

Summary of Accidents Involving Young Workers in 2002

This list of accidents where young workers were injured or killed is preliminary and subject to change.

Lower Mainland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Siding application: Eight workers from various subtrades were helping a framing contractor manually raise a 30' x 9' framed wall on the 2nd floor of a townhouse construction site. Two workers lost control of the wall, which then fell back and injured two other workers. April 2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freight forwarding: A worker was attempting to re-position a metal security safe on the forks of a forklift when the safe fell onto his foot. June 2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restaurant: A worker slipped while carrying a pot of hot oil and was injured. June 2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wooden truss manufacture: A worker, who was not wearing safety glasses, was using a circular saw to cut a 2 x 4 when the blade hit an embedded staple. The staple penetrated and injured the worker's eye. July 2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stone cutting, dressing, shaping, or stone product manufacture: A bridge crane was lowering a 1000-lb. slab of granite on edge onto a support rack. The slab fell over and struck the worker, injuring the worker. July 2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential construction: A worker acting as a spotter for a stripping crew was struck by a sheet of plywood that fell from 4 floors above. September 2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth detention centre: A correctional officer was assaulted (rendered unconscious using a choke hold) and an auxiliary correctional officer was injured during an escape by youth offenders. October 2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenhouse nursery: A worker slipped and fell into a shallow trench. A water pipe rolled into the trench and struck the worker's ankle. October 2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicle lubrication services: A young worker was injured while servicing a customer's vehicle. During the service, which involved running the engine, the vehicle moved forward, pinning one of the worker's legs between the vehicle and a metal post. October 2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wood framing construction: A worker slid down the wet roof of a new low building and landed on the ground, sustaining minor injuries. December 2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wood frame construction: A worker fell 8 feet from the top of an interior wall while installing wood floor joists and was injured. December 2002
Fraser Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rebuilding auto parts: A worker was injured when a metal object was expelled from a hydraulic press. August 2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Container fabrication: A worker was sanding the cut end of a 45-inch long flat steel bar on a pedestal belt sander. The pointed tip of the bar contacted the belt and was thrown downward where it struck his work boot above the steel toe and penetrated his foot. September 2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sawmill: A worker clearing a jam-up sustained multiple injuries when his clothing became entangled in an unguarded rollcase chain drive sprocket. November 2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helicopter logging: A worker coiling chokers on a helicopter logging landing was struck by a log being moved by a front end loader and injured. December 2002
Northern BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land Clearing, Excavation: Four workers in a pickup truck were involved in a single-vehicle motor vehicle accident. The truck went into a skid, straddled the side (bull) rail of a single-lane bridge, tipped over the side of the bridge, and came to rest on its roof on the ice of a frozen creek bed. One worker was killed, three injured. January 2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gas plant construction: A worker was hit by flying materials when the operator of a crane two-blocked the crane (pulled the lifting block into the crane sheaves). August 2002

Northern BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garbage, debris, industrial waste or recycling material removal: A young worker, an hour into his first job, stuck his head over the edge of a large steel garbage bin while a second worker using a winch fitted with wire rope to lift the steel lid. The cable broke, and the lid dropped onto the young worker's head injuring him. August 2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cementing casing [gas well]: Two workers were using an unrestrained 2-inch rubber hose to bleed down pressure from a cement job (pressurized down hole procedure), on a drilled natural gas well. A sudden increase in pressure caused the workers to lose control of the hose, resulting in the hose whipping around and striking them. September 2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oil or gas drilling: During a drilling rig move, a worker was climbing up to the doghouse (small office) over the top of the water tank. When he stepped onto a grating, a hinge pin supporting it broke. The grating gave way and the worker fell into the empty water tank below and was injured. December 2002
Central Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lumber remanufacturing: Three of a worker's fingers were amputated while he was operating a manual chapsaw. June 2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sawmill and planer: A worker was performing sawmill clean-up duties using an air lance to blow down underneath and operating belt conveyor. The air lance became caught in the in-running nip point between an idler roll and the belt, and pulled the worker's arm into the roll along with the air lance. October 2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sawmill: A young worker's arm was drawn into a conveyor between the belt and the roller as he unplugged the chipper. November 2002
Okanagan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heavy equipment maintenance: The arm of a mechanic's helper was caught in a running nip point while the worker was adjusting belt tracking on a conveyor. July 2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unknown: The operator of a tractor was crushed and killed when the tractor overturned while carrying a round hay bale up a steep grade. July 2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wood products manufacturing: The operator of a precision chop saw amputated part of two fingers on one hand as he was cutting blocks. August 2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steep slope roofing: A worker fell off the roof of a building while performing a roofing task and was injured. October 2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automobile wrecking: A worker was using a cutting torch to remove an exhaust pipe bracket from under a wrecked car when an explosion occurred injuring the worker. November 2002
Vancouver Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree services: An arborist's arm was seriously lacerated when he slipped while using a chainsaw. The arborist was conducting tree pruning and topping activities at the time and was working in a tree using climbing gear. May 2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Painting: Two workers were painting from a ladder-jack scaffolding system approximately 20 feet in height. One worker set the base of a 5-foot stepladder on top of the scaffold plank. The worker on this stepladder applied enough force against the scaffolding system that it fell backwards. July 2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land clearing, excavation: A dump truck driver backed his truck over a child who had entered the area behind the truck on a road expansion project, causing a fatality. August 2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diving [fish farming]: A diver suffered decompression sickness following repetitive dives. Defence and Civil Institute of Environmental Medicine table limits were followed for dives and surface interval times. October 2002

This summary contains details from selected "Notice of Accidents" (NOA) received by the Prevention Division of the WCB. It is intended to provide employers and workers with timely information about the type of accidents occurring to young workers. The NOA information is preliminary and subject to change. Sign up for free e-mail updates listing NOA Reports by visiting <http://healthandsafetycentre.org/s/SubscribeNow.asp>.