

# Saskatchewan

## LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Fall Protection

Oct 18: A Saskatchewan court issued a record \$840,000 OHS fine against a power company for 3 violations resulting in the death of 2 workers who fell from a bucket truck. That's not only the biggest OHS fine ever levied in Saskatchewan but also the highest in any province this year.

**Action Point:** Avoid massive OHS fines by implementing a legally sound [Fall Protection Compliance Game Plan](#) at your site.

### Workers' Comp

Nov 1: The WCB increased the Ordinary mileage travel rate (under Policy [PRO 20/2024](#)) from 55¢ to 57¢ per km and the Premium rate for north of the 54th parallel from 59¢ to 62¢ per km. The agency also increased the Meal Rates listed in Appendix B of the Policy.

## CASES

### Fall Protection: SaskPower Fined Record \$840,000 for OHS Violations Causing Workers' Deaths

Two workers tying in power lines from a bucket truck elevated 15 feet above the ground fell to their death when the bucket collapsed. The bucket had a fall arrest system but neither worker had clipped their safety belt lanyards clipped to the "D" ring. The employer was charged with 3 OHS violations each carrying a maximum penalty of \$1.5 million, including failure to provide adequate safety plant, ensure competent supervision, and letting workers work from an elevated platform without required fall protection. The Crown asked for a \$2.1 million fine given the company's size and the fact that 2 workers got killed; the power company contended that \$200,000 per violation, \$600,000, was more appropriate given that the victims were experienced journeypersons who should have known better than to work without clipping in and that this was only its second OHS violation in nearly a decade. After weighing all of the factors, the Saskatchewan court decided on a fine of \$410,000 for the first offence and \$210,000 each for the other 2—a total of \$840,000. That's the highest OHS fine ever imposed in Saskatchewan, easily surpassing the previous record of \$560,000 levied in 2019 against a cement company for a fatality [[R v Saskatchewan Power Corporation](#), 2024 SKPC 33 (CanLII), October 18, 2024].

**Action Point:** Find out how to implement a legally sound [Scaffold & Elevated Platform Compliance Policy](#) at your workplace.

## **Electrical Safety: SaskPower Fined \$700,000 for Energized Electrical Conductor Injury**

October was a terrible month for SaskPower. Less than 2 weeks after receiving a record \$840,000 fine for OHS violations resulting in the death of 2 journeymen workers in a bucket platform fall, the company was fined another \$700,000 for failing to ensure that workers and equipment maintain a specified minimum distance away from an exposed energized electrical conductor resulting in serious injuries to a worker at a work site near Sandy Bay in May 2022 [*Saskatchewan Power Corporation*, [Govt. Press Release](#), October 31, 2024].

**Action Point:** Find out [how to protect workers](#) from high-voltage power lines and other exposed energized equipment.