



Notice of Accidents by E-mail Can Help Prevent Injuries

INJURY TYPE: FALL – FATAL

Worker, along with portions of a scaffold, fell 39 feet to grade and received massive head injuries.

INJURY TYPE: STRUCK BY – FATAL (YOUNG WORKER)

The worker was assisting to secure the first tier of pipe racks on a trailer. The loader struck the worker with the second lift of pipe racks, knocking the worker down. One pipe rack fell off the loader's forks landing on the worker.

In a recent column, I mentioned a new feature on our injury prevention website (<http://www.healthandsafetycentre.org>) – the Notice of Accident (NOA) updates available by e-mail subscription. This initiative is designed to provide employers and workers with timely information about the types of accidents occurring in the construction industry.

An NOA is a preliminary report of an accident issued before an investigation into the case has been completed. While many accidents are reported to WCB by Form 7s, an NOA is only generated when a Prevention Officer responds to a serious accident. In 2001, there were 69 NOAs issued in the construction sector and of these, 23 were related to falls.

NOA updates can be a useful tool for safety talks or staff meetings to alert you and your workers to potential hazards and help prevent similar accidents in your workplace. You should also post them on bulletin boards at your work sites.

Here are some more examples from NOA updates in November and December 2001.

INJURY TYPE: Fractured skull, cracked vertebrae, laceration to one ear

The worker in log house construction was descending a ladder when the left leg of the ladder collapsed. Worker fell approximately seven feet to the ground.

INJURY TYPE: Broken arm, sprains, bruises, head injuries

Worker in steep slope roofing was leaving the roof via a ladder. It was raining and as the worker unhooked his fall protection to descend the ladder, the worker fell approximately 24 feet to the ground.

INJURY TYPE: Close call in building construction

A crane tipped over into a building while lifting a large steel truss into place.

INJURY TYPE: Broken leg

During street light/power line work, a tandem dump truck entered coned-off area to be loaded by backhoe. A worker bent over at front right side of vehicle to pull nails from wood pieces. While worker was bent over, the truck ran over worker's leg.

INJURY TYPE: Close call, blasting accident

Explosives used for avalanche control misfired. Fuses burned, but charges failed to detonate.

INJURY TYPE: Fall from Elevation

Worker fell approximately eight feet from an aluminum extension ladder while attempting to re-secure the exterior electrical conduit for the 240-volt service wires of the rental house that was reportedly damaged in the recent windstorm.

INJURY TYPE: Fall from elevation/lack of fall protection

The worker (steel erector/welder) fell 25 feet to the concrete slab after the steel beam he was sitting on moved suddenly. The worker had on personal fall protection equipment but was not secured to the steel.

INJURY TYPE: Fall from elevation

While cleaning his tools, the worker went to a throw pail of water over guardrail. Guardrail gave way and worker fell 13'4" to ground. Multiple fractures to both feet.

To subscribe to the NOA e-mail updates or for more information on preventing workplace injuries, visit the Health and Safety Centre at <http://www.healthandsafetycentre.org>

SEND US YOUR IDEAS AND QUESTIONS

I would like to include your ideas and questions in future columns. Send your ideas for future columns to me at dnelson@wcb.bc.ca or call me at (604) 231-8631 or toll free in B.C. at 1 888 621-7233.