

The purpose of this newsletter is to unite all the UNBC campus's (Prince George, Prince Rupert, Terrace, Gitwinksihlkw, Quesnel, Likely, Ft St John) and grow our UNBC Community's Safety Culture together by regularly communicating important Safety information. UNBC's mission is to Ignite, Inspire, and Lead change.

Welcome to the April edition of the Safety Newsletter!

This issue is of paramount importance as we delve into the critical Provincial and Federal Safety Acts and Legislation that shape the safety landscape across Canada. In British Columbia, safety legislation is primarily derived from the **Workers Compensation Act (WCA)** and the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (OHSR). These laws are rigorously enforced by WorkSafeBC, the agency responsible for upholding workplace safety and health standards across the Province.

We are also commemorating the **National Day of Mourning on April 28**. This solemn occasion is dedicated to honoring workers who have tragically lost their lives due to workplace injuries or diseases. On this day, workers, families, employers, and communities across British Columbia and in over 100 other countries worldwide unite to pay tribute to those who have perished on the job. The observance includes moments of silence, commemorative ceremonies, and various activities aimed at raising awareness about workplace safety.

The Workers Compensation Act

Provides essential structure for workplace safety and compensation for workers injured on the job. It delineates the responsibilities of employers, workers, and supervisors in maintaining a safe workplace. Key sections include general duties, joint committees, accident and incident investigations, and workplace inspections. [Occupational Health and Safety Regulation](#): Under the jurisdiction of WorkSafeBC, the OHSR sets forth de-tailed legal requirements for workplace safety. It covers a wide array of safety topics, including core requirements, general hazards, and industry-specific regulations divided into parts. Part 1 – 4 are considered the Core requirements.

Part 1: Definitions provide a list of terms that have specific meanings within the regulation.

<i>Roles & Responsibilities</i>	<i>Occupational Health & Safety Fundamentals</i>	<i>Policies & Procedures</i>	<i>Legitimation: Acts & Regulations</i>
<i>Hazard Analysis, Risk Assessment & Control</i>	<i>Ergonomics for injury prevention & accommodation</i>	<i>Hazardous Materials & Occupational Hygiene</i>	<i>Fire Safety Planning, Systems & Inspections</i>
<i>Accident Investigation & Reporting</i>	<i>Worksite Inspections</i>	<i>Emergency Preparedness & Response</i>	<i>Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee</i>

Safety Acts and Regulations are of utmost importance as they confront the harsh reality of workplace injuries and fatalities.

These legislative measures are meticulously designed to mitigate risks, address the grave consequences of unsafe working conditions, and

ensure that employees are safeguarded through adherence to stringent safety standards.

By analyzing and learning from past incidents, these regulations strive to foster a safer working environment for all, with the goal of preventing such tragic occurrences.

Part 2: Application outlines how the regulation is applied in various contexts.

Part 3: Rights and Responsibilities details the components of a health and safety program, including investigations and reports, workplace inspections, the right to refuse work, and first aid provisions.

Part 4: General Conditions specify requirements for workplace safety, covering aspects such as building and equipment safety, emergency preparedness, violence prevention, working alone, ergonomics, illumination, indoor air quality and lunchroom standards.

Part 5 is particularly significant as it focuses on Chemical and Biological Agents, outlining a national framework that includes mandatory labeling of products, the use of safety data sheets, and comprehensive worker education and training programs. This ensures that employees are well-informed about the hazards they may encounter and the precautions they need to take.

Part 6 provides detailed substance-specific guidelines for handling hazardous materials such as asbestos, biohazardous materials, cytotoxic drugs, lead, and pesticides. These guidelines are crucial for minimizing exposure and ensuring safe handling practices.

Parts 7 through 19 break down into specific hazards including noise, vibration, radiation, temperature extremes, and the use of personal protective equipment. They also cover protocols for confined spaces, de-energization and lockout, fall protection measures, safe use of tools and machinery, proper use of ladders and scaffolds, regulations for cranes and hoists, rigging, mobile equipment, transportation of workers, traffic control, and electrical safety.

The remainder of the regulations, **Parts 20 through 34** address industry-specific requirements for industry sectors such as forestry, oil and gas, construction, blasting, and diving. These sections also cover firefighting, evacuation and rescue procedures, and rope access techniques.

Essential Acts:

- **BC Human Rights:** The BC Human Rights Code protects individuals from discrimination and harassment based on various grounds such as race, sex, age, and disability.
- **BC Building Code:** This code sets out the minimum standards for building construction, including energy efficiency, water conservation, and sustainable materials. Compliance with the BC Building Code was essential for UNBC Receiving LEED Platinum certification for the Bioenergy Plant.
- **BC Electrical Code:** Which adopts the Canadian Electrical Code, Part I, sets the standards for electrical installations in British Columbia, ensuring safety and compliance for all regulated electrical work.
- **Canada Labour Code:** Under Part II of the Canada Labour Code, employers are required to protect the health and safety of employees at work by ensuring that employee complaints, including work refusals, and proper investigations of accidents and injuries. Employees have the right to know about hazards, participate in health and safety activities, and refuse dangerous work.
- **Environmental Management Act (EMA):** Requires organizations to assess environmental risks, implement measures to mitigate those risks, and comply with environmental regulations.

- **Fire Services Act (Provincial):** Governs fire safety standards and regulations in buildings and workplaces, including requirements for fire prevention emergency planning, and fire safety inspections.

- **Food Safety Act:** Clarifies the responsibilities of food establishments.

- **Motor Vehicle Act:** Codifies safe operation of vehicles including driver certification, vehicle insurance, maintenance and seat belts.

- **Nuclear Safety and Control Act:** Administered by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), this Act regulates the use of nuclear materials and radiation safety, including requirements for the safe handling, storage, and Disposal of radioactive materials.

- **Public Health Act:** This legislation ensures a holistic approach to public health, emergency service provision and disease management, specifically addressing: Health Hazard Management, Disease Control, Public Health Programs, and Emergency Response.

- **Privacy Act:** A federal legislation that protects the personal information of Canadians.

- **Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) in Canada:** Regulated under the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act and the accompanying Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations. These regulations are designed to promote public safety during the packaging, labeling, importing, handling, and transportation of hazardous materials/dangerous goods by road, rail, air, or water.

- **Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS):** legislation mandates that hazardous products in Canadian workplaces must be properly labeled, accompanied by safety data sheets (SDSs), and that workers receive training on handling these materials safely.

Additional acts and regulations can be found on the Enterprise Risk and Safety Management website, [please click here!](#)

Due Diligence is a legal defense that protects employees and leadership against criminal prosecution and administrative penalties by demonstrating that all reasonable steps were taken to mitigate risks, operate responsibly, and prevent violations or injuries. The concept includes the protection of both workers and the environment.

Fun Fact!

Did you know that more than 80% of the PG Campus is heated by the Bio Energy Plant.

Positive Observations

Promoting a Safety Conscious Culture for our UNBC Community

The extension cord is covered to prevent a tripping hazard.



Delineators, caution tape & pylons identifying the manhole.



Security keeping an eye on the moose foraging by the roadway & letting oncoming traffic & individuals walking aware of the potential hazard.



If you see any positive safety initiatives, please photograph them, and send the pictures to safety@unbc.ca

App Store



Google Play



Working together for safety

We would like to thank everyone for participating in our growing Safety Community at UNBC!