



Incident Reporting – It’s Your Responsibility

When a serious injury occurs on the worksite, it is an employer’s responsibility to report the injury to WorkSafeBC immediately.

Workers Compensation Act Part 2 Division 10 Section 68 – Immediate notice of certain accidents states an employer must immediately notify the Board of the occurrence of any accident that:

- a) resulted in serious injury to or the death of a worker,
- b) involved a major structural failure or collapse of a building, bridge, tower, crane, hoist, temporary construction support system or excavation,
- c) involved the major release of a hazardous substance,
- d) involved a fire or explosion that had a potential for causing serious injury to a worker, or
- e) was an incident required by regulation to be reported.

This raises the question as to what is considered a serious injury. WorkSafeBC identifies a serious injury as any injury that can reasonably be expected at the time of the incident to endanger life or cause permanent injury. Serious injuries include both traumatic injuries that are life threatening or that result in a loss of consciousness, and incidents such as chemical exposures, heat stress, and cold stress which are likely to result in a life-threatening condition or cause permanent injury or significant physical impairment.

Traumatic injuries that should be considered “serious injuries” include:

- Major fractures or crush injuries, such as
 - » A fracture of the skull, spine, or pelvis
 - » Multiple, open, or compound fractures, or fractures to major bones such as the humerus, fibula or tibia, or radius or ulna
 - » Crushing injuries to the trunk, head or neck, or multiple crush injuries

- An amputation, at the time of the accident, of an arm or leg or amputation of a major part of a hand or foot
- Penetrating injuries to eye, head, neck, chest, abdomen, or groin
- An accident that caused significant respiratory compromise, or punctured lung
- Circulatory shock (i.e., internal hemorrhage) or injury to any internal organ
- Lacerations that cause severe hemorrhages
- All burns that meet the rapid transport criteria of the Occupational First Aid Training Manual, including
 - » Third degree burns to more than 2% of the body surface
 - » Third degree burns to the face, head, or neck
 - » Burns of any degree with complications
- An asphyxiation or poisoning resulting in a partial or total loss of physical control (i.e., loss of consciousness of a worker in a confined space) or a respiratory rate of fewer than 10 breaths per minute or severe dyspnea (difficult or laboured breathing)
- Decompression illness, or lung over-pressurization during or after a dive or any incident of near drowning
- Traumatic injury which is likely to result in a loss of
 - » Sight
 - » Hearing
 - » Touch

Injuries that require a critical intervention such as CPR, artificial ventilation or control of hemorrhaging or treatment beyond First Aid, such as the intervention of Emergency Health Services personnel (e.g. transportation to further medical attention), a physician and subsequent surgery, or admittance to an intensive care unit should also be considered “serious injuries.”

Section 68 identifies **an** employer, not **the** employer. This means the responsibility is shared with other employers on site who are aware of the accident, and it becomes especially relevant if the injured worker is also an employer and unable to report the accident.

Workers Compensation Act Part 2 Division 4 Section 30 - Responsibility when obligations apply to more than one person:

- 1) This section applies if one or more OHS provisions or provisions of the regulations impose the same obligation on more than one person.
- 2) If one of the persons, subject to the obligation, complies with the applicable provision, the other persons, subject to the obligation, are relieved of that obligation only during the time when:
 - a) simultaneous compliance by more than one person would result in unnecessary duplication of effort and expense, and
 - b) the health and safety of persons at the workplace is not put at risk by compliance by only one person.

In some instances when a serious incident occurs, the injured worker may walk off the work site on their own impulse and the seriousness of the injury is not fully known at that time. If the injury is later determined to be serious, it still must be immediately reported.

But the requirement to immediately report a serious injury or fatality is separate from the requirement to report injuries for claims purposes. **Filing a Form 7 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 68 of the Act and may result in an administrative penalty.

To report a serious incident or fatality, phone 604.276.3100 (Lower Mainland) or 1.888.621.7233 (1.888.621.SAFE) (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). 📞

REMINDER – Changes Coming in March for New Faller Trainees

In the December 2022 edition of Forest Safety News, we identified changes taking place for new BCFSC faller trainees in their '180-day' work period beginning March 1, 2023. These changes were also shared by email and consist of:

- Faller Trainee Weekly Training and Progress Reports are required to be completed by a BCFSC certified faller.
- Completed reports must be received by BCFSC within two-months of the end of the reporting period identified on the report.

For example, if the report is dated the week of January 6-10, 2023, the report must be submitted no later than March 10, 2023. Reports will not be accepted if they are not submitted within the two-month timeframe.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact the Falling Department toll free 1.877.741.1060. 📞

New Faller Training

The fall 2022 session of the New Faller Training course took place in the Shawnigan Lake area from October 7 – November 9, 2022. Thank you to Chris Carswell from Mosaic Forest Products and Jason LaRush of Sunset Logging Ltd. for supplying the timber and their ongoing support of the program. 📞



Left to right: Trainers John Jacobsen and Wayne Miller; Trainees Joshua Wacey, Cody van Werkhoven, and Marc-yvan Larouche; Trainer Mike Davidson.