

JULY 2023 MONTH IN REVIEW

Saskatchewan

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Work Injuries

May 30: Saskatchewan's 2022 time loss injury rate was 2.04 per 100 workers, as opposed to 2.03 in 2021 but total injury rates declined 5% from 4.56 to 4.33. Although 90% of employers reported zero injuries or fatalities for the third year in a row, there were 39 total fatalities, 8 more than in 2021. Even though the WCB covered over 7,500 more workers, accepted claims actually fell by 578 to 17,321.

OHS Enforcement

May 17: Newly passed [Bill 91](#) clarifies that OHS officers have the authority to take photos and recordings when inspecting the workplace and exclude a person from an investigation interview if there's a perceived conflict of interest, in which case the excluded person would nominate a replacement to attend the interview.

Action Point: Implement an [OHS inspections policy](#) in case inspectors show up at your door

Transportation Safety

Jun 2: New [Traffic Safety Act Regulations](#) give the government the authority to make exclusions to mandatory motorcycle or three-wheeled vehicle helmet rules during special events for bona fide members of the Sikh religion.

Action Point: Find out [how far you must bend PPE rules to accommodate workers' religion](#)

Accessibility

May 17: Royal Assent for [Bill 103](#), *The Accessible Saskatchewan Act*, which requires government agencies, owners of public facilities and employers to implement plans to make their facilities and services more accessible to persons with disabilities.

Action Point: [Find out more](#) about how accessibility requirements affect your OHS program

Alcohol & Drugs

May 23: Drinking in public may no longer be illegal. Effective today, Saskatchewan municipalities and park authorities may designate parks and other outdoor places where individuals of legal drinking age can consume alcoholic beverages.

Workers Comp

May 30: The WCB remained in a fully funded position at 114.8% in 2022, an improvement from 107.6% in 2021. Claim costs fell sharply from \$336.2 million to \$189.4 million while premium revenue increased \$44.5 million to \$304.0 million.

CASES

Fall Protection: Employer Fined \$112,000 for Worker's Fatal Forklift Platform Fall

Saskatchewan dished out one of its largest fines of the year, \$112,000, to a company for a pair of OHS violations stemming from a 2021 incident in which a worker was killed when the work platform they were standing on fell 25 feet from the forks of a telehandler. The employer pled guilty to failing to ensure that a work platform mounted on a forklift was properly secured [*Bench Hutterian Brethren Corp.*, [Govt. Press Release](#), May 17, 2023].

Action Point: Use the [OHSI Fall Protection Compliance Game Plan](#) to prevent fall injuries and OHS violations at your site

Powered Mobile Equipment: Scissor Lift Falls While Being Loaded onto a Trailer

A worker suffered serious injuries when a scissor lift drove off the ramps being used to load it onto a trailer. The employer was socked with a \$56,000 fine after pleading guilty to one OHS violation; a second charge against the company was dropped [*Hergott Electric Ltd.*, [Govt. Press Release](#), May 26, 2023].

Action Point: Implement the right [powered mobile equipment operation policy](#) at your workplace