

OHS eNews

New and updated resources

- [COVID-19 exposure in workplace common areas](#) (NEW)
- [COVID-19 publications by industry](#) (UPDATED)

Visit the OHS Resource Portal

COVID-19 exposure in common areas

Alberta OHS incident monitoring shows an increase in COVID-19 exposure when controls fail in workplace common areas, like lunchrooms, parking lots and smoking areas. Take action in your workplace to reduce this risk.

Read COVID-19 exposure in workplace common areas

Ensuring Safety and Cutting Red Tape Act, 2020



The *Ensuring Safety and Cutting Red Tape Act, 2020*, received royal assent on December 9, 2020. The Act will amend the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, the *Radiation Protection Act* and the *Workers' Compensation Act*. To learn about key changes visit [Improving workplace health and safety on alberta.ca](#).

Learn about key changes

Heroes' Fund for First Responders

The *Ensuring Safety and Cutting Red Tape Act, 2020*, allows Alberta government to follow through on its commitment to create the Alberta Heroes' Fund for First Responders. This fund honours the sacrifices of first responders who die as a result of performing their duties,



providing a one-time tax-free payment of \$100,000 to eligible families. Eligible first responders include firefighters, police officers, paramedics, sheriffs and provincial corrections officers. Alberta Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) will administer the Heroes' Fund and has begun identifying eligible families and administering payments, which are retroactive to April 1, 2020.

Learn more: [Establishing the Heroes' Fund](#)

Alberta Prevention Initiative



Alberta's Prevention Initiative is in full swing. To find out more about what happened in 2019-20, read the [Prevention Initiative for Alberta's Occupational Health and Safety System: 2019-20 Annual Update](#).

[2019-2020 Annual Update](#)

Personal protective equipment



COVID-19 has introduced an increased need for personal protective equipment (PPE), especially respiratory protective equipment. PPE keeps workers safe when other controls aren't sufficient, but it can only be effective if workers use it properly. For this reason, employers must provide thorough and proper training related to its use, care and limitations.

For OHS information on respiratory protective equipment read:

[Development of a code of practice for respiratory protective equipment](#)

[Respiratory protective equipment: An employer's guide](#)

Working in winter

Despite unseasonably warm temperatures, it's still a



good idea to prepare for January's normal winter weather. Extreme cold and icy winter conditions introduce unique hazards to the workplace. The following publications can help you reduce the risk of winter hazards:

[Working in winter](#)

[Working in extreme temperatures: cold environments](#)

[Best practice: working safely in the heat and cold](#)

Recent OHS incidents

Below are summaries of selected work-related serious injuries and incidents reported to Alberta OHS. Each incident resulted in a worker 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.

Fall from roof

A worker was leaving a roof and detached their fall protection equipment before reaching the ladder. The worker fell from the roof. *Construction and construction trades.*

Finger crushed

A worker was using a jack to lift a bin when their finger was crushed between the jack and the bin. *Manufacturing, packaging and processing.*

Hit by object

Workers were performing tree maintenance, using chainsaws to cut branches and stumps, when a branch fell on a worker walking within the felling area. *Municipal government, education and health.*

Quick links

[Alberta OHS legislation](#)

[Occupational fatalities reports](#)

[Approved training reports](#)

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

Copyright 2021 Government of Alberta

This material is solely for the user's information and convenience and, while thought to be accurate and functional, it is provided without warranty of any kind. The Crown, its agents, employees or contractors will not be liable to you for any damages, direct or indirect, arising out of your use of the information contained in this material. If in doubt with respect to any information contained within this material, or for confirmation of legal requirements, please refer to the current edition of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, Regulation and Code or other applicable legislation. Further, if there is any inconsistency or conflict between any of the information contained in this material and the applicable legislative requirement, the legislative requirement shall prevail. This material is current to January 2021. The law is constantly changing with new legislation, amendments to existing legislation, and decisions from the courts. It is important that you keep yourself informed of the current law. This material may be used, reproduced, stored or transmitted for non-commercial purposes. The source of this material must be acknowledged when publishing or issuing it to others. This material is not to be used, reproduced, stored or transmitted for commercial purposes without written permission from the Government of Alberta.