



“No employer wants to hurt a worker.”

Philip Hochstein, Executive Vice President
Independent Contractors and Businesses Association of BC



Construction is a very dangerous profession. Daily interactions include working with people from different trades, occupations, and companies. Within this diverse group of workers, it is critical that each individual be aware of safe work practices.”

“You can’t just leave it to one person. Every trade, every worker himself has to take responsibility for safety. You need teamwork in construction. You’re working with a lot of people you don’t know and you have to have faith that others are working safely.”

“Safety is very important to both the employees and the employer both from a personal point of view and from a cost point of view. If there’s a jobsite accident, it hurts the productivity of both the company and the site in its entirety — it will have a ripple effect throughout the project. In construction, everything comes down to cost. It’s very competitive, the mark-ups are very low, so anything that adds cost to the overall operation comes off at the bottom line and safety is a big cost.”

“Some industrial customers – like pulp mills, saw mills, and mines – won’t accept bids from contractors unless they can show a good safety program, safety record, and accident history.”

“Some employers may think they’re saving a buck by not buying the right safety equipment, ignoring this safety rule or that, but in the long term, it’ll come back to haunt them. And no employer wants to hurt a worker. They care about their employees and sometimes they get so busy, they forget about the things that make it important for employees to be safe.

About ICBA

The Independent Contractors and Businesses Association (ICBA) is the voice of the Open Shop construction industry in British Columbia and is totally supported by over 500 member companies.

Together they employ several thousand workers in all trades and capacities. ICBA monitors and lobbies all levels of government to ensure current and future legislation reflects the needs and wishes of the open-shop sector and its employees.

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