

# Saskatchewan

## LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Emergency Response

Jun 4: The federal government announced that it will match every dollar donated to the Canadian Red Cross to support wildfire disaster relief and recovery efforts across Saskatchewan. Meanwhile, the provincial government is providing \$15 million to the Canadian Red Cross to work with the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency to support wildfire evacuees. All residents over age 18 that reside in communities that have been evacuated will also receive \$500 in financial assistance from the province.

**Action Point:** Find out how to implement a [Wildfire Smoke Protection Game Plan](#) to guard your workers against smoke exposure, both indoors and outdoors.

### Industry Challenges

May 13: The Saskatchewan Assembly passed Bill 21 amending *The Construction Codes Act* rules to make it easier for municipalities to dispose of what are known as derelict structures and furnish training to the workers who carry out the disposal work.

### New Laws

May 13: Saskatchewan launched the Low Productivity and Reactivation Oil Well Program (LPRP) to create new incremental oil production and revenue from low-producing or inactive wells. Eligible wells include any horizontal well producing 50.0 m<sup>3</sup> per month or less on average for 12 consecutive months on a pro-rated basis; and, on an ongoing basis after April 1, 2025, any horizontal well producing 50.0 m<sup>3</sup> per month or less on average for 24 consecutive months. Also eligible will be wells that drill new horizontal sections, with a minimum drilling length of 500 metres, will receive a 3,000 m<sup>3</sup> incentive volume per new horizontal section to a maximum additional incentive volume of 6,000 m<sup>3</sup> per well.

### New Laws

May 13: Newly passed amendments to the *Saskatchewan Employment Act* impose new restrictions on an employer's right to require employees to provide sick notes verifying their need for sick leave, maternity leave, interpersonal violence leave and bereavement leave.

### Drugs & Alcohol

Jun 1: Saskatchewan officially eliminated the provincial sales tax exemption on vapour products. Vaping products remain subject to the separate vapour products tax. In addition to generating \$3 million in revenue per year, imposing the PST on vaping products is expected to discourage young people and others from using them.

**Action Point:** Take 5 steps to [prevent workplace smoking](#) and vaping and avoid fines under smoke-free laws.

**Workers' Comp**

May 13: Royal Assent for legislation that provides voluntary workers' comp coverage, subject to WCB approval, to Saskatchewan employers whose staff work out-of-province and whose usual place of residence is in Canada. Bill 4 also expands presumptive cancer coverage for firefighters to wildland firefighters. The new rules will take effect later this year.