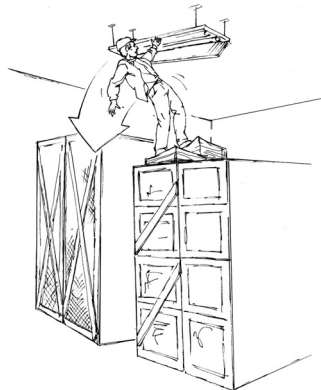


Yukon Workplaces Injuries in 2005



418
Contact with objects
and equipment



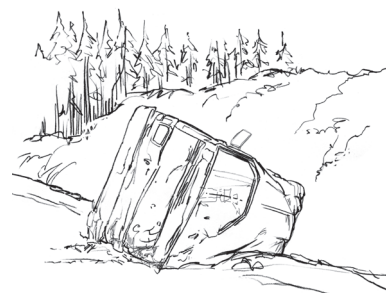
194
Falls



362
Bodily reaction and exertion



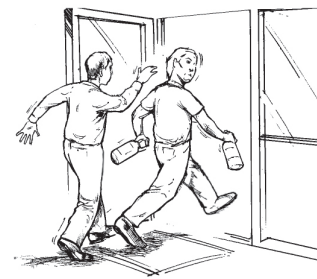
107
Exposure to harmful
substances or environments



36
Transportation accidents



1
Fires and explosions



29
Assaults and violent acts



7
Other events or exposure

...To Get Help

Here are some places where you can get more information:

To report an injury or unsafe work conditions:
(867) 667-5450 or 1-800-661-0443

To inquire about safety training:
Northern Safety Network Yukon: (867) 633-6691

Yukon Workers' Compensation
Health and Safety Board web site: www.wcb.yk.ca

Canadian Centre for Occupational
Health and Safety web site: www.ccohs.com

Work Safe BC web site: www.worksafebc.com

Check with local safety supply stores
for additional information.

Illustrations used with the kind permission of WorkSafe BC

Here's How



...To Make Sure It Doesn't Happen to You

It may seem obvious, but our safety depends on our not taking it for granted. Injuries happen in every kind of work environment, including quiet offices. All workplace injuries can be prevented, but only if we make the effort to do so.

- For starters, we need to be sure we are trained to do each of our tasks safely. This applies to everything from setting up our work station properly to avoiding repetitive strain injuries to operating machines of any kind.

It's best not to assume we know how; if you realize there are any gaps in your training, or if your training happened a long time ago, bring the need to your supervisor's attention.

- Keeping an eye out for hazards is a habit that takes practice. Whether it's a small tear in the carpet that someone could trip over, or a work procedure that could put someone at risk, hazards can occur anywhere. Before we can manage them, we have to become aware of them.

- Make sure you use the right tool for the job, and that you use it properly and without being in too much of a hurry.

- Distractions of any kind are dangerous, and strong emotions are one of the worst. We all get angry or distracted by other things in our day; take the time to stop and calm down before getting back to work. It will take far less time from your work day than an injury would.

Don't take your safety for granted.

(Here's Why)

1991
Day of Mourning Act was passed in federal parliament to set aside each April 28th to remember workers injured or killed on the job

18,011
Number of Yukon workplace injuries since January 1991 (not including injured workers under federal jurisdiction or unreported injuries)

15,200
Total number of Yukon workers in February, 2006 (Labour Force data)

6760
Number of Yukon workers who had to take time off work to heal from workplace injuries since January 1991 ("time loss injuries"; does not include injured workers under federal jurisdiction or unreported injuries)

555
Number of Yukon workers permanently impaired by workplace injuries since January 1991 (does not include injured workers under federal jurisdiction or unreported injuries)

39
Known Yukon occupational fatalities since January, 1991

\$284,763,000
Cost of caring for injured Yukon workers since January 1991 (does not include related costs such as damage from accident, lost productivity, recruitment costs to replace injured worker, etc)

...To Keep Each Other Safe

There are good reasons to not assume that everybody can just take care of their own safety:

1. We're all busy and can be so preoccupied with getting the job done that we don't notice the risks we take unnecessarily;
2. Sometimes we don't notice all the hazards – like a vehicle backing up behind us or something that could fall over easily;
3. Not all workers – young, new or even highly experienced – know the safest way to do a task;
4. Some people deliberately cut corners to save on time and money, assuming “it won't happen to them.”

We can feel it's not our business, or that we don't want a co-worker to get angry with us for suggesting they do their work another way, but it doesn't have to be a big deal.

If we tactfully point out a risk to someone's safety, most often they will be grateful that someone cared enough about their well-being to say something. It's the supervisor's job to enforce safe procedures, but we can all help watch each other's back.

And it's much better than watching a co-worker being taken away in an ambulance and wishing we had said something in time.

...To Deal with a Workplace Hazard

1. If it's simple (like moving a tripping hazard) or if you're trained for it, deal with it immediately;
2. If you can't remove the hazard, show it to your supervisor;
3. The hazard must be removed or you can be trained to deal with it safely;
4. If you still feel the work is unsafe, call 867-667-5450 or 1-800-661-0443.



...To Keep Young Workers Safe

Young workers get hurt at about 6 times the rate of older workers for several reasons, including:

1. they are eager to show they can work hard;
2. they lack a thorough understanding of the hazards;
3. they haven't learned how to do their tasks safely;
4. they learn unsafe habits from watching others;
5. they forget that they are not invincible.

Here are 7 common ways young workers get hurt*:

The Danger	Types of Jobs	Keeping them Safe
1. Lifting Objects	Retail and grocery clerks, labourers, material handlers, shippers and receivers	Teach them to lift safely and within reasonable weight limits. Remind them that a back injury now means a lifetime of pain and limited lifestyle.
2. Working on elevated levels	Any job using ladders, stairs, scaffolding or other raised areas	Teach them proper ladder and scaffold use. Tell them not to be in too much of a hurry, and that jumping down or across a gap often causes injury.
3. Working with knives	Cooks, food service workers, retail clerks and shelf stockers	These cuts sometimes result in amputation and usually happen when workers slip. Teach them proper handling and use of knives.
4. Working with hot substances	Jobs in the hospitality and service industries	Hot oil or water, steam, hot pans or trays; when these dangers are combined with slippery floors or tripping hazards, the injuries can be horrific.
5. Using mobile equipment or motor vehicles	Any job requiring driving, riding, operating or working near mobile equipment	Less driving experience means less awareness of what can go wrong; point out hazards, encourage caution and remind them that nothing slows down their work as much as an accident.
6. Working with food slicers	Deli clerks, cooks, food service workers and grocery store clerks	Food slicers require thorough training, enforced safety procedures, and keeping one's mind on the task.
7. Working in proximity to running equipment or machinery	Construction labourers, machine operators, material handlers, cooks, bakers	From dough mixers to forklifts, young workers are vulnerable to all running machinery until they are fully trained about the hazards, learn to keep an eye on their safety, and follow proper safety procedures.

* Used with the kind permission of WorkSafe BC



YUKON WORKERS' COMPENSATION HEALTH AND SAFETY BOARD
COMMISSION DE LA SANTÉ ET DE LA SÉCURITÉ AU TRAVAIL DU YUKON