

Worker Responsibilities

The Workers Compensation Act states that a worker includes any person who:

- a. Has entered into or works under a contract of service or apprenticeship, whether the contract is written or oral, express or implied and whether by way of manual labour or otherwise.
- b. Is undergoing training or probationary work specified by the employer as a preliminary to employment.
- c. Is an independent operator.

Key worker responsibilities

Every worker must:

- 1. **Take** reasonable care to protect their own health and safety, and the health and safety of others.
- 2. **Ensure** work is done according to the plan, safe work procedures and occupational health and safety acts and regulations.
- Use or wear protective equipment, devices and clothing as required by the regulations and /or by employer operating procedures.
- 4. **Ensure** that their ability to work safely is not impaired by alcohol, drugs or other causes.
- 5. **Report** to their employer any contravention of health and safety provisions or regulations of which the worker is aware, the absence of or defect in any protective equipment, device or clothing, or the existence of hazards that may endanger them or others.
- 6. **Not** remove or disable any protective device (e.g., guards, lockout devices).
- Consult and cooperate with worker health and safety representatives including WorkSafeBC.

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Workers have rights to:

- 1. A **healthy** and **safe** workplace.
- receive information, instruction, training and orientation so they can do their work in a safemanner.
- 3. Be **informed** about existing and potential **hazards** in the workplace.
- 4. **Participate** in workplace health and safety **activities** (e.g., safety meetings).
- 5. Refuse **unsafe** work.

The table below explains the process for refusing unsafe work.

1. Report the unsafe condition or procedure.

As a **worker**, you must immediately report the unsafe condition to your employer or supervisor.

 If a worker views the work as unsafe after a supervisor or employer has said it is safe to perform that job or task. Supervisor or employer must investigate the problem and ensure any unsafe condition is fixed. This investigation must take place in the presence of the **worker** and a worker representative.

If a worker still views the work as unsafe, notify WorkSafeBC. If the matter is not resolved, the **worker** and the supervisor or employer must contact
WorkSafeBC. A prevention officer will investigate and take steps to find a workable solution.

Workers have the right to **exercise these rights** without reprisal.

Resources – click on the links below

<u>Workers Compensation Act - Part 2 Division</u>
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BC Forest Safety Council - Support

WSBC - Roles, rights and responsibilities
Employment Standards Act

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