

OHS eNews

October 2020

New and updated resources

New resources:

- Webinar: [Hazard assessment and control](#).

Updated resources:

- [Leading indicators for workplace health and safety: A user guide](#).

COVID-19 resources:

- Webinar: [Operating during a pandemic](#).
- [Find more COVID-19 resources](#).

[Visit the OHS Resource Portal](#)

OHS Code review plan

The [OHS Code three-year review plan for 2020-2023](#) is now available. The plan is updated annually and provides OHS with an opportunity to improve health and safety outcomes while enabling innovation, competitiveness and streamlining of requirements. Publishing the plan gives stakeholders an opportunity to understand and provide input on the work being done.

Technical working groups have been set up for the industry-specific Code parts, this year that includes mining and oil and gas. Watch eNews for Code review stakeholder engagement opportunities.

[Get the current OHS Act, Regulation and Code](#)

Length of temporary layoff

In Alberta, the maximum duration of a temporary layoff depends on the reason for layoff and when the layoff occurred. [Several changes were introduced in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic](#).

- When the maximum length of a temporary layoff is reached:
 - employment is considered to be ended, and

Contact OHS

1-866-415-8690 (toll-free)
780-415 -8690 (Edmonton)

TTY: 1-800-232-7215

TTY: 780-427-9999 (Edmonton)

[Report a serious incident](#)

[Online incident reporting](#)
(Potentially serious, mine or mine site incidents)

[File a complaint](#)

- the employer must pay termination pay if the employee is entitled.
- The employer can extend the period of temporary layoff beyond the maximum period by making regular payments to or on behalf of the employee, for example, continuing to pay wages, employee pensions or benefits.
 - Employees must agree to receive these payments in order to continue the temporary layoff.
 - Termination pay is payable when regular payments cease.

[Read about Employment Standards provisions](#)

Approved first aid training agencies

Workplace first aid training agencies were allowed to resume in-person training with Stage 1 of Alberta's Relaunch Strategy. Training agencies must follow public health requirements when implementing in-person training.

Workplace first aiders requiring recertification and who are able to take first aid recertification courses should make arrangements to do so.

[Find an Alberta approved first aid training agency](#)

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Classification: Public



Small Employer Certificate of Recognition

Employers with up to 10 workers can work with their [Certifying Partner](#) to implement a health and safety management system and become eligible for a Small Employer Certificate of Recognition (SECOR). [A SECOR](#) can help you reduce workplace injuries and increase morale and productivity. It may give your small business a competitive advantage when you bid on work.

Small employers – top WCB claims

Find OHS resources for employers with fewer than 20 workers in the [Small business category](#) of the OHS Resource Portal.



Data Sources: 2014-2018 Workers' Compensation Board claims database

Sun glare and safe driving

During this time of year the sun moves lower in the sky, hitting windshield surfaces at a lower angle and causing glare for the drivers, especially during sunrise and sunset hours. With the increased sun glare, visibility is reduced, perception is distorted and the risk of motor vehicle accidents increases.

Read Alberta Motor Association's [How to drive with sun glare](#) for some tips on reducing the risks.

Impairment on the job

Worker impairment can result from any physical or psychological condition that affects the worker's ability to safely perform assigned work.

The bulletin [Impairment in the workplace](#) can help you recognize and address impairment as a possible work site hazard.

Recent OHS incident

The following summarizes two work-related serious injuries and incidents reported to Alberta OHS. The incidents resulted in workers being admitted to hospital. Use these incidents as a way to start health and safety conversations in your workplace. As these incidents are still under investigation, no additional information can be shared.

Rolled tractor

A worker was driving a tractor with an attachment along an embankment. The attachment caught on an object causing the tractor to roll down the embankment. *Agriculture and forestry.*

Struck by object

A worker was removing a threaded plug from a hydraulic valve. As the worker loosened the plug, unexpected pressure from inside the valve forced the plug out and it struck the worker on the chin. *Mining and petroleum development.*

Quick links: [Alberta OHS legislation](#) [Occupational fatalities reports](#) [Partnerships in Injury Reduction](#)

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