



When to Immediately Report an Incident/Accident in BC

CAGC INFORMATION ALERT

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The following information is not a definitive guide to government legislation and does not release users of this document from their responsibilities under applicable legislation.

Stemming from a recent CAGC Industry Regulator meeting, WorkSafeBC has asked that we issue an Information Alert to Industry indicating when an incident/accident is required to be reported immediately.

The BC Workers Compensation Act outlines what types of incidents/accidents require immediate reporting to WorkSafeBC; these are: any incident/accident that has resulted in serious injury* to a worker or death of a worker, any incident/accident that involves a major structural failure or collapse of a building, bridge, tower, crane, hoist, temporary construction support system or excavation, any incident/accident that involves the major release of a hazardous substance, or any incident/accident required by regulation to be reported.

To put it in Layman's terms, any incident/accident that requires a higher level of care (such as the removal of a worker from the site to hospital) must be reported to WorkSafeBC immediately.

Further to what constitutes immediate reporting, the BC Workers Compensation Act also states the requirement to immediately report a serious injury* or fatality is separate from the requirement to report injuries for claims purposes. Filing out and submitting a Form 7 (Online Incident and Injury report) will not satisfy the obligation to immediately report a serious injury or fatality.

Failure to immediately notify WorkSafeBC of a serious injury or fatality will be considered a breach of Section 172 of the Worker's Compensation Act: "WorkSafeBC Notification of Serious Injuries" and may result in an administrative penalty.

In conjunction with immediate reporting, members should be aware that investigation procedures and corrective measures may also need to be implemented in order to achieve appropriate due diligence.

To report a serious incident or fatality, please phone: 1-888-621-SAFE (7233) during business hours, or toll-free: 1-866-WCB-HELP (922-4357) after hours.

* To add clarity to the term 'serious injury', it is any injury that can reasonably be expected at the time of the incident/accident to endanger life or cause permanent injury. Serious injuries include both traumatic injuries that are life threatening or injuries that result in a loss of consciousness; they also include incidents/accidents that are likely to result in a life threatening condition or cause permanent injury or significant physical impairment such as chemical exposures, heat stress, and cold stress.