





Day of Mourning – April 28

The 'Day of Mourning' recognizes those who have lost their lives, were injured or made ill as a result of work-related incidents or occupational diseases and focusses on renewing our commitment to preventing further workplace tragedies.

HISTORY:

The Canadian Labour Congress initiated a National Day of Mourning ceremony on April 28, 1984, and ceremonies have been held across the country ever since. This day is now recognized around the world in more than 100 countries.

April 28th was chosen as it was this date, in 1914, the first Workers' Compensation Act was brought into effect in Canada.



NATIONAL STATISTICS:

According to the Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada:

- Every year, approximately 1,000 workers die in Canada.
- Every day, nearly three workers die.
- Every year, workers suffer from 250,000 work-related injuries/diseases.
- Every day, workers suffer from approximately 700 work-related injuries/diseases.
- A compensable injury occurs every seven seconds of each working day.

BC STATISTICS:

- In 2025, there were 138 workers in BC who lost their lives to workplace injury or disease. There were 59 fatalities due to traumatic injury and MVIs, 79 fatalities due to occupational disease and 2 of the fatalities were young workers.

BC FORESTRY INDUSTRY STATISTICS:

- In 2025, there were seven work-related deaths in forestry.



Forestry Operations

January 17, 2025: On January 17th, a contracted worker was fatally injured while conducting maintenance work at a mill located in Quesnel, BC.

[Fatality Alert – January 17, 2025](#)

February 24, 2025: During construction of a new deck on Vancouver Island, BC, two workers were taking measurements when one of them fell and landed on rocks about 10 feet below the deck. On February 24th, the worker passed away as a result of injuries they sustained.

[Fatality Alert – February 24, 2025](#)

April 15, 2025: On April 15th, a manual tree faller was fatally injured while working at a site south of Kitimat, BC.

[Fatality Alert – April 15, 2025](#)

June 19, 2025: On June 19th, a worker was fatally injured while tree climbing in the Woods Lagoon area on the Central Coast.

[Fatality Alert – June 19, 2025](#)



Forestry Operations

July 10, 2025: On July 10th, a worker was fatally injured when they were caught between decked logs that had rolled and a piece of heavy equipment in an area near Powell River, BC.

[Fatality Alert – July 10, 2025](#)

September 16, 2025: On September 16th, a skidder operator was fatally injured when their skidder rolled down a steep slope in an area north of Revelstoke, BC.

[Fatality Alert – September 16, 2025](#)

December 2, 2025: On December 2nd, a worker was fatally injured while working on a cable yarding block near Prince George, BC.

[Fatality Alert – December 2, 2025](#)



Staying Safe

We all play a role in keeping ourselves and our co-workers safe.

Take a moment to recognize how you can impact workplace safety:

- **Report unsafe acts or conditions** - don't ignore it or think someone else will do it.
- **Be prepared for work** – mentally and physically. Recognize when you are fatigued, rushed, distracted or complacent and may be making unsafe decisions. Stop and re-assess what you are about to do.
- **Take an active role** in your crew members well-being. If a co-worker is distracted or otherwise unfit for work, talk to them or your supervisor. An injured worker impacts us all.
- **Ask for assistance** – talk to your supervisor if you are unsure of how to proceed or need additional support.



I Chose to Look The Other Way

By Don Merrell

I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.
It wasn't that I didn't care,
I had the time, and I was there.

But I didn't want to seem a fool,
Or argue over a safety rule.
I knew he'd done the job before,
If I spoke up, he might get sore.

The chances didn't seem that bad,
I'd done the same, He knew I had.
So I shook my head and walked on by,
He knew the risks as well as I.

He took the chance, I closed an eye,
And with that act, I let him die.
I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.

Now every time I see his wife,
I'll know, I should have saved his life.
That guilt is something I must bear,
But it isn't something you need share.

If you see a risk that others take,
That puts their health or life at stake.
The question asked, or thing you say,
Could help them live another day.

If you see a risk and walk away,
Then hope you never have to say,
I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose, to look the other way.

Day of Mourning Links

Day of Mourning website

www.dayofmourning.bc.ca

Canadian Center for Occupational Health and Safety

www.ccohs.ca/events/mourning

BC Forest Safety Council – Day of Mourning

www.bcforestsafe.org/resource/day-of-mourning-april-28th/

