

MARCH 2024 MONTH IN REVIEW

Saskatchewan

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Radiation Safety

Feb 16: [Changes](#) to radiation safety regulations take effect in August: i. Equipment operator/owner duty to notify pregnant workers of radiation risks; ii. Elimination of duty to report routine worker doses and fees for x-ray equipment registration, leak test analysis, radon measurement, calibrating radiation monitoring equipment and inspections; iii. Dose record keeping period cut to 5 years.

Action Point: Find out about [the 7 steps required to protect workers from radiation hazards](#)

Accessibility

Mar 14: The government created a new committee to provide guidance, build public awareness and support implementation of *The Accessible Saskatchewan Act* that officially took effect on December 3, 2023.

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

New Laws

Mar 12: Newly proposed regulations impose restrictions on the possession of capsaicin-containing products, aka “bear spray,” in public urban spaces in Saskatchewan. Violations, including attempts to conceal bear spray may result in fines of up to \$100,000. The regulations won’t apply to rural or northern areas where bear spray is typically used for safety purposes.

Environmental

Feb 29: Saskatchewan and the federal government are investing more than \$51 million to support 34 public water and wastewater infrastructure development projects across the province, including the installation of 2 new water supply wells and the integration of 2 filters into the current facility.

Environmental

Sep 1: September 1st is the deadline to [submit feedback](#) on a consultation to tackle [textile waste](#), the fifth-largest category of plastic waste in landfills. The plan focuses on redesigning, reducing, reusing, repairing, and recycling textiles to reduce plastic microfibre pollution.

CASES

Material Handling: Gas Services Firm Fined \$65,000 for Drilling Struck-By Injury

An oil and gas servicing operations firm based in Twomey, Alberta, pled guilty to an OHS violation and was fined \$65,000. The case began when a 26-year-old floor hand suffered fractured ribs and a punctured lung as a result of being struck by a rod that was dropped while the crew attempted to attach it to a drill [[WSK Well Service Inc., Govt. Press Release](#), February 16, 2024].

Action Point: Use the resources on the OHS Insider Material Handling [Compliance Center](#) to avoid similar incidents at your workplace

Return to Work: Government Can Sue Company for “Pattern of” Disability Discrimination

A SaskPower worker asked to transfer to a different location claimed he couldn't perform the assigned work because of a work-related back injury he had suffered 12 years earlier and provided a doctor's note to support his claim. After putting him on temporary and making several attempts to return him to work, the company terminated his employment. The worker sued for disability discrimination. The Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission got involved in the litigation. After the case was resolved, the Commission sued SaskPower for engaging in a “pattern or practice” disability discrimination and failure to accommodate employees with disabilities. The Court of King's Bench dismissed the general claims and the Commission appealed to the province's top court. Result: The Court of Appeal gave the Commission the green light to sue, finding that the human rights statute allows the government to bring “pattern or practice” discrimination. The Commission could also use the case brought by the worker as evidence even though SaskPower didn't

admit to any liability under the settlement [[*Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission v Saskatchewan Power Corporation*](#), 2024 SKCA 13 (CanLII), February 13, 2024].

Action Point: Use the [*OHSI Special Report on Return to Work*](#) to get injured workers back quickly and safely