



Policy

Saskatoon & Area - Occupational Health & Safety

Number: 15-004

Title: Legislative Responsibilities: Dangerous Occurrences

Saskatchewan Employment Act:

OHS Regulation: 1-3, 2-2, 2-3, 3-20

Date: January 1, 2017

Date Revised/Reaffirmed: October 20, 2021

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Definition

“Dangerous Occurrence” is defined as any occurrence that does not result in, but could have resulted in, a condition or circumstance set out in subsection 2-2(1):

Subsection 2-2(1) states: causes or may cause death of a worker or requires a worker to be admitted to a hospital as an in-patient for period of 72 hours or more; and includes

- The structural failure or collapse of:
- A structure, scaffold, temporary falsework or concrete formwork; or
- All or any part of an excavated shaft, tunnel, caisson, coffer dam, trench or excavation;
- The failure of a crane or hoist or the overturning of a crane or unit of powered mobile equipment;
- An accidental contact with an energized electrical conductor;
- The bursting of a grinding wheel;
- An uncontrolled spill or escape of a toxic, corrosive or explosive substance;
- A premature detonation or accidental detonation of explosives;
- The failure of an elevated or suspended platform; and
- The failure of an atmosphere-supplying respirator

Dangerous Occurrence examples:

- Asbestos contact of friable material
- Carbon Monoxide accumulation that is discovered before harm occurs
- Electrical shock - From a current, not from static shock
- Equipment hitting a skywalk
- Explosion or bursting of: Boiler, Light Ballast
- Façade falling off the side of a building
- Failure of Dumbwaiter
- Failure of Lifts: Ceiling Track, Total Lift or Sit/Stand Lifts
- Fires: boiler room, water heater
- Natural gas leak from kitchen stove or laundry equipment
- Prism spreader bar falling off the strap
- Threat of serious violence, e.g. with a weapon;

Purpose

- To ensure dangerous occurrences are managed and investigated and immediate corrective actions are taken to ensure worker safety
- To ensure that Saskatchewan Labour Relations and Workplace Safety (LRWS) is notified of dangerous occurrences
- To ensure that Occupational Health Committee co-chairpersons are made aware of and investigate all dangerous occurrences
- To ensure that root causes and contributing factors are identified
- To ensure short-term and long-term corrective action plans are developed with target dates in place which will minimize the risk of a similar incident

Roles and Responsibilities

Employer must ensure:

- The work is stopped, the area is secured and emergency response is provided
- Dangerous Occurrence Notification is provided to the OHS Division, the OHC and the SHA OHS Department
- An investigation is performed with the assistance of the OHC Co-Chairs or their designates along with assistance of the SHA OHS Support person
- The employer, in consultation with the Co-Chairs or designates prepares a written report that includes the findings, causes, immediate corrective action taken and long-term actions planned to minimize the risk of a similar incident

Manager/Supervisor must ensure:

- That roles and responsibilities of all workers are being met, as well as applicable legislation and/or standards
- They cooperate with the Occupational Health Officers during LRWS follow up
- Support is provided to Employer and Worker(s)
- If unsure if the incident is a Dangerous Occurrence, contact your dept/site OHS Support person or OHSINTAKE@saskatoonhealthregion.ca for support in determining if it meets dangerous occurrence criteria

Worker must ensure:

- The incident is immediately reported to Manager/Supervisor and to the Safety Alert System/Incident Reporting Line
- They cooperate with the Occupational Health Officers during LRWS follow up

Non-Compliance/Breach:

Non-compliance with this policy will result in a review of the incident. A review for non-compliance may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment or privileges; fines and /or prosecution of individuals under the Saskatchewan Employment Act and OHS Regulations.

Review Dates:

January 1, 2017
September 28, 2017
March 26, 2018
October 29, 2018
October 20, 2021