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Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board Urging Yukoners to Work Safe

The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board is urging Yukoners to work more safely. During their inspections of Yukon work sites, the board's safety officers are finding a variety of safety infractions.

"Many employers, supervisors and workers are not following the safety regulations," commented Bob Scott the board's manager of safety and compliance. The board's safety officers are responsible for enforcing the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and regulations.

This summer, safety officers have been focussing on inspecting building and road construction, and placer mining job sites. On average, the construction industry has the highest injury rate in the Yukon.

"Our safety officers are finding work sites with a lack of first aid, a lack of fall protection and numerous scaffolding infractions," says Scott. "We've also seen many workers who are not wearing the necessary personal protective equipment. These would be, for example, high-visibility vests and high-visibility hard hats, safety footwear and safety glasses, and hearing protection."

For the last three years, July and August have been the peak months for injuries on the job. This July, the board received reports of over 100 workplace injuries.

"There's no reason why the injury rate couldn't be zero," Scott insists. "Everyone on a job site has a role to play in working safely. And preventing accidents should be the number one priority for every worker at every worksite."

The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board is

a crown corporation that administers both the *Workers' Compensation Act* and the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. It is run by a Board of Directors made up of two employer and two worker representatives, a neutral chair and an alternate chair. The chair of the Appeal Tribunal and the president and CEO of the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board sit on the Board as non-voting members.

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