- Implementing policies to support staff who may be sick with a communicable disease, (for example, staff who are experiencing fever and/or chills, recent onset of coughing, or diarrhea) so they can avoid being at the workplace.
- Promoting hand hygiene by providing hand-hygiene facilities with appropriate supplies and reminding employees through policies and signage to [wash their hands regularly](#) and to use [appropriate hygiene practices](#)
- Maintaining a clean environment through routine cleaning processes
- Ensuring building [ventilation](#) is properly maintained and functioning as designed
- Supporting workers in receiving vaccinations for vaccine-preventable conditions to the extent that you are able

Preventing communicable disease in your workplace also involves monitoring information from Public

Health and responding with additional measures as required by a medical health officer or the provincial health officer.

## Implementing additional measures as required

The level of risk of certain communicable diseases, including COVID-19, will increase from time to time. This may occur at a regional level or within a workplace. While many of the measures implemented to manage the COVID-19 pandemic are no longer required in Step 3 for most workplaces, some of the same or similar measures may be required to reduce the risk of communicable disease transmission in the workplace during periods of elevated risk.

For example, there may be instances where, based on direction from Public Health, employers may need to re-introduce more rigorous safety measures if there's an elevated risk of COVID-19 or other communicable disease transmission in their workplace or community. These measures may include physical distancing, installing barriers, or requiring masks.

During a period of elevated risk of COVID-19 or other communicable diseases, the provincial health officer or regional public health officials will provide information and guidance about the risk and how employers can reduce it. The measures that employers will need to implement will depend on the type of disease and the methods of transmission.

For the time being, the [provincial health officer is recommending](#) that employers maintain some of their current protocols, provided they don't negatively impact business operations.

## For more information

Visit [worksafebc.com](https://worksafebc.com) for the most up-to-date information as the B.C. government's [Restart plan](#) rolls out.

Search for the following resources on [worksafebc.com](https://worksafebc.com) for more information on preventing the spread of communicable disease:

- [Prevent the spread of communicable disease: Handwashing](#)
- [Prevent the spread of communicable disease: Cover coughs and sneezes](#)
- [Prevent the spread of communicable disease: Ventilation and air circulation](#)
- [Prevent the spread of communicable disease: How to use a mask](#) 🗣️

## Safety on the agenda

Looking for health and safety inspiration? Check out these conferences and events across Canada. Many upcoming conferences and events will be virtual, which gives you the opportunity to attend without having to travel.

### XXII World Congress on Safety and Health at Work 2021

World Congress on Safety and Health at Work  
September 20–23, 2021 | Virtual  
[safety2021canada.com](http://safety2021canada.com)

### Make It Safe Conference 2021 Virtual Conference

Manufacturing Safety Alliance of BC  
October 28–29, 2021 | Virtual  
[makeitsafe.ca](http://makeitsafe.ca)

### 2022 Actsafe Entertainment Safety Conference

Actsafe  
February 25–26, 2022 | Virtual  
[actsafeconference.ca](http://actsafeconference.ca) 📞

Please note: Information and links that appear in this section are provided as a resource. Listings do not necessarily constitute an endorsement from WorkSafeBC.

## Did you know?

WorkSafeBC has released our audited annual report. Read it now at [worksafebc.com/annualreport](http://worksafebc.com/annualreport).

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## Recently released

Have you checked out our YouTube channel lately? These recently released videos cover topics like the importance of bonding and grounding to prevent explosions, propane safety in food trucks, and the hazards of kinetic energy. Visit [youtube.com/worksafebc](https://youtube.com/worksafebc) to see all our health and safety videos.

### Fuel tanker explosion investigation

The presence of static electricity where a flammable liquid is being handled or used can cause an extreme workplace hazard.

This slide show recreates an incident where a worker was fatally injured when gasoline vapours were ignited by a spark from static electricity. It shows the importance of having effective bonding and grounding systems in place.

- [Fuel Tanker Explodes, Fatally Injuring Worker](#)

### Food trucks and propane safety

Propane can be a serious risk on food trucks and other types of mobile kitchens. If the propane leaks it can cause an explosion. These videos show steps you can take to make sure your propane tanks are safe before and after moving your food truck, warning signs to watch for that a propane system may be leaking, and how to perform a soap test to check for leaks.

- [Food Trucks and Propane Safety: Hazards on the Move](#)
- [Food Trucks and Propane Safety: Warning Signs](#)
- [Food Trucks and Propane Safety: Soap Test](#)

### Kinetic energy

Even after equipment is shut down and locked out, kinetic energy may still be present and dangerous to workers. One new video helps you understand what kinetic energy is, identify potential sources of it in the workplace, and learn about controls you can implement to reduce the risk to your workers. Another tells the story of how West Fraser's Quesnel Sawmill collaborated with MAG, B.C.'s Manufacturing Advisory Group, to reduce the risk of kinetic energy by implementing innovative controls that go beyond regulatory requirements.

- [What Is Kinetic Energy and What Are the Hazards?](#)
- [Kinetic Energy Risk Management: Case Study](#) 🎥



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Administrative penalties are monetary fines imposed on employers for health and safety violations of the *Workers Compensation Act* and/or the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation. The penalties listed in this section are grouped by industry, in alphabetical order, starting with “Construction.” They show the date the penalty was imposed and the location where the violation occurred (not necessarily the business location). The registered business name is given, as well as any “doing business as” (DBA) name.

The penalty amount is based on the nature of the violation, the employer’s compliance history, and the employer’s assessable payroll. Once a penalty is imposed, the employer has 45 days to appeal to the Review Division of WorkSafeBC. The Review Division may maintain, reduce, or withdraw the penalty; it may increase the penalty as well. Employers may then file an appeal within 30 days of the Review Division’s decision to the Workers’ Compensation Appeal Tribunal, an independent appeal body.

The amounts shown here indicate the penalties imposed prior to appeal, and may not reflect the final penalty amount.

For more up-to-date penalty information, you can search our penalties database on our website at [worksafebc.com](https://www.worksafebc.com). Find it easily by entering the word “penalties” into our search bar.

## Construction

### **1238437 B.C. Ltd. / Green Clover Asbestos | \$10,000 | Surrey | November 10, 2020**

This firm was conducting pre-demolition asbestos abatement at a duplex. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed that the removal of vermiculite insulation, an identified asbestos-containing material (ACM), was being conducted in a way that increased the risk of asbestos fibres becoming airborne. In addition, the decontamination shower was not connected to a hot water supply, and there was no water filter on site for the asbestos waste water generated during decontamination showering. WorkSafeBC issued a stop-work order. The firm failed to take the necessary precautions to protect workers before allowing work that would disturb ACMs, a high-risk violation. The firm also failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety. These were both repeated violations.

### **A1 Quality Roofing Ltd. | \$5,000 | Abbotsford | November 23, 2020**

This firm was roofing a new two-storey house. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed three workers on the 4:12 sloped roof. The workers were wearing fall protection harnesses, but two of the workers were not connected to lifelines, and the third worker was observed disconnecting from the lifeline while working. No other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the workers to a fall risk of up to about 9.1 m (30 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a high-risk violation. The firm also failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety. These were both repeated and high-risk violations.

### **A Top Class Roofing Limited | \$2,500 | Kamloops | November 16, 2020**

WorkSafeBC observed two of this firm’s workers on the 4:12 sloped roof of a two-storey residential building. The workers, one of whom was a supervisor, were not using personal fall protection systems and no other form of fall protection was in place, exposing them to a fall risk of about 5.2 m (17 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a high-risk violation. The firm also failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety. These were both repeated and high-risk violations.

### **Best Friend’s Roofing Ltd. | \$2,500 | Chilliwack | October 19, 2020**

This firm was roofing a new two-storey house. WorkSafeBC observed two workers on the 4:12 sloped roof. The workers, one of whom was a supervisor, were not using personal fall protection systems. No other form of fall

protection was in place, exposing the workers to fall risks of up to 5.8 m (19 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a high-risk violation. The firm also failed to provide its workers with the supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety. These were both repeated violations.

**Best on Top Ltd. / Best on Top Roofing | \$5,000 | Port Alberni | November 20, 2020**

This firm was removing the roof membrane from a commercial building. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed three workers at the edge of the flat roof, dropping debris into a disposal bin below. The firm stated it was using a control zone system of fall protection, but the safety monitor was engaged in other tasks and no raised warning line was in place where workers were working. No guardrails or other forms of fall protection were in place, exposing the workers to a fall risk of greater than 3 m (10 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

**Big Tree Construction Ltd. | \$3,912 | Vancouver | November 20, 2020**

This firm was the prime contractor for a house and laneway house construction site. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed workers from a subcontracted firm on the sloped roof of the two-storey house without the use of adequate fall protection. WorkSafeBC also observed other safety deficiencies including a lack of guardrails and handrails, a non-compliant wood scaffold, and a lack of site supervision and regular inspections. As prime contractor of a multiple-employer workplace, the firm failed to establish and maintain a system of regulatory compliance. This was a repeated and high-risk violation.

**BKT Wall Contracting 0744824 Ltd. / Nexgen Homes & General Contractors | \$4,813.71 | Fort Nelson | December 4, 2020**

This firm was excavating a broken sewer line. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed workers and equipment inside the excavation, which had cut through a sidewalk and a road and was adjacent to a house. The engineered instructions for the excavation did not take these structures into consideration, and WorkSafeBC issued a stop-work order. The firm failed to ensure an excavation adjacent to improvements or structures was done in accordance with the written instructions of a qualified professional. This was a high-risk violation.

**CM Environmental Inc. | \$14,507 | Burnaby/Surrey | October 22, 2020**

This firm had performed asbestos abatement at a residential building slated for renovations. WorkSafeBC inspected the site after the firm had issued a confirmation indicating abatement was complete. The firm had then conducted additional work without a containment or other precautions in place. WorkSafeBC observed that textured coat, an identified asbestos-containing material (ACM), and insulation that had been cross-contaminated with asbestos fibres remained in the building. WorkSafeBC issued a stop-work order. WorkSafeBC inspected another of the firm's worksites while asbestos abatement was underway and determined that the firm's air sampling procedures were inadequate and samples had not been collected from the worker closest to the ACMs as required. The firm failed to safely contain or remove hazardous materials, and failed to conduct workplace exposure monitoring and assessment using methods acceptable to WorkSafeBC. These were both high-risk violations. The firm also failed to ensure, and confirm in writing, that hazardous materials had been safely contained or removed, and failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety. These were all repeated violations.

**Complete Utility Contractors Ltd. | \$11,378.69 | Burnaby | November 27, 2020**

WorkSafeBC attended this firm's worksite in response to a close-call incident. As an excavator was being used to prepare for utility improvements, the excavator bucket contacted and ruptured a natural gas line. The firm failed to undertake excavation work in proximity to an underground utility service according to the requirements of the owner of that utility service, a repeated violation.

### **Dalcon Construction (2001) Ltd. / Spencer Tataryn | \$12,758.86 | Duncan | October 20, 2020**

WorkSafeBC observed two of this firm's workers on the sloped roof of a house under construction. The workers were not using personal fall protection systems, and no other form of fall protection was in place. This exposed the workers to a fall risk of about 4.3 m (14 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

### **Dan Charlton / Charlton Contracting | \$5,000 | Oliver | October 29, 2020**

This firm was the framing contractor for a two-storey house under construction. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed a worker standing on top of an exterior wall, installing roof trusses. The worker was not using personal fall protection equipment and no other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the worker to a fall risk of greater than 3.7 m (12 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

### **Double Star Enterprises Ltd. | \$1,250 | Vancouver | October 21, 2020**

This firm was the prime contractor for the construction of a house and coach house. WorkSafeBC inspected a wood frame scaffold system being used by another firm on site and determined that it had not been constructed according to applicable standards. A stop-use order was issued for the scaffold. As prime contractor, the firm failed to do everything reasonable to establish and maintain a system of regulatory compliance. This was a repeated violation.

### **E H Z Pre-Demolition Ltd. | \$5,000 | Richmond | November 9, 2020**

This firm was conducting asbestos abatement at a pre-1990 house slated for demolition. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed uncontained dust and debris from drywall, an identified asbestos-containing material (ACM), inside and outside the building. A stop-work order was issued. The firm failed to ensure that all hazardous materials were safely contained or removed, and failed to ensure that the written procedures of a qualified person were followed, both repeated violations. The firm also failed to clear the work area of materials other than that required to do the work, and failed to cover work areas with plastic sheeting to control the spread of ACMs. These were all high-risk violations.

### **ESS Environmental Ltd. | \$1,250 | Abbotsford | November 30, 2020**

This firm conducted a hazardous materials survey for a pre-1990 house slated for demolition. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and determined there was no evidence that the firm had taken samples for all of the asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) listed in the survey. The firm failed to collect representative samples of all potential hazardous materials, and failed to have a qualified person make a written report of the location of all hazardous materials. These were both repeated violations.

### **ESS Environmental Ltd. | \$5,000 | Abbotsford | November 30, 2020**

This firm conducted a hazardous materials survey for a pre-1990 house slated for demolition. WorkSafeBC inspected the site as abatement work was beginning, and determined there was no evidence that samples had been taken for all of the asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) listed in the survey. During follow-up communications, a representative of the firm did not co-operate with the WorkSafeBC officer's attempts to gather information about the survey and the sampling process. The firm failed to co-operate with a WorkSafeBC officer, and refused to provide the officer with information required in the exercise of their duties and functions.

### **Everlasting Stucco & Stone Ltd. | \$2,500 | Penticton | October 26, 2020**

WorkSafeBC inspected this firm's house construction worksite and observed a worker erecting a scaffolding system. The worker was not using a personal fall protection system, and no guardrails or other forms of fall protection were in place. This exposed the worker to a fall risk greater than 4.3 m (14 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

**Flatiron Constructors Canada Limited | \$116,609.72 | Fountain Valley | December 15, 2020**

This firm was the prime contractor for a roadway construction project. Workers were cutting excess pipe to prepare it to be removed from a piling. When one piece of pipe was contacted by an excavator, it fell and struck another piece, causing both pieces to fall into an excavation and injure two workers from subcontractors' firms. WorkSafeBC determined that no safe work procedure was in place for the workers cutting and removing excess pipe, and workers had been allowed to work below the unsecured pipe after it had been cut. The firm failed to ensure that excavation hazards were addressed throughout the duration of work activities. This was a high-risk violation. As prime contractor, the firm also failed to do everything reasonable to establish and maintain a system of regulatory compliance.

**Forever Homes Ltd. | \$2,500 | Vancouver | October 30, 2020**

This firm's worksite was a two-storey laneway house under construction. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed a worker standing on the sloped roof. The worker, who was also a representative of the firm, was wearing a fall protection harness but was not connected to a lifeline, exposing the worker to a fall risk of greater than 6.1 m (20 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

**Friendly Construction Ltd. | \$15,784.76 | Langley | November 23, 2020**

WorkSafeBC observed two of this firm's workers performing framing activities on the rooftop patio of a building under construction. The workers, who were being supervised by a representative of the firm, were not using personal fall protection systems. No other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the workers to fall risks of greater than 3 m (10 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a high-risk violation. The firm also failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety. These were both repeated violations.

**Gail Doyon / Quantum Roofing; Trashopolis Disposal | \$2,500 | Coquitlam | October 23, 2020**

This firm was re-roofing a two-storey house. WorkSafeBC observed workers installing torch-on roofing near the leading edge of the flat roof. The workers, one of whom was a supervisor, were not using personal fall protection systems. The workers were using a control zone system of fall protection, but no written procedures were in place and the control zone had not been fully established with raised warning lines. No other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the workers to fall risk greater than 5.5 m (18 ft.). WorkSafeBC issued a stop-work order. The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a high-risk violation. The firm also failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety. These were both repeated violations.

**Geraldine Lee Brookes & Abray Wayne Isaac / Kai Logging | \$2,500 | Ruby Creek | November 16, 2020**

WorkSafeBC inspected this firm's forestry worksite in response to an incident where a worker (a hook tender) was struck and injured by a hung-up choker bell attached to a cable yarder. WorkSafeBC determined that the mainline, which was moved up the hill before the rigging crew was in a safe position above the setting, had not been slacked off to decrease the tension on the hung-up choker. The firm failed to ensure that workers were positioned clear of rigging that had been stopped by an obstruction until the rigging had been slackened to reduce the hazard. This was a repeated and high-risk violation.

**Henry Foundation Drilling Inc. | \$39,116.97 | Fountain Valley | December 7, 2020**

This firm was working on a roadway construction project. Workers were cutting excess pipe to prepare it to be removed from a piling. When one piece of pipe was contacted by an excavator, it fell and struck another piece, causing both pieces to fall into an excavation and injure two workers. WorkSafeBC determined that leaving cut pipes unsecured and using an excavator to dislodge excess pipe was a standard work practice for this firm. The firm failed to ensure materials were placed in a stable and secure manner, a high-risk violation. The firm also failed to ensure the health and safety of all workers at the workplace, and failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety.

## Penalties (continued)

### **H H S Drilling & Blasting Ltd. | \$8,975.55 | Sooke | September 21, 2020**

WorkSafeBC inspected this firm's worksite in response to a close-call incident. The firm had conducted a blast that resulted in uncontrolled fly material damaging a neighbouring property. WorkSafeBC determined that the firm had not used information from previous close-call incidents to take effective steps in mitigating the risk, such as changing its blasting practices and procedures. The firm failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety, a repeated violation.

### **Homelife Roofing Ltd. | \$2,500 | Surrey | October 21, 2020**

This firm was roofing a two-storey house under construction. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed a worker on the sloped roof installing asphalt shingles. The worker was wearing a fall protection harness but was not connected to a lifeline. No other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the worker to a fall risk of about 10.7 m (35 ft.). WorkSafeBC issued a stop-work order. The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a high-risk violation. The firm also failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety. These were both repeated violations.

### **H.P Roofing Ltd. | \$5,000 | Squamish | October 27, 2020**

This firm's worksite was a two-storey house under construction. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed three workers sitting on a lower roof, completing flashing installation. The workers were not using personal fall protection systems and no other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the workers to a fall risk of greater than 4.9 m (16 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

### **H&T Siding Ltd. | \$2,500 | Surrey | October 27, 2020**

This firm's worksite was a house under construction. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed two workers on a ladder-jack scaffold system installing vinyl siding to the exterior of the house. The workers, both of whom were representatives of the firm, were not using personal fall protection systems and no other form of fall protection was



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in place, exposing them to a fall risk of greater than 3 m (10 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

**Indo Canadian Framing Ltd. | \$5,000 | Surrey | December 9, 2020**

This firm was working on the construction of a new house. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed two workers conducting framing activities on a top-level balcony. The workers were not using personal fall protection equipment, and no guardrails were installed. No other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the workers to a fall risk of about 5.8 m (19 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

**James Lawrence Eccles / VI Roofing | \$2,500 | Victoria | November 18, 2020**

This firm was re-roofing a two-storey house. WorkSafeBC inspected the worksite and observed two workers on the 6:12 sloped roof. The workers were not using personal fall protection systems and no other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the workers to fall risks of up to 7 m (23 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation. The firm also failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety.

**J & J Framing Ltd. | \$8,565.50 | Port Coquitlam | November 19, 2020**

This firm was framing a three-storey house. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed workers near the edge of the third floor, within the line of sight of a representative of the firm. No guardrails or other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the workers to fall risks of up to about 4.9 m (16 ft.). WorkSafeBC issued a stop-work order. The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a high-risk violation. The firm also failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety. These were both repeated violations.

**JKM Framing & Co. Ltd. | \$5,000 | Surrey | October 19, 2020**

This firm was framing a three-level house. WorkSafeBC observed three workers, one of whom was a supervisor, sheeting trusses near the unguarded edge of the roof. None of the workers was using a personal fall protection system and no other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the workers to a fall risk greater than 8.2 m (27 ft.). WorkSafeBC issued a stop-work order. The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a high-risk violation, and failed to ensure a fall protection plan was in place as required. These were both repeated violations. The firm also failed to instruct its workers in fall protection systems and procedures, a high-risk violation.

**Joy Contracting Ltd. | \$2,500 | Surrey/Delta | November 23, 2020**

WorkSafeBC inspected three worksites where this firm was conducting asbestos abatement at houses slated for demolition, and observed multiple health and safety violations related to the firm's work practices for handling and containing asbestos-containing materials (ACMs). The firm failed to ventilate a containment to ensure there was an inward airflow, a repeated violation, and failed to provide and maintain a containment and decontamination facility. These were both high-risk violations. The firm also failed to safety contain or remove all hazardous materials, and failed to ensure a qualified person confirmed that hazardous materials were safely contained or removed, both repeated violations.

**Kamal Constructions Ltd. | \$2,500 | Surrey | October 19, 2020**

This firm was framing a two-storey house. WorkSafeBC observed two workers, one of whom was a representative of the firm, sheeting the second-level floor joists. Neither worker was using a personal fall protection system, and no guardrails or other forms of fall protection were in place. This exposed the workers to a fall risk of about 4.3 m (14 ft.). WorkSafeBC also observed that worker access to the second level was via a ladder instead of a stairway as required. The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a high-risk violation. The firm also failed to provide a stairway to each level of construction. These were both repeated violations.

### **Kuiler Contracting Ltd. | \$7,431.73 | Chilliwack | November 23, 2020**

This firm was working on the construction of a six-storey apartment building. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed two workers on an unguarded second-level balcony. One worker, standing on a stepladder, was not using a personal fall protection system. The second worker was using a personal fall protection system that did not meet the required standards. No other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the workers to a fall risk of up to 4.9 m (16 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a high-risk violation. The firm also failed to ensure tools and equipment were capable of safely performing their functions. In addition, the firm failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety. These were all repeated violations.

### **Noor Roofing Ltd. | \$2,500 | Vancouver | October 30, 2020**

WorkSafeBC observed three of this firm's workers on the roof of a three-storey house. One worker was on a section of roof with a 6:12 slope. The other two workers, one of whom was a representative of the firm, were on a 12:12 sloped section of roof. The workers were wearing fall protection harnesses but were not connected to lifelines, and no other form of fall protection was in place. This exposed the workers to fall risks of up to 7.9 m (26 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated violation, and failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety. These were both high-risk violations. The firm also failed to ensure a written fall protection plan was in place, a repeated violation.

### **NZ Builders Ltd. | \$8,636.04 | Nanaimo | November 27, 2020**

This firm's worksite was a house under construction. WorkSafeBC inspected the site after an incident where a worker was injured. The worker was on the 5:12 sloped roof and fell more than 4.9 m (16 ft.). The worker had not been using a personal fall protection system at the time of the incident and no other form of fall protection had been in place. The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a high-risk violation.

### **Okanagan Abatement Inc. | \$2,500 | Kelowna | November 24, 2020**

This firm was conducting asbestos abatement at a building. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed that the removal of exterior stucco, an asbestos-containing material (ACM), was being done while there were breaches in the poly sheeting containment. WorkSafeBC also observed that one worker was not clean-shaven, which compromised the worker's respirator fit. In addition, uncontained ACM waste was observed outside the building, and there was evidence that the firm was not wetting the stucco before removing it as required by safe work procedures. WorkSafeBC issued a stop-work order. The firm failed to take the necessary precautions to protect workers before allowing work that would disturb ACMs, a high-risk violation.

### **Popular Roofing Systems Ltd. | \$2,500 | Vancouver | November 2, 2020**

This firm's worksite was a two-storey house under construction. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed two workers on the 6:12 sloped roof. Both workers were wearing fall protection harnesses but were not properly connected to their lifelines. No other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the workers to a fall risk of 7.9 m (26 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a high-risk violation. The firm also failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety. These were both repeated violations.

### **Powder Ventures Excavating Ltd. | \$17,049.30 | Kamloops | December 11, 2020**

WorkSafeBC attended this firm's worksite in response to a close-call incident. While the firm was excavating to install electrical conduits under an alleyway, the firm's excavator struck and ruptured an underground natural gas line. WorkSafeBC determined that the firm had not been following the utility owner's maps and drawings for the control of contact hazards. In addition, the firm's work procedures for this task were inadequate to control the associated hazards. The firm failed to locate all underground utility services before beginning excavation work, a high-risk violation, and failed to ensure the health and safety of all workers at the workplace. These were both

repeated violations. In addition, the firm failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety.

**President Contractors Ltd. | \$5,000 | Surrey | November 24, 2020**

This firm was conducting asbestos abatement at a house slated for demolition. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed deficiencies related to the firm's work practices for handling and containing asbestos-containing materials (ACMs). WorkSafeBC issued a stop-work order. The firm failed to take the necessary precautions to protect workers before allowing work that would disturb ACMs, failed to adequately secure openings to prevent the release of asbestos fibre into other work areas, and failed to effectively wet ACMs during removal work. The firm also failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety. These were repeated violations. Furthermore, the firm failed to isolate and effectively control an electrical energy source, post signs at the boundaries of work areas indicating asbestos work was in progress, and keep work surfaces clear of accumulations of asbestos dust. These were all high-risk violations.

**Ramanjit Singh Judge / West Eagle Roofing | \$2,500 | Chilliwack | November 30, 2020**

This firm was working on the construction of a house. WorkSafeBC observed a worker, who was within the line of sight of a representative of the firm, applying roofing paper on a roof with slopes of 10:12 and greater. The worker was wearing a fall protection harness but was not connected to a lifeline. Toe-holds had been installed but were not compliant. No other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the worker to a fall risk of about 7.6 m (25 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

**Ravinder Kaur Dhaliwal / Joban Roofing / South Surrey Farm | \$3,500.00 | Abbotsford | November 19, 2020**

WorkSafeBC observed two of this firm's workers on the 12:12 sloped roof of a two-storey house under construction. The workers were wearing fall protection harnesses but were not connected to lifelines, and no other form of fall protection was in place. This exposed the workers to a fall risk of greater than 7.6 m (25 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

**Ryder Roofing Ltd. | \$3,228.43 | Kelowna | October 23, 2020**

WorkSafeBC inspected this firm's worksite in response to an incident. During re-roofing activity, a worker was using a wheelbarrow to move old materials to the edge of the roof and then dump them into a bin below. The worker fell about 3.7 m (12 ft.) from the roof to the driveway, and sustained serious injuries. WorkSafeBC determined that the worker had not been using a personal fall protection system and no other form of fall protection had been in place. WorkSafeBC also determined that a supervisor had been on the roof at the time of the incident. The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a high-risk violation. The firm also failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety. These were both repeated violations.

**SGR Construction Ltd. | \$5,000 | Surrey | November 30, 2020**

This firm was working on the construction of a townhouse. WorkSafeBC observed three workers installing fascia board at the leading edge of a flat roof. None of the workers was using a personal fall protection system and no other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the workers to a fall risk of about 7 m (23 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

**Sky Blue Environmental Services Inc. | \$20,000 | Burnaby | October 22, 2020**

This firm was conducting pre-demolition asbestos abatement at a house. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and issued a stop-work order after observing multiple deficiencies with the firm's work practices for containing and handling asbestos-containing materials (ACMs). The firm failed to take the necessary precautions to protect workers before beginning work that would disturb ACMs, and failed to ensure workers wore appropriate protective clothing. The firm also failed to ensure all openings were secured to prevent the release of asbestos fibre into other areas, a

repeated violation, and failed to post warning signs at the boundaries of the designated work area. In addition, the firm failed to cover work surfaces with plastic sheets, use wetting before and during abatement work, keep surfaces clear from accumulations of asbestos dust, and take other measures to prevent the spread of asbestos dust and debris. Furthermore, the firm failed to ensure equipment energy sources were isolated or controlled to prevent unexpected energization. These were all high-risk violations. The firm also failed to ensure containers of asbestos waste were disposed of promptly. Finally, the firm failed to communicate the results of air samples to workers, failed to ensure workers required to wear respirators were clean-shaven, and failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety, all repeated violations.

### **SOS Disaster Services Inc. | \$2,500 | Fort Saint John | October 30, 2020**

This firm was conducting asbestos abatement at a house. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed workers using a power saw to remove layers of vinyl flooring, an asbestos-containing material (ACM). This procedure was not appropriate for the amount of ACM present. In addition, workers' respirators offered insufficient protection for the nature of the work, and no decontamination shower was available. WorkSafeBC issued a stop-work order. The firm failed to use acceptable procedures for the control and handling of asbestos, a repeated and high-risk violation.

### **SOS Disaster Services Inc. | \$2,500 | Dawson Creek | November 25, 2020**

WorkSafeBC inspected this firm's workplace and determined that it was storing asbestos waste from multiple abatement jobs in a shed on its property. The firm failed to dispose of asbestos waste promptly to prevent its accumulation. This was a repeated violation.

### **Standard Roofing & Exteriors Ltd. | \$2,500 | Tumbler Ridge | November 2, 2020**

This firm's worksite was a multi-unit residential building. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed two workers at the edge of the sloped roof. The workers were not using personal fall protection systems and no other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the workers to a fall risk of 7.9 m (26 ft.). WorkSafeBC also observed the workers accessing the roof via a ladder that was placed on a stack of pallets and that was of inadequate height to provide safe access. The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated violation. The firm also failed to ensure that a portable ladder was of sufficient length and was placed on a firm and level surface. These were all high-risk violations.

### **Timothy J Melville & Charise T Bourke / Redcap Contracting | \$2,500 | Ootischenia | October 23, 2020**

This firm was working on the construction of a house. WorkSafeBC observed one worker, a representative of the firm, installing shingles on the first-floor 4:12 sloped roof. The worker was wearing a fall protection harness but was not connected to a lifeline. No other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the worker to a fall risk of about 4.6 m (15 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

### **T.L. Roofing and Services Ltd. | \$2,500 | Abbotsford | November 30, 2020**

WorkSafeBC inspected this firm's construction worksite and observed three workers removing wood shakes on the 13:12 sloped roof of a two-storey house. Two workers were wearing fall protection harnesses and were attached to individual lifelines, but both lifelines were connected to a single anchor. The third worker was not using a personal fall protection system. No other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the workers to a fall risk of about 4.3 m (14 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a high-risk violation. The firm also failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety. These were both repeated violations.

### **Uppal Plastering & Stucco Ltd. | \$5,000 | Coquitlam | October 19, 2020**

This firm was installing stucco and paint on a new house. WorkSafeBC observed four workers, including a representative of the firm, on an unguarded wooden platform. The workers were not using personal fall protection systems and no other form of fall protection was in place. This exposed the workers to a fall risk of about 5.5 m (18 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

**Veer Excavating Inc. | \$8,750 | Abbotsford | November 30, 2020**

WorkSafeBC inspected a site where this firm had demolished a house. WorkSafeBC determined that the pre-demolition clearance letter contained irregularities, and that the firm had conducted its demolition work before confirming all identified asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) had been safely abated. The firm failed to ensure all hazardous materials were safely contained or removed before beginning demolition work. The firm also failed to ensure that a written confirmation was available at the worksite indicating all hazardous materials had been safely contained or removed, a repeated violation. In addition, the firm failed to ensure the health and safety of all workers at its worksite.

**Verity Construction Ltd. | \$18,706.21 | Langford | November 23, 2020**

This firm was the prime contractor at an apartment building construction site. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed that worker access to a suspended slab was via a ladder instead of a stairway as required. The firm failed to ensure that a stairway was provided to each floor level before construction of the next level was undertaken. This was a repeated violation.

**X-Ceed Construction Corp. | \$2,500 | Fort St. John | November 26, 2020**

This firm was working on a house renovation. WorkSafeBC observed one worker on the roof without the use of a personal fall protection system. No other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the worker to a fall risk of greater than 3.4 m (11 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a high-risk violation.

**White Bear Industries Ltd. | \$37,636.70 | Muncho Lake | November 25, 2020**

WorkSafeBC observed this firm using a mobile crane to auger holes for signposts on a highway. The worker operating the crane was not certified, and it was not being operated according to the manufacturer's safe work procedures. WorkSafeBC issued a stop-use order. The firm failed to ensure its crane was operated by certified personnel. The firm also failed to ensure its crane was inspected in accordance with good engineering practice, and that a manufacturer's manual was available for operators. In addition, the firm failed to ensure blocking or cribbing was sized when required, and failed to ensure attachments and rated capacity were certified by a professional engineer. These were all high-risk violations.

## Manufacturing

**579264 B.C. Ltd. | \$6,449.72 | Salmo | December 1, 2020**

WorkSafeBC inspected this firm's worksite and observed a wood chipper that lacked safeguards to prevent workers from coming into contact with its rotating parts. The firm failed to ensure a chipper with inspection plates that can be removed before the rotor has stopped had an effective brake, and failed to ensure there was a means of determining if rotating parts are in motion or have stopped. These were both high-risk violations.

**Cam Tran Co. Ltd. | \$32,218.40 | Chilliwack | November 13, 2020**

WorkSafeBC inspected this firm's manufacturing facility and observed three winding machines and a drill press that all lacked safeguards. The firm failed to ensure its machinery was fitted with adequate safeguards to protect workers from hazardous points of operation. This was a repeated and high-risk violation.

**North West Rubber Ltd. | \$43,371.23 | Abbotsford | November 24, 2020**

WorkSafeBC attended this firm's manufacturing facility in response to an incident that resulted in a worker sustaining serious injuries. Two workers were preparing forming moulds for the production of rubber mats. The hoist supporting several stacked steel moulds failed, and the arm of one of the workers was caught between moulds. WorkSafeBC's investigation determined that the hoist's wire rope had failed due to a combination of wire wear and fatigue cracking, and the firm had not been conducting adequate inspections that would have detected this damage. In addition, the firm's work processes required workers to routinely reach underneath suspended loads. The firm

failed to ensure that hoists were inspected before each work shift. The firm also failed to ensure that workers did not stand or pass beneath a suspended load. In addition, the firm failed to ensure the health and safety of all workers at its worksite. These were all high-risk violations.

### **S. & R. Sawmills Ltd. | \$254,063.39 | Langley | November 5, 2020**

This firm operates a sawmill. WorkSafeBC inspected the worksite in response to an incident where a worker was seriously injured while conducting maintenance on the drive sprocket of a log feeder that had not been locked out. WorkSafeBC determined that the firm's lockout procedures did not include the control and lockout of hazardous pneumatic energy during maintenance and cleaning tasks, and worker training for this task was based on incorrect written instructions. In addition, the firm had insufficient first aid procedures, no designated supervisor for overnight shifts, and insufficient training of its supervisors. The firm failed to effectively control hazardous energy sources prior to work starting on machinery. The firm also failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety. These were both high-risk violations.

### **Vancity Cabinets Ltd. | \$3,286.81 | Surrey | November 26, 2020**

WorkSafeBC inspected this firm's manufacturing facility in response to an incident that resulted in a worker sustaining serious injuries while using a saw. WorkSafeBC determined that the saw was not equipped with the manufacturer's hold-down vise as a means of distancing workers from the blade. WorkSafeBC also observed a non-compliant dust collection system as well as a circumvented safeguard on an edge-bander machine, and issued stop-use orders for both. The firm failed to ensure machinery and equipment were fitted with adequate safeguards so that workers could not access hazardous points of operation, and that safeguards were not removed. The firm also failed to ensure a dust collector was located and constructed so that no worker would be endangered in the event of an explosion inside the collector, and failed to eliminate ignition sources near flammable liquids. These were repeated violations. In addition, the firm failed to ensure the health and safety of all workers. All were high-risk violations.

## Primary Resources

### **0801741 B.C. Ltd. / Gerald Gaskell Falling Contracting | \$2,500 | Lake Country | December 1, 2020**

WorkSafeBC attended this firm's worksite in response to an incident that resulted in a worker sustaining serious injuries. While removing a tree, the worker had topped the tree and was rappelling down. The worker's climbing equipment failed, and the worker fell about 13.7 m (45 ft.) to the ground. WorkSafeBC determined that the worker had not received a safety orientation and had not been adequately trained for this work task, and no rescue procedures had been in place. In addition, the firm had not inspected the worker's climbing equipment on the day of the incident. The firm failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety. This was a high-risk violation.

### **1047787 B.C. Ltd. | \$2,500 | Harrison Lake | October 16, 2020**

This firm was clearing trees for a hydro project. A tree being belled struck an energized overhead conductor, which then started a forest fire. Based on evidence provided by the provincial Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development, WorkSafeBC determined that the tree had not been felled according to required procedures. The firm failed to maintain a sufficient undercut and sufficient holding wood for a tree being felled, both high-risk violations.

### **Jeffrey F Johnson | \$4,420.27 | Vanderhoof | October 21, 2020**

WorkSafeBC attempted to inspect this firm's logging worksite. One of the firm's workers refused to provide required information to the WorkSafeBC officer, and instructed other workers not to co-operate with the inspection. The firm failed to provide all reasonable means to facilitate an inspection, and refused to provide information required by a WorkSafeBC officer in the performance of their function and duties.

**Loss Creek Logging Ltd. | \$8,407.76 | Maryland Creek | October 29, 2020**

WorkSafeBC inspected this firm's forestry operation in response to an incident that resulted in a worker sustaining serious injuries. While the worker was operating a grapple machine (hoe chucker) on a steep slope, the machine became unstable and rolled over. WorkSafeBC determined that the slope at the location of the incident was greater than 60%, and the firm had not measured or mapped slopes accurately. In addition, the firm lacked safe work procedures for operations on slopes this steep, for oversized trees, or for rocky, stable, or changing conditions. The firm failed to ensure its forestry operations were planned and conducted in a manner consistent with acceptable work practices. The firm also failed to ensure written safe work practices were developed and implemented for logging equipment operation on steep slopes. These were both repeated and high-risk violations. The firm also failed to keep acceptable training records.

**Matthew Jon Thomas Vanderveen / Matt Vanderveen | \$6,110.52 | Abbotsford | October 1, 2020**

WorkSafeBC attended this firm's farm worksite in response to an incident. While a worker was transferring liquefied manure from a manure pit into a manure spreader, a piece of tube became detached and fell into the manure spreader tank. The worker entered the tank, a confined space, to retrieve the tube and subsequently lost consciousness. Other workers then entered the tank to rescue the first worker. WorkSafeBC's investigation determined that the firm did not have a confined space entry program, had not identified all confined spaces at the worksite, and had not provided its workers with confined space entry training. The firm failed to prepare and implement a written confined space entry program before requiring or permitting its workers to enter. The firm also failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety. These were both high-risk violations.

**Pacific Abrasives and Supply, Inc. | \$5,824.77 | Grand Forks | October 16, 2020**

This firm operates a facility where raw slag is processed for use in blasting. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed multiple safety deficiencies related to confined spaces, inspections, and accumulated waste materials that compromised the structural integrity of the floor and roof. The firm

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failed to ensure that confined spaces were secured against entry or identified by a sign indicating the nature of the hazard. The firm also failed to prevent waste material from accumulating so as to constitute a hazard, and failed to guard rotating machinery parts exposed to contact by workers. Finally, the firm failed to ensure workplace inspections occurred at intervals that would prevent the development of unsafe working conditions. These were all repeated violations.

**PBN Nurseries Ltd. / Maple Leaf Nursery | \$6,779.11 | Abbotsford | November 30, 2020**

This firm operates a tree nursery. WorkSafeBC inspected the worksite in response to an incident where two workers were seriously injured while installing fence posts. The workers were holding the posts while the supervisor operated the tractor and used the tractor bucket to drive the posts into the ground. For one of the posts, the workers were instructed to get into the bucket and drive the post into the ground with sledgehammers after the supervisor raised the bucket. The bucket was then placed on top of the post, which caused the tractor's front tires to lift off the ground. The bucket slipped off the post and the workers were thrown out of the bucket to the ground. WorkSafeBC determined that having multiple workers ride in the tractor and in its bucket, which is contrary to the manufacturer's instructions, was a routine practice for this firm. The firm also did not have a designated first aid attendant, a joint health and safety committee, or a formal health and safety program. The firm failed to ensure its mobile equipment was not operated in a way that could create an undue safety hazard to others, and failed to ensure that the operator of mobile equipment was the only worker permitted to ride the equipment. The firm also failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety. These were all high-risk violations.

**Venturion Oil Limited | \$6,300 | Shearer Dale | December 4, 2020**

This firm was the prime contractor at an oil drilling site. While workers were on a service rig platform, a sliding door dislodged, causing two workers to fall to the ground. One worker sustained serious injuries. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and issued a stop-work order for the rig after determining that it was missing guardrails, its emergency escape system was not certified, and no operating instructions were available. In addition, WorkSafeBC determined that no first aid attendant or equipment had been available on site at the time of the incident. As prime contractor, the firm failed to do everything reasonable to establish and maintain a system of regulatory compliance. The firm also failed to establish and maintain first aid equipment and services as required. These were both repeated violations.

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**WORK SAFE BC**

## Service Sector

**Colin Robert Taylor / 3 Tree Contracting | \$2,500 | Rossland | December 2, 2020**

This firm was removing trees on a residential property. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed a worker, who was a representative of the firm, working in close proximity to an overhead electrical conductor. The firm failed to ensure its workers remained the minimum required distance from exposed electrical equipment. The firm also failed to ensure workers were informed of the existence and voltage of electrical equipment, and the work procedures to be followed to ensure regulatory compliance. These were both high-risk violations.

**Douglas Clarke / Jordan Douglas Home Service Centre | \$2,500 | Abbotsford | November 24, 2020**

This firm was cleaning roofs at a townhouse complex. WorkSafeBC determined that two of the firm's workers had been on the 5:12 sloped roof without the use of personal fall protection systems. No other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the workers to fall risks greater than 3 m (10 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

## Trade

**Lex Moulding and Tile Ltd. | \$2,500 | Surrey | November 3, 2020**

This firm's worksite was a three-storey house under construction. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed two workers on a flat roof over the main entrance. The workers were not using personal fall protection systems and no other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the workers to a fall risk of about 7.3 m (24 ft.). WorkSafeBC issued a stop-work order. The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a high-risk violation. The firm also failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety. These were both repeated violations.

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