

WorkSafe

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Keeping roadside workers safe p5

New powered stretchers and loading systems reduce risk for paramedics p11

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Centre pullout

What's wrong with this photo?

This home care worker is in a slippery situation.

On the front cover: Like all workers, Jake Calarmo has the right to a safe worksite. He's getting that, and more, through the mentorship program at Fourth-Rite Construction.

Remember your first job?

As the weather begins to warm up, many B.C. industries and seasonal employers ramp up operations. Spring and summer bring increased construction and roadside work (page 5), and first-time summer jobs for many young workers.

In this issue, we want to remind employers what it's like for these young workers to start their first jobs. Research in this area has shown that young workers are more likely to take a wait-and-see approach to safety concerns; meaning they look to their peers and supervisors to demonstrate how safety in the workplace is handled. Our cover story is about a construction company that understands that mindset and uses mentorship to instil a sense of safety in their new employees (page 7).

We also tell the story of Jack Thomas, who was injured at a summer job in 2015. Today, he speaks to young people across B.C. about their right to a safe workplace, and their right to refuse unsafe work (page 17).

These and other stories in this issue — such as the one on reducing MSI risks for paramedics (page 11) — showcase the commitment some B.C. employers are making to worker health and safety. It's the same commitment whether it's their first day on the job or their 40th work anniversary and beyond.



Terence Little
Editor-in-chief

WorkSafe

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WorkSafe Magazine is published by the WorkSafeBC (Workers' Compensation Board of B.C.) Communications department to educate workers and employers about injury and disease prevention, promote positive safety culture, and provide links to WorkSafeBC resources for safer workplaces.

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WorkSafe Magazine is published six times a year. The yearly issues include January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, and November/December. The magazine can be viewed online at worksafemagazine.com.

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WORK SAFE BC

Contributors



Gail Johnson

Our cover story comes from certified group-fitness instructor and award-winning journalist Gail Johnson (page 7). Gail has been writing for *WorkSafe Magazine* for 18 years.



Lynn Welburn

Nanaimo-based writer and teacher Lynn Welburn brings us stories on MSI risks for British Columbia's Emergency Health Services (page 11) and proposed changes to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (page 23). This year, Lynn is celebrating her 10-year anniversary of writing for *WorkSafe Magazine*.



Gord Woodward

In this issue, writer Gord Woodward gets into the details of staying safe in the kitchen in our Safety Talk (page 14). Gord's company, Enlightening Communications, has been operating since 1994.



Helen Plischke

Port Moody-based writer and editor Helen Plischke reports on an innovative health and safety committee in the wood pellet industry in one of our *WorkSafeBC Updates* (page 19). Helen is a former reporter for *The Province* and the *Edmonton Journal* and has been working as a writer for 28 years.

Ask an officer

Reducing hazards and risks in traffic control



Dale Alcock

Prevention Field Services supervisor

Region: Kelowna

Years on the job: 10

As we head into warmer weather, construction on and near roadways ramps up; and it's not uncommon to see traffic control signs, delineators, and traffic control persons indicating roadside work ahead. In this issue, we speak with WorkSafeBC Prevention Field Services supervisor Dale Alcock on creating a safe worksite for roadside workers and traffic controllers.

Q. How should I set up my worksite?

A. Every worksite is different and has its own risk factors. Before setting up the work zone and the required traffic control measures, it's important to conduct a risk assessment to determine the level of protection that's needed to ensure the safety of the workers on or near the roadway. There are three simple steps: Plan. Do. Check. Once you've determined what traffic control measures are required, be sure that they are deployed effectively and are checked often.

Q. I've set up cones and signs, isn't that enough?

A. If you're setting up work for a longer time period, the use of barriers can enhance the level of worker safety. Consideration should also be given to using road detours or automated traffic control equipment.

Drivers can become desensitized to traffic control signage if it's incorrectly used. Make sure to remove signage when it's no longer needed.

Q. When should I use a traffic control person?

A. The key to the role of a traffic control person (TCP) lies in Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 18.6, which states that a TCP may only be used if:

- The use of signs and other traffic control devices and procedures alone cannot provide effective traffic control
- During emergency or brief-duration work it is not practicable to

control traffic with signs and other devices and procedures.

Injuries to traffic controllers are primarily caused by the controller being struck by passing vehicles.

When performing your risk assessment, you should ask the following questions:

1. Do we really need a TCP?
2. If we are using a TCP, are they protected from the possibility of being hit by an oncoming car or work vehicle?
3. How are we planning for the safe transit of vehicles around workers?

Q. I've hired a traffic control company. Aren't they responsible for the safety of the traffic controller?

A. Safety is a shared responsibility between the prime contractor and any subcontractor on site. When hiring a traffic control company, the prime contractor needs to ensure that they're capable of providing effective control, and that they are monitoring the work situation. Planning, coordinating, and supervising is critical. As weather and light conditions change, adjustments may need to be made to the worksite and the traffic control measures.

Q. I'm a TCP. What can I do to stay safe?

A. Where you stand is critical. You must stand in a safe space, be clearly visible, and have an unobstructed view of approaching traffic. It's crucial that you have an escape route if a car comes that is not obeying the road signs or is driving erratically.

TCPs should not put themselves in harm's way to protect others. The role of the TCP is to assist in the planning process of setting up safe roadside work — this includes the effective placement of signs, delineators, barriers, and, if needed, a traffic control person station.

These other tips can help:

- Use portable radios wherever possible. This way you do not have stand close to the worksite and yell.
- Don't block your peripheral vision with a hood. What you see out of the corner of your eye could save your life.
- Keep your personal protective equipment in good repair.
- Don't put your body in harm's way to stop a car that's not obeying speed laws. Observe and report bad drivers rather than confront them.

Q. Where can I find more information?

A. The website worksafebc.com has a number of resources to help you create a healthy and safe workplace. These resources include:

- [Information on traffic control person training](#)
- [Information on working in and around traffic](#)

The website conezonebc.com also has lots of helpful information, including road safety tool kits for employers, supervisors, and workers.

Looking for answers to your specific health and safety questions? Send them to us at worksafemagazine@worksafebc.com, and we'll consider them for our next Ask an Officer feature. 😊

“Safety is a shared responsibility between the prime contractor and any subcontractor on site.”

—Dale Alcock, WorkSafeBC Prevention Field Services supervisor

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On the cover



Superintendent Dimitri Margaritis (right) and occupational safety officer Brian Tuccori discuss training young workers at one of Fourth-Rite Construction's worksites.

Mentorship program helps young carpenters

By Gail Johnson

Young workers are the backbone of Fourth-Rite Construction — in fact, many of their current senior staff got their start at the company. Now, they give back to their new employees with training, mentorship, and a safety culture that starts in recruitment.

Carpenter and superintendent Dimitri Margaritis has been doing the job he loves for three decades, but he still remembers his early days in the industry — and how daunting a construction site initially seemed.

“I worked hard,” Margaritis recalls. “But I remember what it was like: When you go onto a site for the first time, it’s intimidating.”

Margaritis got his start as an apprentice for Fourth-Rite Construction — the same Abbotsford-based company he works at today as a superintendent. While the company put him through apprenticeship training through Kwantlen Polytechnic University, he tended to keep quiet on the job and didn’t ask a lot of questions.

His early experience was a common one. Canadian research studies on young workers have shown that young workers can be reluctant to speak up and may feel that they lack the authority or experience to address workplace health and safety. Margaritis wanted to change that.

About five years into his career at Fourth-Rite, he suggested that the company reach out directly to high-school students who may be interested in pursuing a similar path. This was the start of a young worker training-program that continues to this day. The program supports young people as they work toward endorsement in their trade, either through post-secondary education or the Interprovincial Standards Red Seal Program.

Here’s how the Fourth-Rite young worker training-program works. Margaritis himself visits carpentry classes at secondary schools throughout the Lower Mainland. This gives students the chance to ask questions about the industry; they tend to be curious about expectations, job prospects, and pay rates. Those who are interested have a direct line to Fourth-Rite and can apply for a job straight out of school. The company hires about ten students every year.

Ongoing mentorship — with no time limit

From the moment they start, young workers are paired with at least one senior employee, who stays by their side until they’re ready to work independently — no matter how long it takes. There’s no time limit on mentorship. Even after apprentices successfully complete the exam for their Red Seal endorsement, they can still get a lot out of being mentored. It’s not enough just to know the skills; they need to be practiced safely and well, says Margaritis.

The pair program helps put the focus on the students themselves. Everybody has a different learning style and pace. With a paired mentor, on-the-job training can be individually tailored and adapted.

The new hires are immersed in the company’s safety culture, learning proper practices and procedures, from tool safeguarding to the use of protective gear.

“Taking the initiative to communicate with young workers and encourage them to communicate, allows their voices to be heard.”

—Brian Tuccori, WorkSafeBC
occupational safety officer

The opportunity to observe — and get to know the worksite and their peers — can set young workers up for success. “Young workers who observe their peers and supervisors addressing workplace safety are more likely to bring forward their own concerns,” says Angélique Prince, a WorkSafeBC Industry and Labour Services manager specializing in new and young workers.

Fourth-Rite’s new hires also get experience in wood-frame and concrete construction and advanced carpentry techniques, but not until they grasp the basics.

“For the first three or four weeks, I put them on clean-up,” Margaritis says. “The reason I do that is so they get used to the site. Construction sites are so big,



Dimitri Margaritis, Emily Wade, and Mike Severson go over blueprints at the worksite.

and there's a lot of big machinery. On clean-up, they adjust to it. They do basic tasks and attend our safety meetings every week."

Young workers are also encouraged to ask questions, both of their mentors and anyone in the company they come in contact with, including company leaders.

"We teach them right away how to be safe. We want them to ask questions. I tell them if they're having any problems to call me. We all work together."

Aside from tasks such as shaping wood or constructing stairs, young workers also learn valuable skills such as the importance of showing up on time and having a strong work ethic. "These are life skills that will benefit them regardless of how or where they spend their careers," says Margaritis.

Since the program first started more than two decades ago, the company has hired approximately 140 people, some of whom have stayed and moved up to more senior positions. It's heartening for more experienced workers to see younger ones develop in work and in life.

"A lot of our foremen were students," Margaritis says. "The young-worker program is the backbone of the company. The senior workers love it. They're teaching somebody who has no experience and they get to

watch them grow, and get their ticket, and become certified carpenters, and then maybe buy their first home. It feels good to give someone a chance."

Collaborating with safety professionals

There's another layer to Fourth-Rite's in-house safety measures. The company has hired an independent safety consultant who acts as its corporate safety manager. James Benz, the founder of JMB Risk Management, will often visit the company's construction sites unannounced to assess workers' practices. He says the safety training for young workers at Fourth-Rite is comprehensive and unrushed.

"There's commitment from ownership all the way down to supervisory personnel, ensuring that these young workers are trained, monitored, and helped along the way for as long as they need," Benz says. "A lot of employers or experienced employees don't necessarily understand their responsibilities when it comes to new, young workers or take the time to understand their responsibilities.

"The biggest thing to make a health-and-safety system work is buy-in from management," he adds. "It can be a long and strenuous process, but if you're committed, you see results."

Margaritis also collaborates with WorkSafeBC for input. “When WorkSafeBC comes on site, I want to hear what they have to say,” he says. “They’re there to help me; that’s how I look at it.”

WorkSafeBC occupational safety officer Brian Tuccori, who specializes in construction, says that what stands out for him about Fourth-Rite’s approach to safety is how workers are encouraged to speak up about safety.

“I’m impressed by the quality of communication and how candid and open the lines of communication are,” he says. “It opens up the dialogue between young and experienced workers. Taking the initiative to communicate with young workers and encourage them to communicate, allows their voices to be heard.”

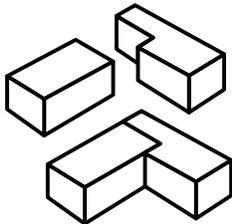
At the end of the day, Margaritis wants to keep hearing young workers’ views, concerns, and questions.

“This is a family company, and our workers are like family,” he says. “We don’t want anyone to get hurt.” ☺

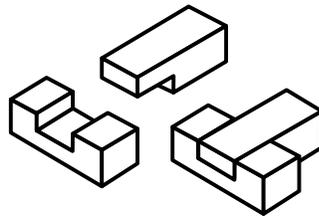
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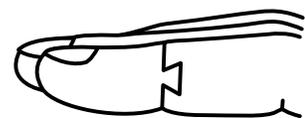
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Safety spotlight

EMERGENCY
PARAMEDIC

AMBULANCE



Primary care paramedics James Land and Matt Wu demonstrate new mechanized stretchers that take the manual lifting out of transporting patients.

Powered stretchers and loading systems reduce injury risk for paramedics

By Lynn Welburn

Paramedics deal with patient injuries every workday, but having to lift patients for transport is heavy work with a risk of injury to the paramedics themselves. Now, mechanized equipment is changing the landscape for B.C.'s emergency medical responders and reducing the risk of injury from overexertion.

In 2017, 65 percent of lost staff time at British Columbia Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) was due to incidents of overexertion.

"BCEHS has over 500 ambulances around the province, and 3,700 paramedics and pre-hospital care staff," says Mike Michalko, Business Standards and Evaluation director with BCEHS. "We have over 900,000 responses a year. That's a lot of people doing a lot of heavy lifting."

BCEHS is now hoping the statistics will look a little different in the future. They're almost finished implementing a province-wide changeover to powered

stretchers, powered loading systems on ambulances, and lift cushions, all of which add up to a huge load off the backs and shoulders of paramedics around B.C.

Michalko is delighted with new equipment, which he says will show "dramatic reductions in injury and will likely mean longer careers for medics."

Finding the right fit

The changeover began back in December 2014, through a collaboration with WorkSafeBC officers to identify the top MSI risks. Over the following year, the team determined high-risk activities and the best ways to reduce the risks.

"BCEHS analyzed the areas MSI injuries were occurring and it boiled down to eight key tasks around patient handling and stretcher use," says Mike Ross, WorkSafeBC manager in Prevention Field Services.

Dealing with these was the next step. "We prefer to see hazards eliminated, but where that cannot be done, we look to employers to put in engineering controls like mechanization," says Ross.

BCEHS began by researching smaller ambulance services elsewhere in Canada in 2016, and with input from ergonomic specialists from the Provincial Health Services Authority, landed on a few products that could mechanize the processes causing the most trouble. The products were powered stretchers, which raise and lower patients; power load systems for ambulances; and lifting cushions, which can be put under patients on the ground and then inflated to raise the patient.

They all reduce the risk of overexertion, so reduce the risk of injury, says Ross.

“WorkSafeBC safety officers and an ergonomic team were great helping us identify all the worst problem areas and choose the best equipment to manage those risks,” says Michalko.

“I can honestly say that this tool has made an enormous difference in enabling me to do my job. It has taken away my fear.”

—Marilyn Oberg, Vancouver Unit chief, BC Emergency Health Services

After setting up pilot projects in Metro Vancouver and Kelowna in 2017, Michalko says results were so positive that BCEHS decided to move full-steam ahead late that year. From an original five-year-plan, all changes will now be complete in under three.

“We’re just hitting six months with partial implementation and we’re already seeing things like maybe a 20 percent reduction in injury claims and people coming back to work sooner,” he says.

“Logistically it’s been a long journey for us in money and time, but the savings in direct and indirect costs is already significant. The results are that dramatic.”

The equipment is more comfortable for patients and could mean longer, healthier careers for paramedics, who often put themselves at risk by putting patient safety first, Michalko says.

“I worked from age 19 to 30 as a medic and suffered two majorly painful musculoskeletal injuries. It’s why I left the field,” he says.

“We are more than 80 percent changed over,” Michalko says. “By July, all operating ambulances will have power stretchers.”

B.C.’s paramedics are on board

Paramedics using the new equipment are enthusiastic.

“Having access to this stretcher has changed how I approach my job. I used to worry every time I had to turn or lift a patient, scared I would aggravate my back injury, which in turn led to extreme pain and sick days,” says Marilyn Oberg, Vancouver Unit chief and a paramedic for 33 years. “I can honestly say that this tool has made an enormous difference in enabling me to do my job. It has taken away my fear.”

And when paramedics don’t need to worry about injuring themselves, it improves patient care and means paramedics can look forward to a long career and a healthy retirement.

“This stretcher is a game-changer,” says Maple Ridge paramedic Mikael Nielsen. “It has removed the fear and uncertainty that crews often deal with, ultimately allowing us to provide better and safer care to our patients. I believe that this tool will also increase not only the likelihood that I make it to retirement, but also that I will retire healthy and uninjured.” ☺

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WORK SAFE BC



Kitchen tip: Don't overheat the oil in a deep fryer. If the oil is smoking, it's too hot.

The recipe for kitchen safety? Training and awareness

By Gord Woodward

More than 60 percent of injuries in the food service industry involve kitchen workers. While some kitchen injuries can be handled with a first-aid kit, others may require extensive time off work for recovery. This Safety Talk offers tips that can be shared with workers during safety meetings or pinned to your safety bulletin board.

Kitchens have many of the ingredients for a hazardous workplace: Lots of sharp, heavy, or hot objects. A demanding pace. A steady stream of new employees.

Mixing them together doesn't have to be a recipe for injury, though. Training and safe work practices can help ensure workers return home at the end of every shift in the same condition as when they arrived. To keep orders on time, "there are a lot of efficiencies that have to happen in kitchens," says Isabel Chung, executive chef at Fairmont Chateau Whistler. "But

efficiency doesn't negate our responsibility to work in a safe and clean environment."

Here are five tips to reduce the risk of injury to kitchen workers:

1 Be sharp when using knives

Cuts from knives are among the most common injuries in a kitchen. To prevent them, make sure you're properly trained in knife use. Ask for hands-on training and supervision.

Wear cut-resistant gloves whenever possible. Secure the cutting board to the counter, cut away from your body when trimming or deboning, and put down the knife when you're distracted by whatever is happening around you.

The golden rule? "A sharp knife is a safe knife," says Jeff Szombaty, executive chef with Hyatt Regency. "A dull knife will slip off of food and then slip into your finger."

2 You can stand the heat in the kitchen if you take precautions

Deep fryers and hot pots and pans can burn and scald you. To be safe, always assume they're hot and use oven mitts or dry cloths when handling them. Open lids away from your body. "Some of the worst burns you get are actually from the steam," says Dennis Green, an executive chef with go2HR. Alert your work colleagues if you set a hot pan anywhere outside your work station.

When it comes to deep fryers, operate or clean them only if you've been properly trained. Don't overheat the oil; it shouldn't smoke. Make sure all food and utensils are dry; and lower them slowly into the fryer to avoid splattering. Clean the fryer regularly.

Seek first aid right away if you do get burned. And if there's an oil fire, never use water to extinguish it. Instead, cover the flames with a fire-smothering blanket or damp cloth.

3 No matter how you slice it, safety comes first

Meat slicers have the potential to cause severe injury, so only use one if you've been trained and understand the operating instructions.

Secure the blade guard in position before turning it on, and use the meat grip to keep your hands away from the blade. Remove meat only after the cutting wheel comes to a complete stop.

Before cleaning, unplug the machine and set the blade adjustment to zero. Wearing Kevlar gloves, wipe the blade upward from the centre.

Unplug the machine when it's not in use. Make sure the switch is set to "Off" before plugging it back in.

4 Slowing down can save time

Rushing around in a kitchen isn't safe. If you slip, trip, or fall, it could cost you time off work. To prevent those types of injuries, think of your well-fitting, non-slip footwear as part of your uniform. Keep the area clear of boxes and other clutter so you can always see where you're going, especially when you're carrying large objects.

Blind corners are a serious hazard, so always announce your presence before you round one. Walk carefully in and around walk-in freezers, because floors can become wet and slippery from condensation. Mop them right away and place a "Wet floor" sign there.

5 Your back is one of your most important tools

A back injury from improper lifting can affect your career. "Your back is probably the most important tool you're going to have," says Szombaty.

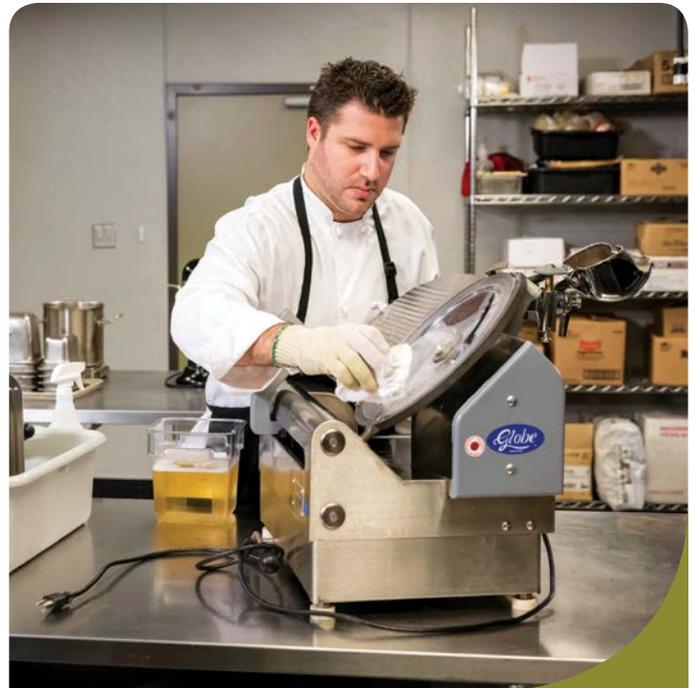
Avoid carrying or lifting items that are slippery, too hot, or unevenly balanced. When you have to lift something, get close to it, bend your knees, and get a good grip. Push up with your legs. Pivot with your feet rather than twisting your back. Lift smoothly and slowly and keep the load between your knees and shoulders.

You can avoid some strain by storing heavy things at waist level. And, use a dolly or cart whenever possible, or ask someone to help you.

For more information

WorkSafeBC's video series on kitchen safety offers tips from experienced industry professionals. You can view the series at worksafebc.com/kitchensafety.

Employers can review their responsibilities for providing a safe workplace by searching for "tourism & hospitality" at worksafebc.com. 🌐



Make sure the meat slicer is unplugged before cleaning it. Only use a meat slicer if you have been trained and understand the operating instructions.

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Teaching young workers about the right to refuse work

By Jesse Marchand

When Jack Thomas took a summer job at the age of 17, the last thing he expected was to receive a life-changing injury. Now, he and other injured workers are speaking to youth about their rights.

Today, Jack Thomas is studying music at Vancouver's Nimbus School of Recording and Media, where he's about to complete his fourth diploma. His hardcore band just released an EP, and he released a full album last October. Like many young people, he's juggling the balance of time with friends and family with studying and planning for his future. But his dreams of becoming a professional musician were almost derailed in 2015, when he took a summer job at a recycling facility in Port Coquitlam and, two months in, his sleeve became caught in an exposed roller.

He was cleaning out the sorting conveyer when the belt suddenly started up and caught his sleeve. There was no one else there to see what happened, so there was no one to stop the machine before it was too late.

"When I woke up, I made an effort not to look down so as not to panic," he says. "I ran outside and yelled for help, and asked someone to grab my hand. I had my eyes shut and couldn't feel my arm, so I asked the man if [it] was there." Jack Thomas lost his right arm from the elbow down that day.

Warning signs

When he thinks back to that day in 2015, what he remembers most are the warning signs.

"There were so many things telling me I shouldn't be at work that day," he says. A case of bronchitis should have been enough to keep him at home, but he'd only been working there for two months and felt like calling in sick would be letting his workplace down. "All I wanted to do was maintain this job and impress my co-workers and my boss," he says.

When he started the job three months earlier, he remembers thinking to himself that the process for operating the conveyor was "ridiculously unsafe." But he didn't think much of it. "I didn't think about it

“At the time, I didn’t listen to my gut instinct and I didn’t think about my right to refuse work if it didn’t feel right to me.”

—Jack Thomas, injured worker

because I was 17 and had only been working there for three months. Everybody else had been working there for years,” he says.

“At the time, I didn’t listen to my gut instinct and I didn’t think about my right to refuse work if it didn’t feel right to me.” Even though his boss had encouraged him to stay home and another employee had offered to take his shift, he still didn’t feel comfortable calling in sick.

“I didn’t think at all about making my own safety a priority. Now I understand that it’s the employer’s responsibility to make sure the workplace is safe, to explain any potential workplace hazards, and to mandate proper supervision on the job.”

He’s right, comments Robin Schooley, a WorkSafeBC industry specialist for new and young workers.

“Employers are responsible for creating and managing healthy and safe workplaces,” she says. “Enhancing health and safety culture by keeping open lines of communication and encouraging workers to ask questions when they’re not sure how to do tasks safely is paramount to reducing workplace injuries.”

The bottom line says Thomas, is that “there’s no reason that we should be putting lives at risk to make a living.”

Not giving up his dreams

Jack Thomas is still an avid drummer, though he’s had to make some adjustments. His drum kit, donated by the instrument manufacturer Roland, has been specially outfitted with programmable kick-drum pedals that allow him to achieve exactly the sound he wants. He’s also in good company; one of his musical heroes, Def Leppard drummer Rick Allen, suffered a similar loss and managed to keep playing.

“When it comes to drumming, you have to get to a point where you can control each of your limbs separately,” says Thomas. “Funnily enough, now that I only have to focus on one hand, my timing has improved so much and I am able to figure out much more complex things much faster.”

But the act of drumming can be strenuous: the pain

is almost constant, and the fact that he was formerly right-handed means he’s had to relearn everything. “It’s still quite a bit of brainpower being used to focus on my non-dominant hand,” he says. “Also, the pain is sharp, and it’s not going to go away,” he adds.

Despite the progress he’s made as a drummer, “If I could trade it all to get my arm back, I’d do it in a heartbeat,” he says. “I have to live with this for the rest of my life.” While he’s proud of all his accomplishments, “What would make me happier is if I was able to get here with two arms.”

Taking the message across B.C.

Thomas takes the time to share his story with others through speaking engagements throughout B.C. He recently spoke at the Vancouver Day of Mourning ceremony on April 28, 2018, to remember those who have lost their lives to work-related incidents or occupational disease. He’s also part of the WorkSafeBC young worker speaker series, which features injured workers who each regularly take time out of their day to speak with students in schools across B.C.

Since December, he’s already spoken with five schools about workers’ rights. “I speak at any event I get the chance to,” says Jack. “The students are quite invested in what I have to say, especially the middle schoolers. It helps me to know that they understand. It’s always an uplifting experience for everyone involved.”

He hopes that young workers and employers get the message that safety is a right and a moral responsibility. “We can put an end to workplace injuries. We can spread love. We can save lives; and we can get to the point where there’s no death in the workplace, he says.”

He’s also not alone in sharing the safety message. Fellow presenters Mike Shaw, Mark Johnson, and Michael Lovett also spoke at various Day of Mourning ceremonies in the province, and regularly speak at schools across B.C. You can read their stories at dayofmourning.bc.ca/speakers.

More information on booking a young worker speaker can be found at worksafebc.com. 🗣️



A joint health and safety committee, like this one at Pinnacle Renewable Energy, is mandated for large employers. But, companies in the wood pellet industry are going the extra mile to have a monthly Canada-wide safety meeting via conference call.

Unique safety committee publishes 2018 work plan

By Helen Plischke

Industry competitors in the wood pellet industry are checking their competitiveness at the door as they craft their work plan and address safety issues.

On the second Wednesday of every month, John Stirling, president of Princeton Standard Pellet Corporation, gets on the phone to eight of his closest competitors in the wood pellet industry and has a candid, no-holds-barred conversation about worker safety. Their discussion ranges from best practices and employee training, to combustible dust management, incident reporting, and safety tips.

It's an unusual level of sharing for a group of competitors, say members of the committee, which was struck in 2014 under the umbrella of the Wood Pellet Association of Canada (WPAC). The 18-member committee includes representatives from nine wood pellet manufacturers — seven from B.C. and one each from Alberta and Nova Scotia — ranging from small operators such as Stirling's, to wood industry powerhouses such as Canfor and West Fraser. The BC Forest Safety Council and the Quebec Wood Export Bureau are also on the committee.

"We've been remarkably open about sharing ideas, and brainstorming more ideas," says Stirling, who oversees 45 employees at the 110,000-tonne-per-year wood pellet operation in Princeton, B.C. "People share ideas about what they've done, or they'll say, 'We have the same problem, let us know what you figure out.' Everybody has been very open and committed."

Training workshops planned for 2018

The committee has just published its 2018 work plan, consisting of nine goals, each with tasks and action items that will be reported on monthly during the meetings. The plan is drawn up by the committee early in the year, then members seek feedback and approval from their companies. WorkSafeBC is looped in too, for support and guidance. Finally, publishing the plan helps keep everyone focused and accountable, says Gordon Murray, WPAC executive director.

This year, WPAC's plan includes delivery of two training workshops on Process Safety Management, a field more often associated with the chemical industry, but is now increasingly part of a new approach to managing hazards in other process industries. While occupational safety focuses on things like training,

safety equipment, and supervision, process safety focuses on the bigger picture: engineering design, operating practices, and avoiding process-related incidents. It asks, in other words, what could go wrong on a large scale?

The wood pellet industry has relatively complex manufacturing processes and hazards with a potential for large-scale events: wood fibres, for instance, can produce a synthesis gas when dried, and a buildup of this gas can be flammable or explosive. Given that the members of WPAC work with complex processes, the WPAC is an ideal organization to test the principles of process safety, says Tom Pawlowski, WorkSafeBC manager of primary resources in Industry and Labour Services.

“What is so unique about the wood pellet association, and their safety committee, is that they really believe in not competing on their safety. If they have setbacks, they bring it forward and talk about it. It’s really very impressive.”

Industry improvements

Since the safety committee was established, Murray says the pass rate for safety inspections at wood pellet plants has improved dramatically, while overall profitability in the sector has gone up.

Meanwhile, the popularity of the safety committee has grown to the point that non-WPAC members are seeking to join. Wood industry giant West Fraser is one of the newest members.

“We’re just a bit humbled at being on the committee at this point,” says Troy Withey, safety manager and representative for West Fraser corporate pulp. “It’s well organized and well led, and we appreciate hearing the best practices.”

Last year, representatives from West Fraser were among approximately 60 operators who attended a third-annual day-long safety forum in Prince George, planned and executed by WPAC and the safety committee. This year’s forum happens June 6, and all forest product sectors are invited — sawmills, pulp and paper, lumber, and more.

“We all have the same issues,” says Murray, who hopes to attract about 100 people. “By bringing information to everyone, and demonstrating to the

public and WorkSafeBC that we take safety seriously, we think it’s all adding to the culture.”

Wood industry sets an example

Other industries could learn from the success of the safety committee and the willingness of members to be open and transparent, says committee chair Scott Bax, senior vice-president of operations at Pinnacle Renewable Energy, Canada’s largest wood pellet producer.

“In other industries I think there’s a general desire to collaborate, but a general reticence at the same time,” Bax says. “We saw that if, as an industry, we couldn’t be safe and be portrayed as being safe, then the actions of one could put the future of all of us in jeopardy.”

You can read the WPAC safety committee’s 2018 annual work plan in [Canadian Biomass Magazine](#). [Ⓜ]

“What is so unique about the wood pellet association, and their safety committee, is that they really believe in not competing on their safety.”

—Tom Pawlowski, WorkSafeBC manager of primary resources in Industry and Labour Services

A brief history

The Wood Pellet Association of Canada (WPAC) was formed in 1996 and has members from B.C., Alberta, Quebec, and the Maritime provinces. It currently represents 95 percent of production capacity in the country — 70 percent of which is in B.C. Canadian exports of wood pellets are worth \$500 million annually.

Safety on the agenda

Cap off spring with health and safety training. Check out these events across Canada from June to October.

Strathcona Regional District

9th Annual Upper Island Safety Conference and Trade Show
May 28–29, 2018
Campbell River, B.C.
strathconard.ca/uisc

WorkSafeBC

Information Sessions on Process Safety
June 5, 2018 in Prince George, B.C.
June 20, 2018 in Richmond, B.C.
<https://events.eply.com/worksafebcintrotoprocesssafety>

WorkSafeBC

Fatigue Risk Management Symposium
June 7, 2018
Richmond, B.C.
worksafebc.com
(Search “fatigue risk management symposium”)

Diversified Rehabilitation Group

Let's talk solutions
Organizational Health and Wellness Summit
June 7–8, 2018
Kelowna, B.C.
diversifiedrehab.ca

Canadian Association of Road Safety Professionals

CARSP Conference 2018
June 10–13, 2018
Victoria, B.C.
carsp.ca

4th Canadian Fall Prevention Conference

Taking action together
June 11–12, 2018
St. John's, Newfoundland
fallsprevention2018.ca

Canadian Society of Safety Engineering

People, Purpose & Passion: The Pathway to OHS Success
Professional Development Conference and Exhibition
September 16–19, 2018
Niagara Falls, Ontario
csse.org

Fire-Rescue Canada

Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs
Annual Education Conference
September 16–19, 2018
Ottawa, Ontario
cafc.ca

International Forum on Disability Management

9th International Biennial Congress
on Disability Management and Return to Work
October 14–17, 2018
Vancouver, B.C.
ifdm2018.com

Association of Canadian Ergonomists and Centre for Research in Occupational Health and Safety

From Research to Practice to Prevention
Annual Conference
October 15–18, 2018
Sudbury, Ontario
ace-ergocanada.ca

Oud Consultancy

Violence in the Health Care Sector
6th International Conference
October 24–26, 2018
Toronto, Ontario
oudconsultancy.nl

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



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What's wrong: you tell us



Winner

Sandblasting site shows high-risk hazards



Congratulations to Ben Mayer, a shift miller for Rogers Foods in Chilliwack, B.C., for winning the March / April “What’s wrong with this photo?” contest. Here’s everything he found:

The hoses

- The heavy hose is being held over the shoulder — back strain potential and trip hazard when line is under pressure. This is high risk.
- There appear to be controls on the hose on the wall. This means they are not with the operator, so the operator is not able to stop the process, if required.

- There are multiple hoses under legs — trip hazards. This is high risk.
- The air line is wrapped around feet and equipment — trip hazard and air line could be pinched and restrict movement. This is high risk.
- The safety strap on the black hose is not positioned correctly, and the pins are not in place, so there is no positive lock. This is high risk.

The worksite

- There’s an open beverage container on the floor — poison hazard, trip hazard.
- Door is open — hazard to other employees from flying material and dust and there’s a possibility of contamination of the pallet materials.
- Gloves are lightweight — incorrect PPE for the job. ☹️

Proposed changes to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation include clarifications on personal flotation devices.



Proposed regulatory changes to blasting and commercial fishing

By Lynn Welburn

WorkSafeBC's Policy, Regulation and Research Division is seeking feedback on proposed amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.

The consultation phase runs until Friday, June 1, 2018, and offers stakeholders a chance to provide feedback before the proposed amendments go to a public hearing in the fall of 2018. Under review, are two regulatory-amendment packages, including multiple sections of Part 21, Blasting Operations, as well as new sections of Part 24, Diving, Fishing and Other Marine Operations.

What are the proposed amendments for blasting operations?

Proposed amendments to Part 21 include updated definitions to reflect technological and product innovations not currently addressed in the Regulation, such as the safe use of electronic detonators.

Blasting operations

Proposed changes to Part 21 add new terminology in Section 21.1, such as “electric detonator,” “electric

igniter,” “electronic detonator,” “initiating device,” and “radio frequency transmitter.” Electronic detonators are relatively new technologies, and they are less susceptible to premature detonation from sources, such as stray current and radio-frequency energy, than previous technologies. The intent of the change is to recognize new technology and clarify to the blasting requirements in Part 21, including misfire wait periods for these new systems. There are also proposed changes to the definitions for “misfire” and “shunt”, to provide additional clarity to the blasting requirements.

Electrical initiation

Section 21.58 proposes to extend current precautions to be taken to prevent the premature detonation of electric detonators from sources of electricity, to include newer electronic detonators and electric igniters. It will also change the term “detonation” to “initiation” to better reflect the broader range of products that are currently being used.

Returning to the blast site

There are a variety of term and definition changes proposed in Sections 21.71 to 21.73, to bring them into line with new materials being used. As well, the

proposed amendments set out new misfire periods for different types of systems.

What are the proposed amendments for diving, fishing, and other marine operations?

Proposed changes to Part 24 bring regulations in sync with international safety requirements and create more specific and consistent regulations with regard to personal safety gear.

Fishing operations

Proposed changes to Part 24 require workers on fishing vessels to wear a personal flotation device or lifejacket even when the vessel has a guardrail. Workers in the commercial fishing industry are at risk of drowning even when the vessel has a guardrail since vessels can pitch, heave, roll over or sink with little or no warning. Amendments to definitions in Section 24.1 for such terms as “lifejacket,” “personal flotation device,” and “working alone” are proposed to provide specific requirements for the use of these devices for

the industry and bring standards into line with federal regulations.

Personal flotation devices (PFDs) and lifejackets

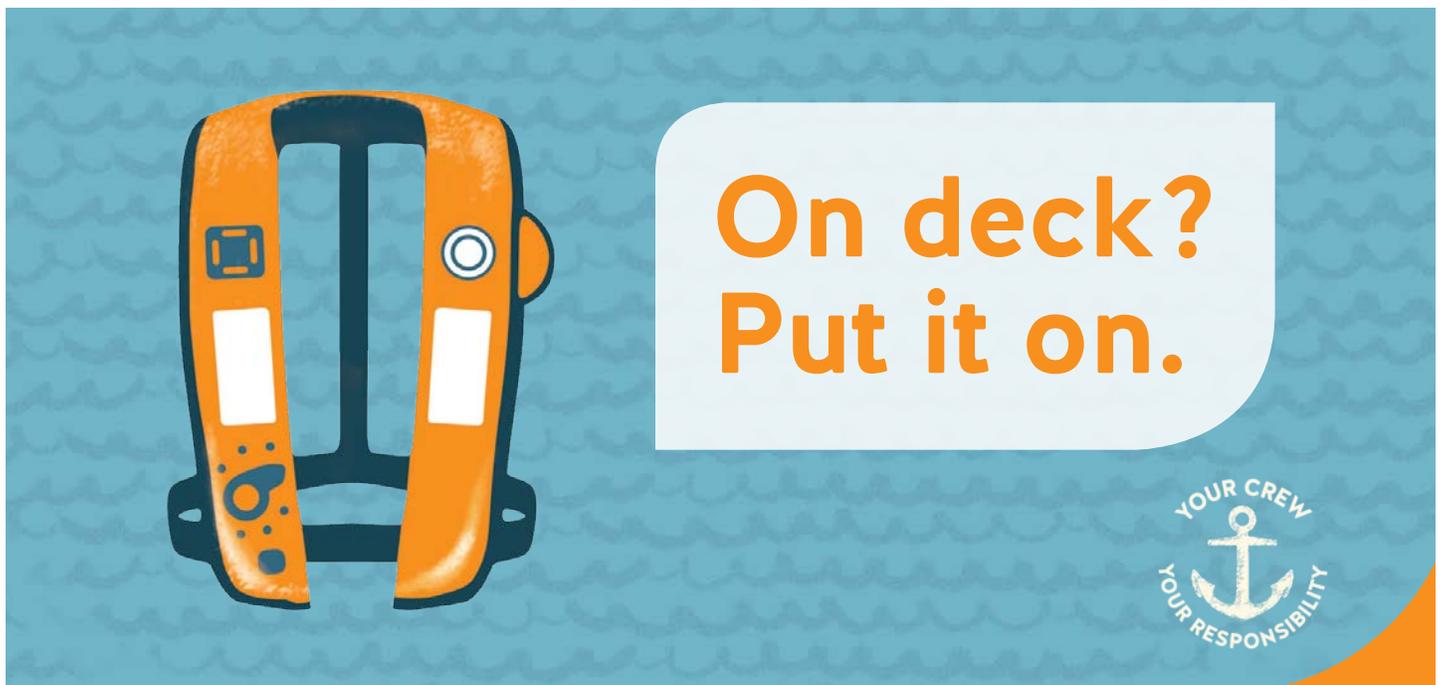
These proposed changes will apply to commercial fishing vessels. In Sections 24.69 to 24.96, changes will set out all the instances when PFDs, lifejackets, and other such devices must be worn. The changes will also cover the standards that the devices must meet and the requirements for inspection and maintenance.

Where can I get more information on these proposed changes?

Full details on all proposed regulatory changes can be found by searching for “proposed regulatory amendments” on worksafebc.com.

What happens next?

If you miss your chance to submit your changes by June 1, these changes will come up for a public hearing in the fall of 2018. The date of the hearing will be posted on the Public Hearings and Consultations page of worksafebc.com. ☺



On deck?
Put it on.

YOUR CREW
YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

As the skipper, it's your responsibility to make sure everyone on deck wears a PFD — including you. Visit worksafebc.com/fishing.

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Construction

1023239 B.C. Ltd. | \$2,500 | Port Coquitlam | January 25, 2017

WorkSafeBC observed one of this firm's workers at the edge of the second level of a house under construction. The worker was using a pneumatic nail gun to attach plywood material. The worker was not using a personal fall protection system and no other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the worker 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.

1072435 B.C. Ltd. / Critical Path Contracting | \$2,500 | Esquimalt | April 9, 2018

This firm was working on the construction of a new multi-storey commercial and residential building. WorkSafeBC observed two of the firm's workers near the leading edge of the sixth floor at a height of about 15.2 m (50 ft.). No guardrails or other forms of fall protection were in place. 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.

1090580 B.C. Ltd. / MacLennan Construction | \$2,500 | Parksville | September 14, 2017

This firm was renovating a pre-1990 house. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed stucco debris, a potential asbestos-containing material (ACM), around the perimeter of the house. A hazardous materials survey had not been performed for the site prior to work beginning. WorkSafeBC issued a stop-work order. The firm failed to have a qualified person inspect the worksite to identify hazardous materials before renovation work began, a high-risk violation.

AA Insulation Depot Ltd. | \$98,670 | New Westminster | March 26, 2018

WorkSafeBC observed two of this firm's workers in the process of shipping drywall debris via pickup truck to a recycling depot for disposal. The recycling depot did not accept asbestos-containing materials (ACMs). The firm had provided its workers and the recycling firm with documentation stating the drywall was free of asbestos, but testing later carried out on bags of drywall in the truck confirmed the presence of ACMs. In addition, samples obtained from the seat of the truck cab tested positive for asbestos fibres and WorkSafeBC observed white powder consistent with drywall dust on the clothing of both workers. Further, WorkSafeBC observed that the workers were not using personal protective equipment as a means of preventing their exposure to asbestos. The firm's failure to ensure the health and safety of its workers was a repeated and high-risk violation.

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. Find it easily by entering the word "penalties" into our search bar.

Ansan Industries Ltd. / Ansan Traffic Management & Lane Closure | \$72,532.27 | Langley | January 31, 2018

WorkSafeBC inspected three worksites where this firm was providing traffic control services and observed several safety violations: Signage, traffic delineator devices, and taper zones were absent or were not set up at the correct distances from work zones. Single traffic control persons (TCPs) were working in zones where two TCPs were required, and TCPs were working in locations without adequate escape routes. The firm failed to ensure that traffic control equipment, arrangements, and procedures met regulatory requirements, a repeated and high-risk violation.

Apolla Demolition & Excavating Ltd. | \$1,522.73 | Coquitlam | January 24, 2018

This firm was excavating the foundations for two new multi-family buildings. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed two bulk excavations. The excavations were adjacent to structures including a concrete retaining wall, a chain-link fence, a paved driveway, and temporary power poles and wires. No written instructions were available on site. WorkSafeBC issued a stop-work order. The firm failed to ensure that excavation work adjacent to existing structures was done in accordance with the written instructions of a qualified registered professional.

Aquaguard Roofing Ltd. | \$5,000 | Langley | January 18, 2018

This firm was working on a two-storey house under construction. During an inspection, WorkSafeBC observed a worker on the 10:12 sloped section of the roof. The worker, who was in view of a representative of the firm, then moved to the 6:12 sloped section of the roof. The worker was not using a personal fall protection system and no other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the worker to fall risks of about 6.1 m (20 ft.) to 10.7 m (35 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

Armstrong Roofing Ltd. | \$2,500 | Three Valley Gap | January 8, 2018

WorkSafeBC observed two workers, one a representative of the firm, installing asphalt shingles on the 5:12 sloped roof over a gate at a property's entrance. The workers were not using personal fall protection systems and no other form of fall protection was available, exposing the workers to a fall risk of about 4.9 m (16 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

Arrow Enviro Inc. | \$2,500 | Burnaby | January 3, 2018

This firm conducted pre-demolition asbestos abatement for a house. The firm had issued a clearance letter indicating all identified asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) had been removed, and the house was demolished. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed workers from the demolition firm handling drywall debris, an identified ACM, without any personal protection. WorkSafeBC issued a stop-work order. A risk assessment conducted later confirmed the presence of ACM in the building debris, including drywall and chimney mastic. The firm failed to safely contain or remove all ACMs, a repeated violation, and failed to have a qualified person ensure that ACMs were safely contained or removed. These were both high-risk violations.

Barnes Concrete Forming Ltd. | \$3,054.26 | Nanaimo | March 5, 2018

This firm was providing concrete forming services at a construction site. The firm's workers had been conducting work inside an excavation more than 1.2 m (4 ft.) deep with unsupported, near-vertical sides. WorkSafeBC determined that an engineering report created for the excavation had not been reviewed prior to worker entry and had indicated sections of the excavation were unsafe for worker entry. The firm's failure to ensure the sides of the excavation were sloped, benched, or supported as required before workers entered it was a repeated and high-risk violation.

Breukelman Construction Ltd. | \$1,286.54 | Chilliwack | October 26, 2017

This firm had loaned out a mobile lift it owns for another firm to use. On the date of WorkSafeBC's inspection, the equipment was being used by a worker (of the other firm) to perform work at heights on the exterior of a structure. The lift had been neither inspected nor certified by a professional engineer or the manufacturer within the previous 12 months as complying with regulations or being safe for use. In addition, the firm had not provided the required

Penalties (continued)

inspection, maintenance, repair, or modification documentation with the lift. The firm failed to meet requirements for inspecting a mobile lift and maintaining its records. Both were repeated violations.

Bronte Heights Development Ltd | \$3,250 | Victoria | March 5, 2018

This firm was building a three-storey apartment complex. During an inspection, WorkSafeBC observed a number of unsafe work practices, including one of the firm's workers using an unguarded stairway to carry and unload garbage 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 about 3.4 to 3.7 m (11 to 12 ft.). In addition, a ladder was set up to access the roof near an unguarded window opening, exposing workers to the risk of falling 6.1 m (20 ft.). Other deficiencies were observed on site relating to fall protection, as well as to personal protective equipment and safeguarding of equipment. As qualified coordinator for the jobsite, the firm failed to ensure that hazards were addressed, a repeated violation. As well, the firm failed to ensure the use of fall protection, a repeated and high-risk violation, and failed to ensure guardrails were installed to protect workers, a high-risk violation. Further, the firm is being penalized for failing to ensure continuous handrails were installed on stairs as required.

Candel Custom Homes Ltd. | \$2,693.30 | Kelowna | February 28, 2018

This firm was framing a new two-storey house. WorkSafeBC observed two workers near the edge of the second-floor level at a height of about 4.3 m (14 ft.). Neither worker was using a personal fall protection system, and no guardrails or other form of fall protection was in place. The firm's failure to ensure fall protection was used was a repeated and high-risk violation.

Cedar Grove Framing Corp. | \$7,944.63 | Parksville | January 16, 2018

This firm was framing a new house. WorkSafeBC observed three workers on the top plate of the house. 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 fall risks of about 3.2 m (10.5 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

Choice Concrete Ltd. | \$2,500 | Coquitlam | February 15, 2018

This firm was working on the construction of two houses. WorkSafeBC observed workers on the top plate of concrete forms of one of the houses at a height of 3.8 m (12.5 ft.). No temporary platforms, guardrails, or fall protection systems were in place. WorkSafeBC also observed that access to the work area was via an unsecured job-built ladder that was shorter than required. No other means of worker access was available. The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a high-risk violation. The firm also failed to provide suitable ladders, work platforms, or scaffolds for work done at elevation. These were both repeated violations.

CM Environmental Inc. | \$7,265.60 | Vancouver | January 4, 2018

This firm was conducting high-risk asbestos abatement in a two-storey house slated for demolition. WorkSafeBC inspected the worksite while abatement work was underway. The building containment had openings in several locations. The firm failed to ensure that windows and doors were adequately secured to prevent the release of asbestos fibres into other work areas, a repeated and high-risk violation.

Coast BC Hazmat Inspections Inc. | \$3,710.97 | Vancouver/Surrey | March 22, 2018

This firm conducts hazardous materials surveys. WorkSafeBC inspected four of the firm's worksites and observed a number of potential asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) that had not been adequately sampled. In addition, locations where samples had been taken had not been sealed and debris had not been cleaned up. Further, hazardous materials reports this firm had provided to demolition firms were found to contain inaccurate information about the location and nature of ACMs. Overall, the firm failed during its inspections to ensure representative samples of all potentially hazardous materials were collected. This was a repeated violation.

Crown Isle Homes Ltd. | \$5,153.33 | Courtenay | January 16, 2018

This firm was prime contractor for a house construction. WorkSafeBC observed three workers from another employer inside an unsupported excavation with depths of about 1.8 m (6 ft.). As prime contractor, the firm failed to ensure that the sides of the excavation were sloped, benched, shored, or supported as required before permitting workers to enter the excavation. This was a high-risk violation.

Crystal View Developments Inc. | \$2,500 | Burnaby | December 4, 2017

This firm was the prime contractor for the construction of a commercial-residential building. Workers from a framing subcontractor were disposing waste material by throwing it off the roof level. A worker from a concrete forming subcontractor was struck in the head by a piece of plywood sheeting that had been disposed of from above, and the worker sustained injuries. When WorkSafeBC attended the worksite 40 minutes after the incident, the injured worker had not yet received first aid treatment. The first aid attendant who arrived later, a supervisor from the prime contractor's firm, was unable to produce first aid certification. WorkSafeBC determined that the firm had not updated its emergency preparedness risk assessment to reflect the size of the worksite and the first aid personnel and equipment required. Further, the firm had not coordinated the health and safety-related activities of subcontracting firms at the worksite, and had not provided a materials chute and control zone to ensure the safe disposal of materials. As prime contractor, the firm failed to do everything reasonably practicable to establish and maintain a system for ensuring compliance with the *Workers Compensation Act* and the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, a repeated and high-risk violation.

Daniel Holdsworth & Shelly Holdsworth / Purple Horizon Roofing | \$5,000 | Lake Country | December 14, 2017

This firm was roofing a new two-storey house. WorkSafeBC observed three of the firm's workers applying torch-on roofing materials. None of the workers was using a personal fall protection system and no other form of fall protection was in place. The workers were exposed to a fall risk of about 7.3 m (24 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

Defined Construction Ltd. | \$2,500 | Abbotsford | February 13, 2018

WorkSafeBC observed three of this firm's workers, one of whom was a representative of the firm, on the second floor of a house under construction. No guardrails or other forms of fall protection were in place, exposing the workers to a fall risk of about 4 m (13 ft.). Workers used a ladder to access the second level as no stairway had been built. The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a high-risk violation. The firm also failed to provide workers with a safe way of entering and leaving work areas, and failed to construct a stairway to each floor level before construction of the next floor began. These were all repeated violations.

Dermar Construction Ltd. | \$2,500 | Langford | January 10, 2018

WorkSafeBC observed one of this firm's workers on the roof of a house under construction. The worker was not using a personal fall protection system and 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. The firm also failed to provide its workers with the supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety, a repeated violation.

D & G Hazmat Services Ltd. | \$6,375.28 | Maple Ridge | March 23, 2018

This firm was conducting asbestos abatement activities at a single-storey house slated for demolition. WorkSafeBC observed two of the firm's workers, one of them a supervisor, exiting the decontamination area in street clothes potentially contaminated with asbestos-containing materials (ACMs). The workers had just completed removal of textured ceiling coat, a confirmed ACM, but the negative air unit was not operating. The firm failed to take the necessary precautions to protect workers before allowing work that would disturb ACMs, a repeated and high-risk violation.

Penalties (continued)

Dusko Steta | \$2,500 | Kelowna | March 29, 2018

WorkSafeBC observed two of this firm's workers working on the balcony of a house under construction. Neither worker was using a personal fall protection system and no other form of fall protection was in place. The workers were exposed to risk of falling 4.9 m (16 ft.). In addition, the workers were standing on the top cap of a stepladder in order to access the balcony, since the ladder did not extend past the balcony's edge. The firm failed to ensure the ladder was used in accordance with required safety standards. Further, the firm's failure to ensure the use of fall protection was a repeated and high-risk violation.

Expert Hazmat Ltd. | \$2,500 | Surrey | February 26, 2018

This firm was conducting asbestos abatement activities on a single-storey house slated for demolition. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed one of the firm's workers, a supervisor, receiving a delivery of supplies. Three other workers were inside the containment area removing vermiculite insulation, an identified asbestos-containing material (ACM). WorkSafeBC observed the three workers emerging from the decontamination room wearing street clothes potentially contaminated with ACMs. The firm failed to ensure that it followed procedures for handling ACMs to prevent or minimize the release of airborne asbestos fibres, a high-risk violation. The firm's failure to provide its workers with the necessary information, instruction, training, and supervision to ensure their health and safety was a repeated violation.

Focus Roofing and Sheet Metal Ltd. | \$2,500 | Chase | December 18, 2017

This firm was shingling the roof of a two-storey house under construction. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed six workers, including a representative of the firm, on various levels of the 5:12 sloped roof. Four of the workers were wearing fall protection harnesses but were not connected to lifelines. The other two workers were not using personal fall protection systems. No other form of fall protection was available, exposing the workers to fall risks of 3.4 m (11 ft.) to greater than 6.1 m (20 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a high-risk violation. Further, the firm failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety.

Golden Eagle Constructions Ltd. | \$2,500 | Mission | February 5, 2018

WorkSafeBC inspected a worksite where this firm was installing plywood sheathing as part of the construction of a new home. WorkSafeBC issued the firm an order to submit a notice of compliance (NOC) to show that it was providing its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety, specifically related to the use of fall protection. After multiple follow-up communications, the firm had not submitted an NOC. The firm is being penalized for failing to comply with a WorkSafeBC order.

Harsent Construction Group Ltd. | \$2,500 | Vancouver | February 15, 2018

This firm was the prime contractor at a house renovation worksite. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed multiple safety violations. An excavation 2.4 m (8 ft.) deep had unsupported sides, and there was evidence that workers had been working inside the excavation. The house had been raised without following written instructions, leading to the collapse of the concrete foundation. Stucco, a potential asbestos-containing material (ACM), had been disturbed in preparation for house raising, but no hazardous materials survey had been conducted. Concrete foundation had been cut but no exposure control plan for crystalline silica was in place, and no engineering controls or respirators had been used. WorkSafeBC issued stop-work orders for demolition and house-raising activities. As prime contractor, the firm failed to coordinate the work of all workers on site, and failed to do everything reasonably practicable to establish and maintain a system for ensuring compliance with the *Workers Compensation Act* and the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation. This was a high-risk violation.

Hi-Fi Construction Ltd. | \$5,000 | Richmond | March 19, 2018

WorkSafeBC observed two of this firm's workers, one of them a representative of the firm, installing truss components on a two-storey house under construction. The workers were standing on the exterior top wall plates and neither of them was using a personal fall protection system. No other form of fall protection was in place,

exposing them to a risk of falling about 6.1 m (20 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

Hi-Fi Framing Ltd. | \$2,626.74 | Richmond | March 5, 2018

This firm was framing a two-storey house. WorkSafeBC observed a worker on a 6:12 sloped section of the roof using a nail gun. The worker was not using a personal fall protection system and was working in view of a supervisor. No other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the worker to a risk of falling 7.9 m (26 ft.). The firm's failure to ensure fall protection was used was 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, a repeated violation.

High Class Roofing Ltd. | \$2,500 | Delta | January 24, 2018

This firm was roofing a new house. WorkSafeBC observed three workers, one of whom was a representative of the firm, applying asphalt shingles to the 8:12 sloped roof. All three workers were wearing fall protection harnesses but only one was connected to a lifeline. No other form of fall protection was in place, and the workers were exposed to fall risks of about 8.8 to 10 m (29 to 33 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

High Point Roofing Ltd. | \$2,500 | North Vancouver | February 26, 2018

This firm was repairing a building's roof. WorkSafeBC observed one worker on a parapet wall near the edge of the roof, and another worker throwing debris into a bin from the edge of the roof. The firm stated that it was using a control zone and safety monitor system for fall protection, but this method was not the safest option for the work being performed at this worksite. No other form of fall protection was in place. The workers, who were in view of a representative of the firm, were exposed to fall risks of between 7.6 and 12.2 m (25 and 40 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.

Honghot Enterprises Inc. | \$1,250 | Richmond | February 1, 2018

This firm was conducting asbestos abatement at a house slated for demolition. The firm issued a clearance letter for the site. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed that textured ceiling coat, a confirmed asbestos-containing material (ACM), was still present in the house on door casings and in debris on the floor. WorkSafeBC issued a stop-work order. The firm failed to safely remove or contain hazardous materials, and failed to have a qualified person confirm the safe removal of those materials. These were repeated violations.

Ifat Hamid / IS Environmental | \$1,250 | Vancouver | January 24, 2018

This firm was providing asbestos abatement services for a two-storey house slated for demolition. WorkSafeBC received a post-abatement clearance letter from the firm stating that all identified asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) had been removed. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed evidence of ACMs present throughout the building, including insulation debris and drywall joint compound. Surfaces had not been HEPA vacuumed and wiped down as required, and a plastic sheet used for containment was still in place. The firm failed to safely contain and remove hazardous materials, and failed to have a qualified person confirm that the hazardous materials were safely contained or removed. These were repeated violations.

Ifat Hamid / IS Environmental | \$5,000 | Burnaby | January 25, 2018

This firm was conducting pre-demolition asbestos abatement on a house. WorkSafeBC inspected the site while abatement work was underway. WorkSafeBC observed that not all of the building's exterior vents, windows, and mail slots had been sealed to direct the flow of air to the negative air unit. While inspecting inside the building, WorkSafeBC observed that no facilities were available for worker decontamination. Further, used protective suits were discarded near where workers were exiting the building, no poly sheeting was installed on the floor, and waste bags of asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) were piled in an unsealed room. WorkSafeBC also determined that

Penalties (continued)

power was still connected to the building and had not been locked out. WorkSafeBC issued a stop-work order. The firm failed to safely contain or remove hazardous materials, a repeated and high-risk violation. Further, the firm failed to provide workers with adequate wash facilities, and to isolate and effectively control energy sources.

IG Roofing Ltd. | \$5,000 | Abbotsford | November 28, 2017

This firm was installing the roof on a two-storey house under construction. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed a worker on the 10:12 sloped roof. The worker was not using a personal fall protection system and no other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the worker to a fall risk of about 7.9 m (26 ft.). The firm failed to ensure that a fall protection system was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

Jasgur Construction Inc. | \$1,250 | Surrey | January 17, 2018

WorkSafeBC issued an order to this firm to submit a written notice of compliance to indicate how it was providing adequate instruction, training, and supervision of its workers. After several follow-up communications, the firm had not complied with this order. The firm is being penalized for failing to comply with a WorkSafeBC order within a reasonable time.

Karnak Productions Inc. / Pro Builders | \$6,891.13 | North Vancouver | March 5, 2018

WorkSafeBC inspected this worksite in response to a workplace incident. At the time of the incident, two of this firm's workers, one of them a site supervisor, were sheathing the roof of a new two-storey house. One of the workers was lying down, holding a sheet of plywood with one hand and braced against the roof with one foot. The worker slipped and fell 5.5 m (18 ft.) to the ground, sustaining serious injuries. WorkSafeBC's investigation determined that neither worker had been using a personal fall protection system, and that no other form of fall protection had been in place. The firm's failure to use fall protection was 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.

Koson Exterior Services Inc. | \$2,500 | Victoria | February 28, 2018

A WorkSafeBC officer visited this firm's worksite as a follow-up to a previous inspection. During the visit, a representative of the firm became verbally abusive and threatening toward the officer, and the officer was unable to complete the inspection. The firm is being penalized for hindering, obstructing, or interfering with officers in the performance of their functions and duties under the *Workers Compensation Act*.

Low Cost Roofing 2001 Ltd. | \$5,000 | Burnaby | January 19, 2018

This firm was roofing a new house. WorkSafeBC observed two workers near the edge of the second-storey roof. Neither worker was using a personal fall protection system and no other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the workers to fall risks of about 6.1 m (20 ft.). The firm's failure to ensure fall protection was used was a repeated and high-risk violation.

Marc Harding / Image Pro Exterior Contracting Co. | \$1,250 | Victoria | February 2, 2018

WorkSafeBC observed two of this firm's workers, one of whom was a representative of the firm, installing an access frame scaffolding system at a commercial construction site. The scaffold was missing some interior cross-bracing and scaffold pins to lock the frames together. No technical data from the manufacturer, or in writing by a professional engineer, was available on site in respect of the scaffold. The data was required to show the rated load, erection procedures, and compliance with an applicable standard. The firm's failure to ensure that this data was available at the workplace for reference was a repeated violation.

Milne Roofing Ltd. | \$6,836.15 | Nanaimo | March 5, 2018

This firm was roofing a house under construction. A WorkSafeBC inspection found four of this firm's workers preparing to load shingles from a roofing supplier. The workers had been accessing the roof via a portable ladder. The top and base of the ladder were unsecured, and its height did not extend the necessary 0.9 m (3 ft.) past the

workers' point of access on the roof. The firm failed to ensure ladders provided safe access to elevated work areas, a repeated violation.

Min Environmental Services Ltd. / Hazardous Abatement | \$2,500 | Maple Ridge | November 23, 2017

WorkSafeBC inspected a site where this firm was conducting pre-demolition asbestos abatement work at a one-storey house. This firm failed to ensure that its on-site decontamination facility included a shower, and that air flowed from clean outside areas into the contaminated area, both high-risk violations. The firm also failed to ensure its procedures for controlling and handling asbestos were in accordance with acceptable standards, a repeated and high-risk violation.

M K Construction Ltd. | \$2,500 | Coquitlam | January 4, 2018

This firm was framing a new two-storey house. WorkSafeBC observed one worker, a representative of the firm, near the edge of the roof. The worker was not using a personal fall protection system, and no other form of fall protection was in place. The worker was exposed to fall risks of 3 to 3.7 m (10 to 12 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

Modern Touch Construction Ltd. | \$20,000 | Burnaby | February 28, 2018

This firm was framing a two-storey house. WorkSafeBC observed two of the firm's workers, one of them a representative of the firm, sheathing the second-storey roof. Neither of the workers was using a personal fall protection system and no other form of fall protection was in place. The workers were exposed to a risk of falling at least 4.3 m (14 ft.). The firm's failure to ensure fall protection was used was a repeated and high-risk violation.

Navco Construction Corp. | \$9,767.26 | Vancouver | February 2, 2018

This firm was re-roofing a house. WorkSafeBC observed three workers on the 5:12 sloped roof. The workers were wearing fall protection harnesses but were not connected to lifelines, exposing the workers to a fall risk of 3.7 m (12 ft.). No supervisor was on site at the time of inspection. 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, a repeated violation.



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Penalties (continued)

N D Homes Ltd. | \$1,250 | Maple Ridge | March 28, 2018

This firm was the prime contractor for the construction of a residential complex. Over multiple inspections, WorkSafeBC observed a number of safety violations. As prime contractor of a multi-employer worksite, the firm failed to do everything reasonably practicable to establish and maintain a safe and healthy workplace for its workers; failed to conduct a workplace health and safety assessment; and failed to establish and maintain first aid equipment, facilities, and services. These were repeated violations. Further, the firm failed to provide WorkSafeBC with a timely notice of project (NOP), to ensure that a qualified coordinator informed employers and workers of hazards created on the worksite, and to post a site drawing outlining first aid and emergency procedures.

North Shore Home Services Ltd. | \$1,250 | West Vancouver | February 28, 2018

WorkSafeBC inspected this firm's worksite in response to an incident where a worker was seriously injured. The worker, who was new on the job, set up an extension ladder to clean gutters at a residence. The worker fell about 3.5 m (11.25 ft.) to grade, striking a vehicle in the fall. WorkSafeBC determined that the worker had not received orientation and training in safe ladder use or other hazards of the job. The firm failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety, a repeated violation. The firm also failed to include the required components in its new worker orientation and training.

Parastone Developments Ltd. | \$2,500 | Fernie | December 7, 2017

This firm was working on a two-storey house under construction. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed two workers securing wall trusses while standing on the top wall plate of the second floor. 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 to 9.1 m (23 to 30 ft.). Both workers were in the line of sight of a representative of the firm. The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a high-risk violation. Further, it failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety.

Patricia Robillard & Jami Witso / Aardvark Roofing | \$5,000 | Prince George | January 16, 2018

WorkSafeBC inspected the site of a new single-storey recreation centre. WorkSafeBC observed four workers, including a representative of the firm, on the sloped roof installing asphalt shingles. 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 greater than 3.7 m (12 ft.). The firm's failure to ensure fall protection was used was a high-risk violation. Further, WorkSafeBC observed that the firm failed to ensure the ladder used to access the roof projected at least 1 m (3 ft.) above the upper landing as required, and was not sufficiently secured in place. These were both repeated violations.

Paul Cubbon / Straitline Construction | \$2,500 | Victoria | January 8, 2018

WorkSafeBC inspected the site of this two-storey house under construction and observed a worker, who was also a supervisor, working at the peak of the 5:12 sloped roof. The worker was wearing a fall protection harness but was not connected to a lifeline, and no other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the worker to fall risks of 6.1 to 7.6 m (20 to 25 ft.). WorkSafeBC observed another worker, who was also a representative of the firm, standing on the top rung of a ladder, contrary to safe work requirements. The firm's failure to ensure fall protection was used was a high-risk violation. The firm also failed to ensure ladders were used in accordance with acceptable standards. Further, the firm failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety.

Peterson Contracting Ltd. | \$50,721.80 | Williams Lake | February 19, 2018

WorkSafeBC investigated an incident involving this firm. A front-end loader struck the anchor cable for a utility pole with overhead guywires. When the anchor cable was struck, the utility pole broke in half, causing the overhead guywires to fall across the highway. As the firm's workers dragged the loose guywires to the opposite side of the highway, the wires contacted the overhead energized high-voltage power lines. The firm failed to ensure workers maintained a safe clearance distance from the exposed electrical equipment, a high-risk violation. The firm also

failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision to ensure their health and safety, a repeated violation.

Portico Developments Ltd. | \$1,250.00 | Nanaimo | March 23, 2018

This firm was the prime contractor at a multi-building construction site. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed that no notice of project (NOP) was available for the site. In addition, no site orientation records were available, and no site drawings had been posted to show first aid locations and emergency transportation and evacuation provisions. As prime contractor, the firm failed to do everything reasonably practicable to establish and maintain a system for ensuring compliance with the *Workers Compensation Act* and the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation. This was a repeated violation. The firm also failed to ensure that an NOP was posted at the worksite.

Royalcastle Constructions Ltd. | \$5,000 | Delta | March 15, 2018

This firm was framing a two-storey house. WorkSafeBC observed two of the firm's workers leaning outside the building on the second floor, while standing on the top plate of the first floor exterior 2x6 wall, installing sub-fascia with a pneumatic nail gun. Neither of the workers was using a personal fall protection system, and no other form of fall protection was in place. They were exposed to the risk of falling more than 5.2 m (17 ft.). WorkSafeBC issued a stop-work order. The firm's failure to ensure fall protection was used was a repeated and high-risk violation.

Royal Stucco Limited | \$2,500 | Burnaby | March 9, 2018

This firm was installing stucco coating to the exterior of a two-storey house under construction. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed deficiencies related to an unsafe ladder, non-compliant scaffolding, and work at elevations. A stop-use order was issued for the ladder and a stop-work order was issued for work over 3 m (10 ft.) and the non-compliant scaffolding. At a follow-up inspection, WorkSafeBC observed that the stop-use and stop-work order placards were no longer posted. Stucco work had been completed at heights of 4 to 5.5 m (13 to 18 ft.) and the scaffolding in these areas had been disassembled. Further, the remaining scaffolding was still non-compliant and there was



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Penalties (continued)

evidence that the ladder had been used, contrary to the stop-use order. This firm is being penalized for failing to comply with WorkSafeBC orders.

Ryan Allen / Ryan Allen Construction | \$2,500 | Revelstoke | November 23, 2017

WorkSafeBC observed one of this firm's workers installing sheathing on a 7:12 sloped roof. The worker was not using a personal fall protection system and no other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the worker to a fall risk of about 6.1 to 6.4 m (20 to 21 ft.). A representative of the firm was on site at the time of the inspection. 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.

Sian Development and Contracting Ltd. | \$1,250 | Burnaby | December 18, 2017

This firm was the prime contractor on a multi-employer site where a townhouse complex was under construction. WorkSafeBC observed workers applying spray foam insulation at the site. Other workers were observed performing silica-producing work activities, such as using a wet saw to cut blocks for a block wall and installing cement board siding. No exposure control plans had been implemented for these activities, though required. WorkSafeBC also determined the firm was not conducting regular workplace inspections. The firm failed to do everything reasonably practicable to establish and maintain a system for ensuring compliance with the *Workers Compensation Act* and the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation. This was a repeated violation.

Sipos Contracting Ltd. | \$2,500 | Kelowna | January 4, 2018

This firm was framing a new two-storey house. WorkSafeBC observed one of the firm's workers handling sheathing on the roof. The worker was wearing a fall protection harness but was not connected to a lifeline, and no other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the worker to a fall risk of over 7.6 m (25 ft.). No supervisor was on site, and no written fall protection plan was available. 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.

Skytech Enterprises Inc. | \$2,500 | Victoria | March 12, 2018

WorkSafeBC inspected this firm's worksite, a two-storey house under construction, in response to a workplace incident. One of the firm's workers had climbed onto the roof and slipped and fallen while trying to connect to an installed lifeline. The worker had landed onto an un-sheeted deck, sustaining injuries. WorkSafeBC found that the firm's fall protection systems had not been installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and generally accepted practices. The firm's failure to ensure its workers were adequately instructed in fall protection systems and procedures prior to being exposed to fall risks was a high-risk violation. The firm also failed to ensure its fall protection equipment met applicable safety standards and that its fall arrest anchors could sustain the required load. Further, the firm failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety, a repeated violation.

Space Framing Ltd. | \$2,500 | Surrey | December 19, 2017

This firm was framing a new three-storey house. WorkSafeBC observed two workers standing on a wooden scaffold at a height of about 4.3 m (14.25 feet). Neither worker was using a personal fall protection system, and no guardrails or other form of fall protection was in place. The firm's failure to ensure fall protection was used was a repeated and high-risk violation.

Sun City Framing Ltd. | \$2,500 | Abbotsford | February 26, 2018

This firm was framing a two-storey house under construction. WorkSafeBC determined that workers had been working on the second level at a height of 4 m (13 ft.) with no system of fall protection in place. WorkSafeBC issued a stop-work order. Subsequently, during a follow-up inspection on the same worksite, WorkSafeBC observed a worker of the firm performing work on the second level without any system of fall protection in place. The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

Super Star Roofing Ltd. | \$2,500 | Abbotsford | December 22, 2017

This firm was re-roofing a house. WorkSafeBC observed two workers on the roof. Neither worker was using a personal fall protection system, and no other form of fall protection was in place. The workers were exposed to fall risks about 4.6 to 7 m (15 to 23 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

Tak Hoi Construction Ltd. | \$2,500 | Vancouver | January 16, 2018

WorkSafeBC inspected a new two-storey house under construction where this firm was performing framing activities. WorkSafeBC observed a worker, who was also a supervisor, standing on the top plate of an exterior, second-floor wall. The worker was not using a personal fall protection system and no other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the worker to a fall risk of 8.5 m (28 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a high-risk violation. Further, the firm failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety. Both of these were repeated violations.

Team Asbestos Ltd. / Enviroworx Ltd. | \$5,000 | West Vancouver | January 29, 2018

WorkSafeBC inspected a house where this firm was performing asbestos abatement work and observed several safety violations. Used protective suits were piled in the clean room of the decontamination unit and no water was going into the unit. Further, poly sheeting in an upper window was falling out, creating a large breach in the containment, and no negative air unit exhausts were visible. Three workers, including a representative of the firm, were inside the building removing drywall, an identified asbestos-containing material (ACM). WorkSafeBC observed one of the workers walk through the decontamination unit, then partially exit the clean room without decontaminating. Deficiencies with the workers' respirators were also observed, including damaged and missing parts. 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. Further, the firm failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety, a repeated violation.

Thomas John Williams / Aerial Roofing | \$6,454.96 | Colwood | January 10, 2018

This firm was working on two new three-level apartment buildings. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed two workers conducting torch-on roofing activities within two feet of the edge of the flat roof. The firm stated that it was using a control zone and safety monitor system for fall protection, but the designated safety monitor was not present. A raised warning line had been erected in the safety monitor's absence but both workers were outside the line at the time of the inspection. The workers were not using personal fall protection systems and no other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the workers to a risk of falling about 12.2 m (40 ft.). The firm's failure to ensure a fall restraint system was used was a high-risk violation. The firm also failed to ensure its workers complied



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Penalties (continued)

with the *Workers Compensation Act* and the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation*. Further, the firm failed to provide its workers with the supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety. These were all repeated violations.

T. J. Developments & Roofing Ltd. | \$6,182.32 | Nakusp | February 28, 2018

This firm was re-roofing a two-storey house. WorkSafeBC observed six of this firm's workers removing and installing sheathing on the roof. None of the workers was using a personal fall protection system and no other form of fall protection was in place. They were exposed to a risk of falling between 3.2 and 4.9 m (10.5 and 16 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

Toms Roofing Ltd. | \$1,250 | Surrey | March 20, 2018

This firm provides roofing work. WorkSafeBC ordered the firm to submit a notice of compliance (NOC) report detailing how it would ensure its workers were adequately supervised when exposed to fall risks. After multiple follow-up communications, the firm had not provided WorkSafeBC with the NOC report. The firm is being penalized for its failure to comply with a WorkSafeBC order within a reasonable period.

Top Notch Roofing Inc. | \$10,000 | Chilliwack | January 12, 2018

This firm was installing asphalt shingles on the roof of a new two-storey house. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed two workers, one of whom was a supervisor, on the sloped roof. Both workers were wearing fall protection harnesses but were not connected to lifelines. No other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the workers to fall risks of 4.9 m (16 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

Upland Contracting Ltd. | \$4,933.76 | Cumberland | February 7, 2018

This firm was clearing trees from a residential lot. WorkSafeBC observed one worker using an excavator fitted with a bush guard to push over standing trees, contrary to acceptable practice. A second worker was using a power saw to limb, buck, and fall trees. The second worker was not a certified faller, and was working within the fall zone of the work done by the first worker. WorkSafeBC also observed stumps with no holding wood, as well as high and low backcuts, sloping cuts, and unclean undercuts. In addition, no written procedures were in place for falling activities. The firm failed to ensure that sufficient holding wood was maintained, that backcuts were higher than undercuts, and that undercuts were complete and cleared out. These were high-risk violations. The firm also failed to ensure that workers falling trees were qualified to do so, and failed to provide written safe work practices for falling work. Further, the firm failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to perform their work.

Vadym Nesenchuk / Black Diamond Contracting | \$7,500 | Prince George | February 2, 2018

WorkSafeBC inspected a site where this firm was installing siding on a two-storey house under construction. One worker was observed on the unguarded exterior deck of the house at a height of 3.4 m (11 ft.). The worker, who was



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in view of a representative of the firm, was not using a personal fall protection system and no other form of fall protection was available. The representative did not participate in WorkSafeBC's inspection and refused to provide information. The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a high-risk violation. Further, the firm's refusal to provide WorkSafeBC officers with information and its hindrance of officers in the performance of their functions and duties under the *Workers Compensation Act* is a violation.

Vernon Wilfred McLaughlin | \$2,500 | Nanaimo | March 14, 2018

WorkSafeBC observed two of this firm's workers, one of them a representative of the firm, performing siding work on a new two-storey house. The workers were working on an unguarded platform without the use of personal fall protection systems. They gained access to the platform by climbing an unsecured extension ladder, then walking along a sloped roof. A self-supporting ladder was set up on the sloped roof to support the work platform. These activities exposed the workers to a risk of falling up to 5.2 m (17 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used. It also failed to ensure that portable ladders were secured and placed on a firm, level surface. These were high-risk violations.

Western Hazmat & Demolition Inc. | \$2,500 | Williams Lake | December 22, 2017

This firm was conducting pre-demolition asbestos abatement at a multi-family residential building. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed that no signage was present to identify the presence of asbestos-containing materials (ACMs), and no hazardous materials survey was available on site. Uncontained ACM debris was visible inside and outside the building, including directly in the firm's decontamination zone, and there were uncontained holes in textured coated walls and cinderblock walls (both confirmed as ACMs). Workers from a subcontractor's firm observed exiting a containment area were not clean-shaven, which would have compromised the seal of their respirators. The firm failed to ensure hazardous materials, previously identified in a hazardous materials survey, were safely contained and removed, a high-risk violation. The firm also failed to ensure that the hazards associated with the identified ACMs were addressed throughout the duration of the work activities on site.

Manufacturing

Alum-Tek Industries Ltd. | \$65,886.66 | Langley | March 6, 2018

This firm manufactures metal enclosures to house electrical equipment. A WorkSafeBC inspection found the firm contravened a number of health and safety requirements by allowing its workers to spray flammable paint in the main shop area in the presence of potential ignition sources, such as heaters, lighting, electrical panels and receptacles, and extension cords. Two of the portable spray systems they were using lacked proper bonding between the metal paint reservoirs and the rest of the spray system. In addition, three of the firm's workers were found with the seal of their full-face respirators compromised by facial hair. One of the firm's supervisors told WorkSafeBC that the firm had not previously spray-painted in the main shop area, a statement later shown to be false. WorkSafeBC issued a stop-work order. The firm's failure to eliminate or control ignition sources around flammable liquids and its failure to provide adequately bonded spray systems were high-risk violations. The firm also failed to provide its workers with the supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety, a repeated violation. Further, the firm is being penalized for knowingly providing a WorkSafeBC officer with false information.

Progress Energy Canada Ltd. | \$40,328.13 | Wonowan | February 6, 2017

An incident occurred at this firm's worksite, injuring two workers. The firm was required to submit an incident investigation report to WorkSafeBC. The firm requested and was granted an extension beyond the required 30 days to submit the report, but it did not meet the extended deadline. The firm is being penalized for failing to comply with a WorkSafeBC order within a reasonable time.

Punjab Milk Foods Inc. | \$16,975.54 | Surrey | January 4, 2018

This firm operates a food manufacturing facility. A worker in the sanitation department experienced an allergic

Penalties (continued)

reaction to chemical products used on the job and sought medical treatment. WorkSafeBC determined that the firm had not conducted the required preliminary investigation and full investigation in response to the worker's reported condition. The firm failed to conduct an investigation of an incident that resulted in a worker requiring medical treatment. This was a repeated violation.

Skookumchuck Pulp Inc. | \$241,081.27 | Skookumchuck | March 6, 2018

This firm operates a pulp mill. A WorkSafeBC inspection of the mill found accumulations of dust on multiple horizontal surfaces and fixtures in its chip screen building. Dust was in direct contact with potential ignition sources, including electric motors, light fixtures, and conveyor rollers and bearings. WorkSafeBC issued a stop-work order. The firm's failure to control and remove hazardous accumulations of combustible dust was a repeated and high-risk violation.

Uttam Singh Dhaliwal / U.K. Woodworking | \$2,500 | Surrey | January 4, 2018

WorkSafeBC inspected this firm's worksite and observed several toxic and flammable products. No safety data sheets (SDSs) were available for these products. In a spray booth, the cover for a light fixture was cracked and had deteriorated seals. These deficiencies created a potential source of ignition for flammable vapours from the products used in the booth. The firm failed to eliminate or control sources of ignition where flammable products were used, a high-risk violation. The firm also failed to obtain SDSs for hazardous products used at its workplace, a repeated violation.

Primary Resources

Alpine Backhoe Service Ltd. | \$16,062.23 | Sayward | March 1, 2018

This firm was prime contractor for a logging operation. The operation involved a subcontractor performing grapple yarding services in the lower area of the cutblock while two hoe-forwarders, one of them operated by the prime contractor's site supervisor, harvested timber from the ground above. One of the hoe-forwarders released a log. The log slid down the slope and struck a smaller log, which in turn struck and seriously injured a worker from the grapple yarding subcontractor. WorkSafeBC's investigation found the firm had not safely coordinated work procedures and communications between the adjacent logging operations as required. The firm also did not submit a hazard assessment regarding the decision to have hoe-forwarders harvest in the area above the grapple yarding crew. Further, the firm could not provide evidence of regular safety inspections. As prime contractor for the operation, the firm failed to do everything reasonably practicable to establish and maintain a system for ensuring compliance with the *Workers Compensation Act* and the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation. This was a high-risk violation.

D. Nickerson Contractors Ltd. | \$2,500 | Port Alberni | December 22, 2017

WorkSafeBC inspected this firm's cutblock worksite and observed violations related to hand-falling practices. Felled trees had brushed and broken the tops of three other trees. In addition, the firm had used a practice of pusher trees (using one tree to push over another) when it was not required to overcome a specific falling difficulty. The firm failed to prevent felled trees from brushing standing trees, and failed to prevent felled trees from causing partially cut trees to fall in succession. These were high-risk violations.

Gemini Falling Contractors Ltd. | \$3,020.73 | Bamfield | February 13, 2018

This firm's worksite was a forestry cutblock. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed that a hemlock tree 35 m (115 ft.) tall had been felled into standing timber. The hemlock was a dangerous tree with substantial butt and stem rot. As it fell, the tree had brushed another standing tree, breaking off at least three limbs. The firm failed to prevent felled trees from brushing standing trees, and failed to ensure dangerous trees were felled into open areas. These were high-risk violations.

Nabors Drilling Canada Limited | \$15,597.83 | Pink Mountain | February 21, 2018

WorkSafeBC inspected this firm's drilling rig where an oil/gas well had been drilled. The well had the potential for releasing hydrogen sulfide, requiring workers to have respirators in the event of a release. The firm was not able to provide evidence of worker fit-testing for SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) respirators. In addition, WorkSafeBC observed that the guarding on the drilling rig's hoisting drum was not high enough to protect workers from hazardous points of contact. The firm failed to install guards of sufficient height to protect workers, and failed to ensure annual respirator fit tests were carried out. These were repeated and high-risk violations.

Novus Timber Management Ltd. | \$2,500 | Yale | January 18, 2018

This firm was the licensee of a forestry operation. A firm it had hired was yarding trees when a tree being yarded upslope became hung up against a rock outcrop. A section of a stump being used as an anchor for one of the yarder's guylines broke off, and a static (stabilizer) guyline connecting the top of the spar to the yarder then failed. The spar tipped over onto the yarder cab, and the yarder operator inside the cab sustained fatal injuries. WorkSafeBC's investigation found that work activities had not been adequately planned to ensure the health and safety of workers, and that prime contractor duties were not fulfilled at the workplace. As owner of the forestry operation, the firm failed to ensure that all activities of the forestry operation were planned and conducted in a manner consistent with the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation and with safe work practices acceptable to WorkSafeBC. This was a high-risk violation.

Public Sector

District of North Cowichan | \$133,926.39 | Chemainus | January 31, 2018

A worker at this employer's ice arena was clearing ice and slush from the vertical chute of an ice resurfacing machine. The worker's hand contacted a rotating auger, and the worker sustained serious injuries. WorkSafeBC's investigation determined that the equipment was not locked out while maintenance work was done. No written lockout procedures for the ice resurfacing machine were available, and the worker had not been trained in procedures for locking out equipment. The employer failed to ensure that energy sources were locked out on equipment where an unexpected release of energy could cause injury. Further, the employer failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety. These were high-risk violations.

Trade

Park's Bread 'N' Buns Factory Ltd. | \$23,514.92 | Coquitlam | December 14, 2017

WorkSafeBC inspected this firm's worksite and observed several violations related to safeguarding of machinery. A portion of a guard on one pouch-packing machine had been removed, and a second pouch-packing machine had insufficient guarding to prevent workers from accessing areas that presented entanglement and shear hazards. A chocolate-tempering machine was also lacking guards to prevent direct access to rotating mixing blades and a moving auger. The firm failed to ensure machinery was safeguarded to prevent worker contact with hazardous points of operation, a repeated and high-risk violation. The firm also failed to remedy workplace conditions hazardous to worker health and safety.

Yen Bros. Food Service (2011) Ltd. | \$24,847.99 | Vernon | April 11, 2018

This firm operates a food processing facility and warehouse. WorkSafeBC inspected the facility and noted deficiencies in warehouse storage racking equipment, including damaged frame uprights, diagonal braces detached from uprights, vertical columns detached from their base plates, and horizontal beams with permanent deflection. WorkSafeBC issued a stop-use order for the unsafe storage racking. The firm failed to ensure its workplace was planned, constructed, used, and maintained to protect workers from danger, a repeated violation.

Transportation and Warehousing

Nu Life Industries Inc. | \$3,505.73 | Aldergrove | April 6, 2018

WorkSafeBC had issued two orders to this firm. One order required the firm to address deficiencies with its ventilation system for controlling airborne contaminants in a building where a machine was being used to crush fluorescent light tubes. The second order was issued because the firm had not implemented an exposure control plan to reduce the risk of worker exposure to mercury. During a follow-up inspection, WorkSafeBC determined that the firm had not complied with these orders. The firm is being penalized for its failure to comply with orders within a reasonable period, a violation of the *Workers Compensation Act*.

Trevor Bennett Trucking Ltd. | \$2,500 | Coombs | March 5, 2018

WorkSafeBC inspected this worksite in response to a workplace incident. A worker, who was a representative of the firm, was operating a self-loader logging truck to unload logs at a mill. When the worker left the mill, the self-loader was still in the upright position and it came in contact with 25 kV overhead powerlines. The broken power pole, electrical lines, and transformer were pulled onto the truck. WorkSafeBC determined that the firm did not have any procedures in place to ensure that the self-loader was lowered before moving the truck. The firm failed to ensure workers operating moving equipment and their loads maintain the required distance from exposed electrical equipment and conductors while passing under them. This was a high-risk violation.

Service Sector

Agat Laboratories Ltd. | \$16,759.78 | Burnaby | January 19, 2018

This employer operates a laboratory providing chemical analysis services. A reaction in a sump caused a release of hydrogen sulfide (H₂S). Workers were exposed, but the building was not evacuated. Several workers later reported symptoms consistent with H₂S exposure. WorkSafeBC's investigation determined that the facility was not equipped with monitors to detect H₂S levels, and that the employer did not have a plan in place to respond to the release of hazardous chemicals. Further, WorkSafeBC determined that the employer had not conducted emergency drills at this facility. The employer failed to develop and implement written procedures for evacuation, and to assign a worker to coordinate implementation. This was a high-risk violation. The employer also failed to ensure the health and safety of its workers, and failed to provide its workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision to ensure their health and safety, a repeated violation.

Akal Development Ltd. | \$2,500 | Nanaimo | March 5, 2018

WorkSafeBC observed one of this firm's workers installing shake siding on a three-storey residential housing complex. The worker was standing on a work platform supported by a ladder-jack system and was not using a personal fall protection system. No other form of fall protection was in place, exposing the worker to the risk of falling about 7.6 m (25 ft.). Further, a ladder used to support the work platform had a damaged rung and was not rated to support the weight of the ladder-jack system and platform. A second ladder used to access the work platform was not sufficiently secured and was not long enough to allow for safe access. The firm is being penalized for failing to ensure that fall protection was used, that ladders provided safe access to an elevated work platform, and that the work platform met applicable safety standards. These were all high-risk violations.

BCC Landscaping & Tree Service Ltd. | \$2,500 | Surrey | December 19, 2017

This firm was clearing trees from a residential lot. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed that a tree had been felled on top of the house on site that was slated for demolition. The tree, which was 29.5 m high and 89 cm in diameter (97 feet by 35 inches), was felled with a single cut at the base. Energized power distribution lines, an active roadway, and two houses were all located within the falling radius of the tree. There was a high risk of loss of directional control of the falling tree. The holding wood on the tree stump was cut off on one corner, and the

undercut was not adequately cleaned out. No winch, come-along, or other equipment was on site to ensure the felled tree fell in a safe path. The firm failed to ensure workers were outside a two tree-length radius of a tree being felled, and failed to ensure sufficient holding wood was maintained and the undercut was complete and cleared out. The firm also failed to provide effective traffic control where a falling tree may create a hazard to road users, and failed to ensure that power systems were disabled and workers were aware of the voltages of conductors. Further, the firm failed to provide its workers with the supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety. These were all high-risk violations.

Douglas Clarke / Jordan Douglas Home Service Centre | \$2,500 | Surrey | January 5, 2018

WorkSafeBC inspected the site of this two-storey townhouse complex and observed two workers on sloped roofs performing cleaning activities. The workers were not using personal fall protection systems and no other form of fall protection was in use, exposing the workers to a fall risk of 3.7 m (12 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a repeated and high-risk violation.

Grants Home Maintenance Ltd. | \$2,500 | Maple Ridge | February 19, 2018

WorkSafeBC observed three of this firm's workers cleaning the gutters of a two-storey residential complex. Two of the workers were working on a garage roof, while the third, a representative of the firm, was working on the uppermost roof of the building. 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 the risk of falling between 3 and 5.2 m (10 and 17 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, and failed to provide its workers with the supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety. These were repeated and high-risk violations.

Maxjet Enterprises Ltd. | \$2,500 | Williams Lake | January 4, 2018

This firm was conducting pre-demolition asbestos abatement at a multi-family residential building. WorkSafeBC inspected the site and observed two of the firm's workers exiting a containment area. No signage was present to identify the presence of asbestos-containing materials (ACMs). Uncontained ACM debris was visible inside and outside the building, including in a lobby being used as a clean zone, and doors and windows in the abatement area had been left open. Further, work procedures submitted with the notice of project (NOP) did not sufficiently address the findings of the hazardous materials survey. The firm failed to have a qualified person assess the risk level of ACM abatement work activity, and failed to prevent the spread of asbestos dust and debris to other work areas. These were both repeated and high-risk violations.

Look N Smile Window Cleaning Ltd. | \$2,500 | Maple Ridge | January 17, 2018

This firm was cleaning gutters at a townhouse. WorkSafeBC determined that one of the firm's workers had been on the building's roof without the use of fall protection equipment. This exposed the worker to a fall risk of about 6.1 m (20 ft.). The firm failed to ensure fall protection was used, a high-risk violation.

Michael Cardinal / Canadian Tree Services | \$2,500 | Nanaimo | March 23, 2018

This firm was conducting tree-clearing services. WorkSafeBC observed two workers, one of whom was a representative of the firm, at the base of a tree while falling activities were taking place. The firm failed to ensure workers were clear of the area within a two tree-length radius of a tree being felled, a high-risk violation.

Mount Timothy Ski Society | \$2,500 | Lac La Hache | February 27, 2018

This firm's worker sustained serious injuries while conducting regular maintenance on a conveyor-style ski lift. As part of maintenance, the conveyor belt's guards were removed to access the belt's operations while the belt was still rotating. The worker standing in the structure housing the machinery leaned over to look for ice buildup on the return roller and slipped, causing the worker's arms to become entangled between the belt and the roller. WorkSafeBC's investigation determined that no written lockout procedures were in place and the machinery had not been locked out or de-energized as required. In addition, the guards had not been properly secured and were

Penalties (continued)

removed while the return roller was in operation. No signage was in the area to alert workers of the hazards. The firm's failure to provide effective lockout of machinery in order to protect workers, and its failure to ensure safeguards could not be removed, were high-risk violations. The firm also failed to ensure the health and safety of its workers.

River's Reach Neighbourhood Pub Inc. | \$9,450.32 | New Westminster | April 5, 2018

A commercial meat slicer in a pub this firm operates needed to be sharpened. The slicer was turned on and left running while the sharpening assembly was removed for cleaning. A worker reaching for a container on a shelf above the slicer fell onto the exposed rotating knife blade and sustained fatal injuries. WorkSafeBC's investigation determined that the firm did not follow the manufacturer's instructions for the slicer, which included turning off and unplugging it before cleaning it. The investigation also determined the firm did not have an occupational health and safety program as required or written safe work procedures in place. Further, no regular workplace inspections were conducted, reducing the opportunity to identify hazards or hazardous work practices. The firm failed to ensure that machinery in its workplace was used and operated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and failed to effectively control the hazard of exposing workers to a machine's energy source during its maintenance. These were high-risk violations. Finally, the firm is being penalized for also failing to ensure the health and safety of its workers.

Quad L Enterprises Ltd. / VMI – Vegetation Management | \$8,220.92 | Fort Saint John | March 14, 2018

This firm was performing arborist activities. WorkSafeBC observed four of this firm's workers manually falling a tree in close proximity to a dangerous tree. The dangerous tree was considered unstable because of heavy decay and the fact that it had been brushed by a previously felled tree. The firm failed to ensure its workers did not undertake falling, bucking, or limbing activities in an area made hazardous by a dangerous tree, or a dangerous tree brushed by a felled tree. This was a repeated and high-risk violation.

Williams Lake Rental Management Ltd. | \$2,500 | Williams Lake | March 23, 2018

WorkSafeBC observed two of this firm's workers, one of them a supervisor, working near the edge of a flat-roofed commercial structure. Both workers were wearing full body harnesses but were not secured to available lifelines. Further, these lifelines lacked proper rope grabs and were attached to unsecured anchors. The workers were exposed to a risk of falling 5.3 m (17.5 ft.). The firm failed to ensure the use of fall protection, a high-risk violation. The firm also failed to provide its workers with the necessary information, instruction, training, and supervision to ensure their health and safety.

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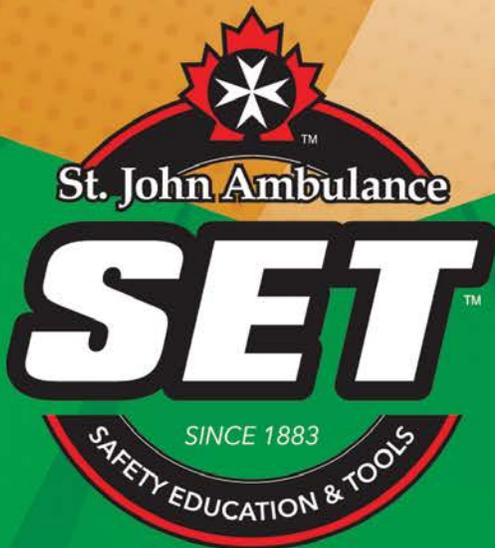
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