

# OHS eNews

## September 2020

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### OHS information for employers and workers

Visit the [OHS Resource Portal](#) for resources to help guide you through OHS legislative requirements. Give feedback on the portal through the '[Feedback](#)' links found on the left side of the category pages.

New resource:

- Webinar: [Hazard assessment and control](#).

### Authorities of Alberta Occupational Health and Safety officers

OHS officers have authority to enforce legislation in a number of ways, including:

- conducting inspections and investigations
- issuing orders
- writing tickets
- recommending administrative penalties

OHS officers do not delegate their authorities. If you have questions about whether a person is an authorized OHS officer, please contact the Alberta OHS Contact Centre at 1-866-415-8690.

Read [Role and duties of government occupational health and safety \(OHS\) officers](#) (updated) to learn more.

### COVID-19 information

New resource:

- Webinar: [Operating during a pandemic](#).

For OHS resources focusing specifically on COVID-19, check out the [OHS Resource Portal](#).

[Alberta Biz Connect](#) has guidance and supports for businesses and non-profits reopening during the pandemic. For the latest statistics, news and information on Alberta's relaunch strategy, visit the Government of Alberta's [COVID-19 info for Albertans website](#).

### Contact OHS

1-866-415-8690 (toll-free)

780-415-8690 (Edmonton)

TTY: 1-800-232-7215

TTY: 780-427-9999 (Edmonton)

[Report a serious incident](#)

[Online incident reporting](#)

Potentially serious, mine or mine site incidents

[File a complaint](#)

### Certificate of Recognition (COR)

The COR program has introduced two new options to help those employers who have completed a full three-year audit cycle (2017 to 2019) and now must recertify their COR in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. Both options qualify for PIR refund eligibility from WCB.

- Employers are eligible for a one-year COR for a documentation-only recertification audit conducted by their own certified internal auditor. This option is available from August 10 to December 31, 2020.
- Employers are eligible for a three-year COR for a documentation-only recertification audit conducted by a certified external auditor (previously these audits were restricted to one-year CORs).
  - Employers who previously received a one-year COR in this circumstance will be automatically upgraded by their Certifying Partner to a three-year term.
  - This option is retroactive to March 17, when the one-year documentation-only audit was implemented and is in effect until December 31, 2020.

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Note these options are not available for new COR holders nor for lapsed COR holders that had a break in their 2017 to 2019 certification cycle.

For 2021, the COR program plans to shift back to full three-technique COR audits (documentation, interview and observation). The Government of Alberta and Certifying Partners will develop guidelines for employers and auditors for safe auditing.

For additional information, please contact your [Certifying Partner](#).

## Employment Standards

### COVID-19 Personal & Family Responsibility Leave

Employees are entitled to unpaid leave from their employer under COVID-19 Personal & Family Responsibility Leave for the period of time necessary to meet the employee's family responsibilities in relation to:

- a family member who is under quarantine as a result of COVID-19, or
- a child who is unable to attend school or child care services as a result of any recommendations or directions of the Chief Medical Officer with respect to COVID-19.

Employees are not required to provide a medical note to access this leave but must provide as much notice to their employer as possible in the circumstances. Upon request from an employer, an employee is required to provide verification of their entitlement to the leave.

Access to this leave is available until August 14, 2021.

### Recent OHS incidents

Below are summaries of selected work-related serious injuries and incidents reported to Alberta OHS. Each incident resulted in a worker being admitted to hospital. Use these incidents as a way to start health and safety conversations in your workplace.

As these incidents are still under investigation, no additional information can be shared.

## Quick links

- [Alberta OHS legislation](#)
- [Infographics](#)
- [Motor vehicle incidents](#)
- [Occupational diseases](#)
- [Partnerships in Injury Reduction](#)
- [Workplace incidents](#)
- [Alberta Queen's Printer](#)

### Damaged hand

A worker was working at a conveyer belt when they noticed a part had come loose. The worker attempted to push the part back in place and their hand caught in the conveyer. *Manufacturing, packaging and processing.*

### Extreme heat

A worker felt ill due to extreme heat at the job site. Later that day, the worker had a seizure and was found on the floor of their room. The worker was transported to hospital where they had a second seizure. *Construction and construction trades.*

### Hand injuries in the workplace



**44%**  
of hand injuries are cuts and lacerations



**63%**  
are from being caught, in contact or struck with an object, tool or equipment.



**73%**  
of hand injuries occur with fingers and fingernails.



### Corrective Actions



**31%**  
changed policy



**51%**  
provided training

Data Source: Potentially Serious Incidents Reported, June 1, 2018 to August 20, 2020

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