



The Employers' Adviser

Editor: Ken Henry email: khenry@eao-bc.org

Volume 9 Fall/Winter 2005

A quarterly newsletter of the Employers' Advisers Office, Compensation Advisory Services, Ministry of Labour & Citizens' Services, Government of British Columbia. The Employers' Advisers Office provides advice, assistance, representation and training on all aspects of Workers' Compensation.

Please forward this to the individual managing your WCB issues.

EAB Website: www.labour.gov.bc.ca/eao **Related Websites:** www.labour.gov.bc.ca www.worksafebc.com

For further information on the Employers' Advisers Branch or to subscribe/unsubscribe to this newsletter call **1-800-925-2233**

WCB Assistance is a Phone Call Away

Staffed with WCB specialists, the Employers' Advisers are ready to assist employers in all areas of Workers' Compensation:

- Claims
- Appeals
- Assessments
- Occupational Health & Safety



For assistance, advice, education (seminars) and representation where there is merit at no cost to employers, call an office near you at the toll-free numbers listed below.

WorkSafeBC 2006 Rates

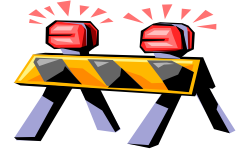


The 2006 figures reflect an aggregate base rate of \$1.90 per \$100 of employer's assessable payroll, 3.5% less than the 2005 rate of \$1.97. About 60% of B.C.'s 179,000 employers will see base rates remain the same or drop, while 40% will experience base rate increases. BC rates compare favourably when compared with Ontario, where the average premium rate is increasing 3.5% to \$2.26 per \$100 of employer's assessable payroll.

Base rate decreases are projected for hospitals, long term care and short term care facilities; wharf, marine terminal and stevedoring operations; along with shipbuilding, universities, electric utilities, supermarkets and industrial construction and trades.

Increases are forecast for such industries as general retail, public school districts, trucking, department stores, telecommunication services and gas utilities.

Immediate Notice of Certain Accidents/Incidents



Section 172 of the Workers' Compensation Act places an obligation on employers to provide WorkSafeBC immediate notice of certain accidents and incidents. Employers must immediately telephone WorkSafeBC's emergency and accident line whether there is injury or not in these circumstances:

- Any incident that kills, causes risk of death, or seriously injures a worker
- Any blasting accident that results in injury, or unusual event involving explosives
- A diving incident that causes death, injury, or decompression sickness requiring treatment
- A major leak or release of a dangerous substance
- A major structural failure or collapse of a structure, equipment, construction support system, or excavation
- Any serious mishap

Only completing and sending the Form 7 - Employers' Report of Injury in the above situations will not satisfy an Employers' obligation under Section 172 of the WC Act. Failure to comply could result in orders written against a firm for non-compliance.

WorkSafeBC's emergency and accident line:

Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **1-888-621-SAFE(7233)**
After hours (Richmond) toll-free **1-866-WCB-HELP (922-4357)**

Handy Internet Link – Incident Investigation Report

<http://www.worksafebc.com/forms/assets/PDF/52E40.pdf>

The Incident Investigation Report form and guide is provided to employers for the purpose of documenting the employers' investigation of a workplace incident. The purpose of an investigation is to determine the cause or causes of the incident, to identify any unsafe conditions, acts, or procedures that contributed to the incident, and to recommend corrective action to prevent similar incidents.

WorkSafeBC Launches Registration Campaign – Through information sharing agreements with Canada Revenue (CRA), WorkSafeBC has determined that 20,000 businesses are registered with CRA, but not WorkSafeBC and that 16,000 businesses are registered with WorkSafeBC, but not CRA. Both agencies will be working with business in early 2006 to determine whether they qualify for registration with WorkSafeBC and/or need to be registered with Canada Revenue.

Locations: Abbotsford 1-866-870-5492 - Kamloops 1-866-301-6688 - Kelowna 1-866-855-7575 - Nanaimo 1-866-827-2277 - Nelson 1-877-877-5524 - Prince George 1-888-608-8882 - Richmond 1-800-925-2233 - Victoria 1-800-663-8783