



September 30, 2010

Alberta releases workplace injury and fatality records

Province is the first in Canada to release a comprehensive list

Edmonton... Albertans can now see information about worksite injuries and fatalities involving more than 140,000 employers insured by the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB).

"Albertans have the right to know the injury record of who they are working for," said Thomas Lukaszuk, Minister of Employment and Immigration. "We hope that making this information public will encourage employers to commit to even better health and safety performance."

The release of these records is part of government's 10-point plan for achieving greater transparency and accountability for occupational health and safety in the province. The template for this information was released in August to give employers time to prepare.

The records include more information than that currently provided by any other jurisdiction in Canada.

Albertans can now see the following information for each employer:

- number of lost-time claims
- estimated number of employees
- lost-time claim rate
- number of fatalities
- if the employer holds a Certificate of Recognition, and
- industry and province-wide lost-time claim rates for comparison purposes.

The records can be found online at www.employment.alberta.ca/employerrecords .

"We hope that shining a light on employer records will improve competitiveness," said Lukaszuk. "A safe company is able to attract and retain talented workers, pay lower WCB premiums, and be more productive."

For Albertans without computer access, information is available by calling the Occupational Health and Safety Contact Centre at 1-866-415-8690 (or 780-415-8690 in the Edmonton area).

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Media inquiries may be directed to:

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To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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Information about employer records

- In 2009 there were 158,500 WCB-insured employers. Information has been released for about 146,600 of them.
- The records provide an overview of injury claims, fatalities and industry comparisons. They provide basic information but are not a complete record of safety programs. The information is a snapshot so does not reflect the most current statistics.
- Of the 391 industry sectors, information has not been released for about 49 industry sectors, including 11,900 employers, where WCB coverage is voluntary. There are similar employers in these sectors who have made different insurance choices whose information is not available. Industries include: advertising agencies; banks and insurance companies; clubs and associations; consultants; farms, feed lots and apiaries; research labs and medical centres. A complete list of voluntary industries is online at: www.employment.alberta.ca/employerrecords
- Employers and workers in the industries listed in Schedule A of the Workers' Compensation Regulation are exempt from mandatory WCB coverage.
- Examples include accounting, babysitting, farming, labour organization, telephone solicitation, and teachers, principals or administrative staff employed by a school board, a private school or a chartered school (as defined by the *School Act*).

Terms and Definitions

Lost-Time Claim (LTC) - A claim that was accepted in the calendar year for an occupational injury or disease that causes the worker to have time away from work beyond the day of the injury. Included are claims receiving reimbursement of full or partial lost wages due to occupational illness or injury, or payment for permanent loss of function.

Person-years estimate - Estimates of full time workers calculated from wage and payroll data provided to WCB by account holders. Alberta Employment and Immigration uses data to estimate an average industry wage, and uses the average industry wage and employer payroll data to estimate person-years worked for each employer and each industry. One person-year is equivalent to one full-time worker working for one year, and can be assumed to equal 2,000 hours worked.

Certificate of Recognition (COR) - A Certificate of Recognition (COR) is awarded to employers who develop health and safety programs that meet established standards. CORs are issued by Alberta Employment and Immigration and are co-signed by Certifying Partners. The COR is valid for three years from the date of issue, providing that all maintenance requirements are met. The date the audit is completed on-site is used as the COR issue date. To maintain a COR, an employer is required to carry out internal audits within 12 and 24 months of the date of the COR. A new external audit must be carried out by a qualified auditor within 36 months of the original COR.

Fatality - An occupational fatality is the death of a worker resulting from an incident or exposure which has been accepted by the WCB for compensation. Some of the fatalities accepted in a particular year arise from incidents or exposures occurring in prior years.

Lost-Time Claim Rate - This is calculated by dividing the number of lost-time claims by the person-years worked estimate, and multiplying the result by 100. The lost-time claim rate represents the probability or risk of an injury or disease to a worker during a period of one year of work, which will result in time lost from work. Comparisons of lost-time claim rates between industries or between years can be used to indicate changes to this risk.

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