

## PROFILE

### Gage Form Rentals Ltd.

Comox, BC

#### *Health and safety planning makes for smooth concrete projects*

Chris Gage knows that workplace health and safety keep his concrete and contracting company on track and in business. His company, Gage Form Rentals Ltd., has remained competitive for 29 years in the concrete foundation business and 15 years in general contracting by avoiding the unnecessary costs that go with workplace incidents and injuries. They work mainly in the Comox Valley, building multi-family units and houses and doing a lot of concrete work and excavating.

Keeping things safe takes planning when you're responsible for subcontractors and keeping a job on time and on budget. But planning paid off on a recently completed 43-unit seniors' complex — a job that ran for eight months and involved several subcontractors.

Before the project began, Gage worked with the WCB to ensure that his company was using proper safety equipment and that they had health and safety programs in place, such as a fall arrest program. Including the WCB in the planning process helped make the project run smoother and it let WCB officers know that Gage's company was on the right track. The end result? "We ran the whole job with only one fellow getting a sliver in his hand," says Gage.

Another key to planning is keeping employees in the loop. Gage makes sure his seven employees know what to expect on every job and that they wear safety equipment whenever a situation calls for it. "When we're excavating, I make sure the guys are watching out for overhead lines and gas supply lines," he says. "Anybody working around the excavator wears a safety vest so the operator can see them. I keep vests on hand."

Running a small business can be time-consuming, but including health and safety in the process isn't as hard as some people think it is. "You hold safety meetings and talk to your workers," says Gage. "Making people aware is the main thing." Focusing on health and safety means avoiding accidents and injuries, which means less downtime and rehiring and retraining costs. "If someone gets hurt on the job, it's going to reflect in your balance at the end of the year," Gage says. "The costs of safety are small compared to the consequences of not doing it right."

For more information please contact the Small Business Service Centre at:

E-mail: [smallbiz@wcb.bc.ca](mailto:smallbiz@wcb.bc.ca)

Phone: 604 214-6912 in the Lower Mainland  
or 1 888 621-7233 local 6912, toll-free in BC

