

Report for the Labour-Management Network, May 2020



Reporting Month Statistics

Reporting Month	Fatalities	Critical Injuries	Total
March 1 - 31, 2020	4	13	17

Reporting Month	Fatalities	Critical Injuries	Total
March 1 - 31, 2019	2	21	23

Fatality & Critical Injury Year-to-Date Overview – Construction

Injury Type	2020 January 1 – December 31	2019 January 1 – December 31
Fatal	8	16
Critical	38	264

Disclaimer: This information has been prepared to assist workplace parties in understanding their rights and duties under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and its regulations. This information does not constitute legal advice. To determine your rights and duties under OHSA, please contact your legal counsel or refer to the legislation.

Provincial Coordinator's Comment

In the past number of weeks since COVID 19 began, we have seen significant changes in the construction industry. Some projects have either suspended operations under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act or have voluntarily decided to temporarily close. Some workers who could work, are unable to due to personal, medical or familial issues. Those who are still working, need to physically distance themselves as well as ensure they are maintaining a heightened level of hygiene and varying forms of personal protection. These factors alone are hard enough to cope with. Add to that, worries about the health and safety of family members and friends, and simply put, building isn't as easy as it was pre-COVID-19.

It is the responsibility of each and everyone of us to ensure that we are following the most up-to-date recommendations from Public Health Ontario. Our actions do not just impact ourselves, they impact everyone around us. We are each accountable to do our part in stopping the spread of COVID-19.

I am taking this opportunity to remind everyone of their duties under the Occupational Health and Safety Act and regulations. Requirements for compliant personal protective equipment, toilets and clean up facilities are a must!

We must ensure every worker washes their hands adequately and frequently. Remember to check washrooms and clean up facilities on a regular basis to ensure cleanliness and that an adequate supply of water, hand soap and fresh towels is always available. Also, ensure that high touch areas at projects are identified and cleaned frequently.

We have seen an excellent effort on many jobsites, and that does need to be commended.

Unfortunately, on some sites, our inspectors continue to receive push back regarding running water for clean up facilities with respect to what is considered "reasonably possible". Although we can appreciate in rare circumstances that it may be difficult or impossible to supply running water in accordance with the regulation, it is just that – rare. Ontario's workers need the ability to adequately wash their hands. Although the regulation does allow for the use of hand cleanser and alcohol-based hand sanitizer when it is not reasonably possible to have running water, this may not be effective in situations where a worker's hands are heavily soiled. Take adequate time to consider workplace conditions

and tasks, prior to taking the position that something isn't reasonably possible. We are enforcing this!

In addition to washroom requirements, we have also received a multitude of questions regarding respiratory protection. The position of the Ministry of Labour has not changed. Workers must wear the appropriate protection in the circumstances. This is always based on an analysis of the task at hand. The selection of this equipment must be done in such a way that it best protects the worker against the hazards created by the work performed. Lack of availability of PPE due to COVID-19 is not an acceptable excuse – worker protection is paramount and must not be sacrificed. Task specific PPE is not to be confused with PPE or source protection when only considering COVID-19. For all COVID-19 related PPE or source protection concerns, I urge everyone to stay up-to-date and employ the latest recommendations made by Public Health Ontario as they relate to your specific situation. You may need to change processes and/or put thought toward how to protect workers in a way that workplace hazards and COVID-19 concerns are both addressed.

Lastly, employers are reminded to take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances. There is a lot of information and resources currently available concerning the protection of workers against the spread of COVID-19. Employers have the duty to seek out the information and resources and employ them in the way that is most appropriate to their workplace for protection against this pandemic.

I know this is not easy for anyone, but please continue to take this seriously.

Sincerely,

Brian Barron

Provincial Coordinator (A)
Construction Health and Safety Program
Occupational Health and Safety Branch

Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development

Section 2 – What's New

[Filing WSIB COVID-19 claims](#)

While the nature of some people's work may put them at greater risk of contracting the virus, for example those treating someone with COVID-19, any claims received by the WSIB will be adjudicated on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the facts and circumstances. To learn more about filing WSIB COVID-19 claims, please visit the WSIB website.

[Learn more](#)

IHSA providing COVID-19 resources for infrastructure sector

IHSA (Infrastructure Health and Safety Association) has created a COVID-19 resource page to provide information to its members. The organization is closely monitoring the COVID-19 outbreak in Ontario and will continue following recommendations from Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and guidance from the Government of Canada. IHSA will continue to provide information here on a regular basis. Here you will find, IHSA facility updates and temporary closures, general COVID-19 links and resources, sector-specific links and resources.

[Facilities updates and closures](#) | [General links](#) | [Sector-specific links](#)

[Further details now available about infectious disease emergency leave](#)

Ontario has published additional information about an infectious disease emergency leave to protect the jobs of employees who need to take an unpaid leave of absence because of COVID-19.

[Learn more](#)

For more what's **new** – Ministry of Labour articles, see: [What's New!](#)

Section 3 – Court Bulletins

****As the courts have been closed, there are no new bulletins****

Section 4 – Critical Injuries

Critical Injuries

Year-to-Date Overview and Comparison - Construction Sector

Injury Type	2020 March 1 - 31	2020 January 1 – December 31
Critical	13	51

Injury Type	2019 March 1 - 31	2019 January 1 – December 31
Critical	21	264

NOTE: These figures represent preliminary data and are not to be considered official statistics from the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development. Official statistics will be issued quarterly by the Program Analysis, Evaluation and Outcomes Unit of the Occupational Health and Safety Branch of the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development.

REPORTING MONTH: March 1 - 31, 2020 (13)

Monthly Summary Report: Critical

NOTE: Data are subject to change due to updates in the enforcement database. Only events reported to the ministry are included here. Except for fatalities, event categories in the ministry's data set are based on what was assigned at the time of the initial report to the ministry. The reported event category may not represent what actually occurred at the workplace.

Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development

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SECTOR	REPORTED CAUSE	FALL	STRUCK BY	ELECTRICAL CONTACT	EXCAVATION COLLAPSE	OTHER	MONTH	YEAR
RESS		2				1	3	12
INST								4
RESM		3					3	12
INDU								3
ROAD								1
EXCA								1
COMM		4	1	1			6	11
MINP								1
NECC								2
RAIL								1
POWP								1
GRAD								1
SHIP		1					1	1
MONTH		10	1	1		1	13	51
YEAR		37	10	1	1	2		

Critical Injuries:

Totals: March 1-31, 2020 (13)

	Date of Incident	Municipality	Sector	Occupation	Age	Details (as reported to MOL)	Reported Cause
1	1-Mar-20	Etobicoke	COMM			Worker slipped on ice/snow, fractured elbow	FALL
2	4-Mar-20	Haliburton	RESS			Worker burned during propane explosion	BURN
3	5-Mar-20	St. Catharines	SHIP	Welder		Worker fractured arm during trip/fall	FALL

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	Date of Incident	Municipality	Sector	Occupation	Age	Details (as reported to MOL)	Reported Cause
4	5-Mar-20	Ottawa	COMM	Abatement Contractor		Worker fell from upper level suffering fractures and loss of consciousness	FALL
5	5-Mar-20	Toronto	RESM			Worker fractured right ankle when tripped	FALL
6	8-Mar-20	Toronto	COMM	Electrician		Worker suffers burns after shock/arc flash event	Electrical Contact
7	12-Mar-20	Sudbury	COMM			Worker fractured arm and hip after fall from approx. 8-ft	FALL
8	13-Mar-20	Tiverton	RESS			Worker suffered loss of consciousness after fall from ladder	FALL
9	14-Mar-20	Nepean	COMM	Painter		Worker fractured wrist after fall from scaffold	FALL
10	15-Mar-20	Toronto	RESS			Worker fell from ladder and suffered fracture to femur	FALL
11	17-Mar-20	Toronto	RAIL			Worker fractured foot after slip and fall	FALL

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	Date of Incident	Municipality	Sector	Occupation	Age	Details (as reported to MOL)	Reported Cause
12	18-Mar-20	Ashton	COMM			Worker suffered fracture to leg during equipment operation	STRUCK BY
13	18-Mar-20	Hamilton	RESM			Worker fell from form work suffering fracture to leg	FALL

Section 5 – Fatal Injuries

Fatal Injuries

Year-to-Date Overview and Comparison - Construction Sector

Injury Type	2020 March 1 – 31	2020 January 1 – December 31
Fatal	4	8

Injury Type	2019 March 1 - 31	2019 January 1 – December 31
Fatal	2	16

Monthly Summary Report – Fatal March 1 – 31, 2020 – (4)

Total Year-to-Date Fatal Injuries: January 1 – December 31, 2020 (8)

SECTOR	REPORTED CAUSE	FALL	STRUCK BY	ELECTRICAL CONTACT	EXCAVATION COLLAPSE	MONTH	YEAR
RESS		2				2	4
SEWW							
NECC							
PAVE							
COMM			1			1	1
INST							
EXCA							1
INDU			1			1	1
RESM							1
FARM							
MONTH		2	2			4	8
YEAR		4	4				

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All new entries (current month and reconciled data) appear in **bold**.

	Date of Incident	Municipality	Sector	Occupation	Age	Details (as reported to MOL)	Reported Cause
1	04-Mar-20	Markham	RESS	Carpenter	55	Worker fell from ladder	FALL
2	04-Mar-20	Toronto	RESS	Roofer	25	Worker fell from roof	FALL
3	06-Mar-20	Windsor	COMM	Labourer	55	Worker struck by limb during tree removal at project	STRUCK BY
4	13-Mar-20	Toronto	INDU	Labourer	25	Worker crushed while on elevating work platform	STRUCK BY

NOTE: Some detail will inevitably be missing from the PLMHSC Report. The document is intended to provide an initial overview, not a comprehensive report. Annual data reporting approved by the Director should be used by stakeholders if they wish to see all data available to the Ministry related to an event.

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SECTOR DESCRIPTION	SHORT DESC
Asbestos Removal - Type 1	ASB1
Asbestos Removal - Type 2	ASB2
Asbestos Removal - Type 3	ASB3
Bridge Construction	BRID
Cable	CABL
Caisson	CAIS
Cofferdam	COFF
Commercial Building Construction	COMM
Diving Construction	DCON
Diving Environmental	DENV
Diving Industrial	DIND
Diving Mining	DMIN
Electrical Towers & Transmission Lines	ETTL
Excavation	EXCA
Gas Service Connection	GAS
Excavation - Grading	GRAD
Hydro	HYDR
Industrial Building Construction	INDU
Institutional Building Construction	INST
Marine Construction	MARE
Mining Plant Construction	MINP
Moving of a Building/Structure	MOVE
NEC - Construction	NECC
NEC - Diving	NECD
Asphalt Paving	PAVE
Pipeline	PIPE
Hydroelectric Power Plants & Rel	POWP
Railway	RAIL
Apartment & Other Multiple Housing	RESM
Single Family Housing	RESS
Highway & Road Construction	ROAD
Sewer/Watermain Construction	SEWW
Shaft Construction	SHAF
Shipbuilding & Repair	SHIP
Subway	SUBW
Telephone	TELE
Trenching	TREN
Tunnel	TUNN
Well Drilling	WELL
Window Cleaning Services	WIND