
Workplace Safety

Prosecutions

Fines and Fatalities

LAW Review

Penalties: Stated in the Act

- Fines: \$500,000; \$1,000,000
- Jail terms: 6 months; 1 year
- Alternative penalties
- Administrative fines
- Authority to publish employers' performance



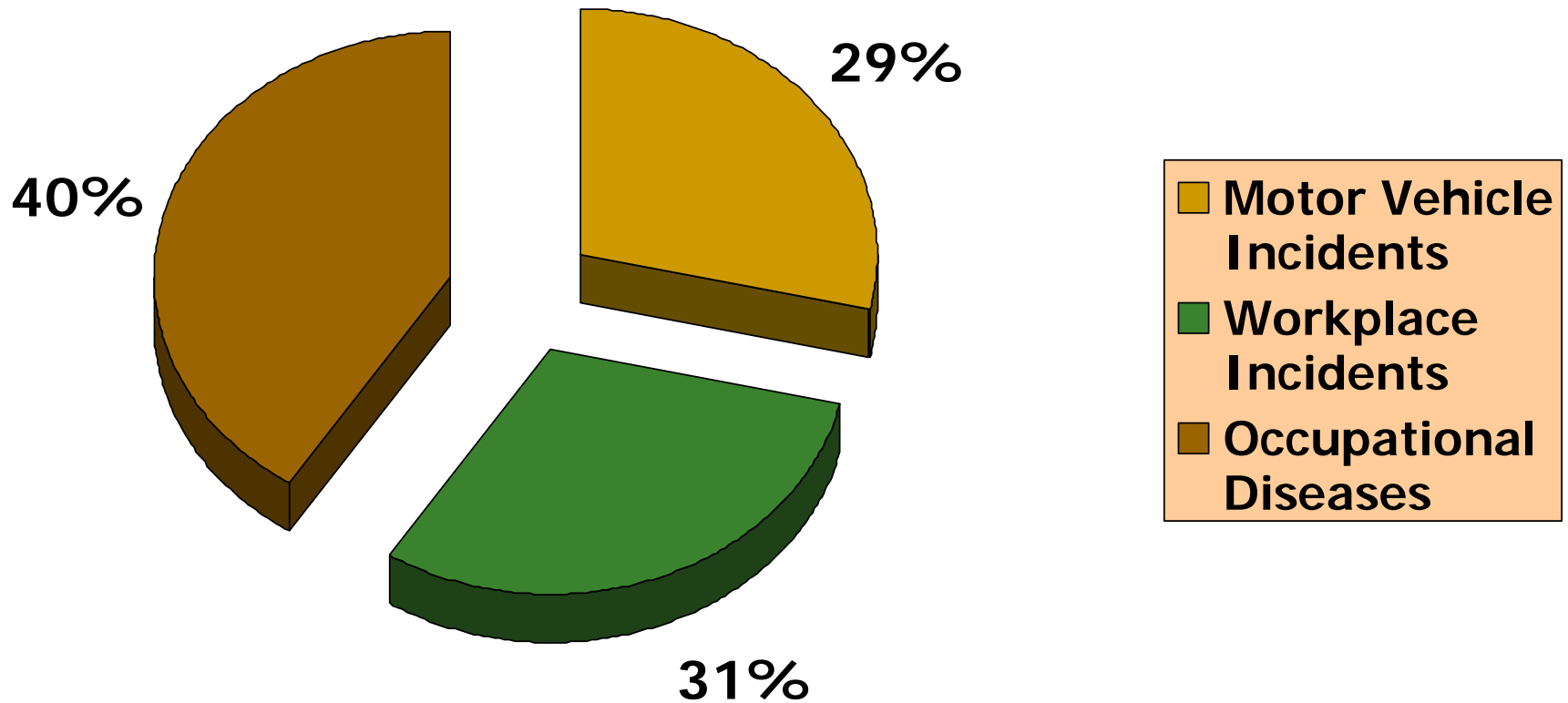
Alberta OHS Prosecutions

Penalties Summary 2004-2008

Calendar Year	Number of Prosecutions Completed	Total Penalties (fines, alternate penalties & victim surcharge)	Range of Court Penalties (fines & alternate penalties)
2008	22	\$5,083,000	\$45,750 - \$425,000
2007	12	\$1,720,000	\$70,750 - \$350,000
2006	10	\$1,534,500	\$40,000 - \$500,000
2005	12	\$554,050	\$2,000 - \$100,000
2004	8	\$597,500	\$10,000 - \$120,000

2007 WCB Description of Fatalities

44-MVA / 47 – Workplace / 63 - OD



2008 Fatality Statistics

- **“Workplace deaths hit 26-year high”**
 - *(Critics blame grim tally on cutting corners during boom-Calgary Herald March 1st/2009)*
- 166 Albertans workplace fatalities in 2008, up eight per cent from 154 in 2007.
- Work-related fatalities have risen a staggering 34 per cent since 2006, despite a province wide campaign to drive down on-the-job deaths.

Alberta Workplace Injury Statistics

- Every three minutes, a worker is injured on an Alberta worksite.
- Over the five year period (2001 to 2005), more than 776,550 Albertans experienced a work-related injury. If those people stood shoulder to shoulder, they'd stretch from Edmonton to St. John, NB.
- In 2007, there were 34,227 workplace injuries and diseases serious enough to submit a lost-time claim, a decrease of 6.7% from 2006.
- In total, there were 42,491 claims submitted to the Workers' Compensation Board – Alberta (WCB) in 2007 involving modified work.
- Combining information on lost-time claims and modified work claims provides a measure of disabling injury claims. In 2007, there were 62,473 disabling injury claims, a decrease of 3.2% from 2006.

Alberta Workplace Injury Statistics

- Sprains, strains and tears continued to be the leading nature of injury with the back (including spine and spinal cord) the most commonly injured body part.
- Person-injured or ill worker (self-injury or self-induced bodily motion injuries) was the leading source of injury, with overexertion the leading type of event

Alberta Workplace Injury Statistics

- Over the five years (2001 to 2005) 196,895 young workers under age 25 experienced a work-related injury. That equates to the populations of Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Lloydminster and Medicine Hat combined.
- For injured workers under age 25, 60% were injured during their first six months on the job.





Banff Ski Resort Goes On Trial for Workplace Fatality

Thursday, May 1, 2008 – CBC News

- On his first day on the job at Sunshine Village in 2004, Karl Stunt, 25, was hit by a metal bar while doing maintenance work on a chairlift. He spent seven days in a coma before being taken off life support.

Banff Ski Resort Goes On Trial for Workplace Fatality

- Sunshine Village Corp. was to appear in court Thursday to face four charges under the provincial Occupational Health and Safety Act, including failing to ensure the health and safety of workers and failing to ensure workers are trained in the safe operation of equipment.

Banff Ski Resort Goes On Trial for Workplace Fatality

- **'That balance between people's lives and safety and making money has to be addressed, and I just hope this brings awareness to it.'**—*Bill Stunt, father*
- Bill Stunt, who travelled with his wife to Banff for the trial from their Ottawa home, has become a safety advocate, especially for younger workers. He said he believes his son had little to no training for his summer maintenance job.

Banff Ski Resort Goes On Trial for Workplace Fatality

- "Karl was a young person and very new on the job he was doing, and it was obviously a very dangerous job, and that's the story for a good portion of workplace safety accidents and deaths," he told CBC News.
- Stunt said he's prepared to sit through every minute of the trial.
- "We want to know what happened and why, and if there was a breach of the legislation or something didn't happen that was supposed to happen. If someone was negligent then there should be a sanction," he said.



Fitzgerald Construction Sentenced \$300,000 in Worker's Death

January 18, 2008

- December 13, 2004 a worker was killed when he became entangled in an unguarded tail pulley while removing excess gravel from the ground under a gravel crusher.
- Company pleaded guilty to failing to ensure safeguards for a worker who could come into contact with moving machinery.

Fitzgerald Construction Sentenced \$300,000 in Worker's Death

January 18, 2008

Company ordered to pay

- \$300,000 penalty including
- \$10,000 fine
- \$1,500 victim fine surcharge and
- \$288,500 to the Alberta Worker's Health Centre, a non-profit society with a mandate to assist workers improve health and safety in the workplace.

CALGARY – Construction May 2009

- A worker has been killed in a highrise building construction accident in downtown Calgary.

Emergency authorities say the man was crushed when some metal forms shifted and fell from a sling as they were being lifted by a crane.

The forms are used in the pouring of concrete.

Workers say they felt the building shake when the accident happened.

The 27-year-old man, who assisted the crane operator with the movement of material on site, died at the scene.



DSI Mill Construction Ltd. Sentenced \$350,750 *January 23, 2008*

- DSI Mill Construction Ltd. was ordered to pay \$350,750 as a result of a worker falling to his death from a 4.3 meters high rolling scaffold onto a concrete floor on May 29, 2004.
- Company pleaded guilty to failing to ensure a written hazard assessment for fall protection on a rolling scaffold that was available to workers at the worksite.

DSI Mill Construction Ltd. Sentenced \$350,750

January 23, 2008

Ordered to pay

- \$5,000 fine
- \$750 victim fine surcharge
- \$345,000 over five years to the University of Alberta's Faculty of Engineering for their safety and risk management program





Partners in Injury Reduction (PIR)

- Voluntary program – financial incentive for employers with successful programs
- Partners are:
 - Workers' Compensation Board - Alberta
 - Alberta Employment and Immigration
(Workplace Health and Safety - Partnerships)
 - Certifying Partners (AMHSA for municipal sector)
 - Industry - employers

Thank You!

Alberta
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&
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