

Day of Mourning BC Schools Project



Shocking Workplace Statistics

- In 2017, 158 B.C. workers died from work related injury or illness—that’s an average of 150 workers each year
- An average of 1000 workers die in Canada each year from work related injury and illness
- Young workers are statistically more likely than any other group to be injured on the job
- From 2010-2014 there were 32,000 B.C. young workers injured and 29 work-related deaths
- Young males aged 15-24 are twice as likely to get injured on the job
- The highest rate of injury occurs in the hospitality and construction industry

(Source: WorkSafeBC and the Association of Workers’ Compensation Boards of Canada)

How to Stay Safe – The Official Version

The following legal rights and responsibilities apply to every worker and employer in BC:

- **You have the right to know**
 - Your employer must tell you about work place dangers and give you safety training.
- **You have the right to refuse unsafe work**
 - You can refuse to do any work you think reasonably might endanger yourself or others.
- **You have the right to report**
 - If you report unsafe working conditions to your boss and no action is taken, you have the right to report those conditions to WorkSafeBC or your Union.
- **You have the right to be free from retaliation**
 - Employers can’t fine you, punish you or fire you for refusing unsafe work or complaining about unsafe working conditions to WorkSafeBC or your Union.

Responsibilities: Employers

- Make sure the work place is as safe as reasonably possible
- Providing proper safety equipment and training
- Following all safety rules and regulations

Responsibilities: Workers

- Reporting anything that may be a hazard to themselves or another worker
- Using all provided safety equipment and training
- Following all safety rules and regulations

How to Stay Safe

But what do these rights really look like at work?

Injury isn't part of your job description.
Know your rights. If you're unsure, ask questions – it could save your life.

Your rights

- **You have the right to know** – You have the right to know how to protect yourself from hazards at work. So, if you don't know how to do something, ask your supervisor (or boss) for help.
- **You have the right to speak up** – You have the right to speak up at work about safety concerns. If you're unsure about something, ask questions or tell your boss or supervisor. If you report unsafe working conditions to your supervisor and no action is taken, you have the right to report those conditions to WorkSafeBC or your Union.
- **You have the right to refuse unsafe work** – You have the right to refuse unsafe work. So, if you're asked to do something dangerous, raise your hand by telling your boss (or supervisor) you won't do it.
- You have the right to exercise all of these rights without any punishment** - Your employer can't fire or punish you for refusing or identifying unsafe work.

You and your employer both have responsibilities when it comes to workplace health and safety.

- Employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthy workplace and providing proper safety equipment and training
- Workers are responsible for using all provided safety equipment and for reporting anything that may be a hazard to themselves or another worker
- Workers and Employers are responsible for following all safety rules and regulations

For official rights and regulations visit: <http://www2.worksafebc.com/publications/OHSRegulation/Home.asp>

For more details on specific resources for *Young Workers: Your Rights and Responsibilities*, visit <https://www2.worksafebc.com/Topics/YoungWorker/Resources-FocusReport2011.asp?reportID=36311>