**As spring approaches, WorkSafeBC reminds employers of fall risks**

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By OHS Canada Staff



(Brian/Adobe Stock)

WorkSafeBC is reminding employers and workers of the risks associated with falls at work.

WorkSafeBC cautions that nearly every worksite has the potential for a fall, whether it’s from a roof, short ladder, medium-sized truck or a tall scaffold. Falls usually result from a combination of hazards, including working at heights without fall protection; not following safe-work procedures; slippery surfaces; and overexertion.

In 2021, WorkSafeBC accepted 4,050 claims related to injuries caused by falls from elevation. These types of falls are more likely to occur in construction, manufacturing, and forestry industries. For example, last year, there were 497 serious injuries and six fatalities in the construction sector from falls.

“Falls from elevation can cause serious, life-altering injuries, and even death,” says Suzana Prpic, Senior Manager of Prevention Field Services at WorkSafeBC.

“Many of these falls can be prevented by fall protection planning and proper and consistent use of fall protection equipment.”

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As spring approaches, and outdoor construction work increases, WorkSafeBC is reminding employers that the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation requires workers to use fall protection systems when a fall from three metres or more could occur, or where a fall from a lesser height could result in injury.

**Slips, trips, and falls: the human and business costs**

Of all workplace injury claims in B.C., 20 per cent of them are related to slips, trips, and falls.

Injuries from falls can include sprains, bruises, concussions, fractures, and even burns and cuts. Further, across all sectors, slips, trips and falls are the costliest workplace incidents—and some of the biggest causes of general productivity loss. Pain and suffering, disability, stress, and even a loss or change of employment can result.

These same injuries cost B.C. businesses more than 260,000 lost workdays and more than $206 million in workers’ compensation payments.

“Workplace injuries can happen in an instant and without warning. That’s why employers must ensure they take preventative steps to reduce or eliminate the risks of slips, trips and falls at work,” says Prpic.

**Resources**

WorkSafeBC also has the following resources available for employers:

* [Falls from elevation – WorkSafeBC](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.worksafebc.com%2Fen%2Fhealth-safety%2Fhazards-exposures%2Ffalls-from-elevation&data=04%7C01%7CYesenia.Dhott%40worksafebc.com%7C3daca52ee4104e5a7ea308d9fd443da4%7C05c5c963c8394c9eb5c1b51b3799ac37%7C0%7C0%7C637819291791244569%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=QL6Ey6yLdPHJKtZn0VeoUe5eGg2KaRB%2FZDCktEjJz5k%3D&reserved=0)
* [New resources help construction employers create fall protection plans specific to their worksites | WorkSafeBC](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.worksafebc.com%2Fen%2Fabout-us%2Fnews-events%2Fannouncements%2F2021%2FMay%2Fnew-resources-help-construction-employers-create-fall-protection-plans-specific-to-their-worksites&data=04%7C01%7CYesenia.Dhott%40worksafebc.com%7C3daca52ee4104e5a7ea308d9fd443da4%7C05c5c963c8394c9eb5c1b51b3799ac37%7C0%7C0%7C637819291791244569%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=WQlFt%2FOGKTKpTaKZk7BhIN%2BVuUfnxPi3fnG5bc%2Bcpeo%3D&reserved=0)
* [Slips, trips & falls – WorkSafeBC](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.worksafebc.com%2Fen%2Fhealth-safety%2Fhazards-exposures%2Fslips-trips-falls&data=04%7C01%7CYesenia.Dhott%40worksafebc.com%7C3daca52ee4104e5a7ea308d9fd443da4%7C05c5c963c8394c9eb5c1b51b3799ac37%7C0%7C0%7C637819291791244569%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=AZR6AXQuQ8FHHJnl%2FFMzeRdUBBWV6zwC4VWxjHOBXZ0%3D&reserved=0)