

Report for the Labour-Management Network, June 2020



Reporting Month Statistics

Reporting Month	Fatalities	Critical Injuries	Total
April 1 - 30, 2020	0	13	13

Reporting Month	Fatalities	Critical Injuries	Total
April 1 - 30, 2019	0	20	20

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

Injury Type	2020 January 1 – April 30	2019 January 1 – April 30
Fatal	8	3
Critical	64	92

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 the OHSA, please contact your legal counsel or refer to the legislation.

Provincial Coordinator's Comment

With the constant evolution of COVID-19, it has been brought to our attention that there is some confusion regarding source control on projects as well as how long exposure to COVID-19 takes before infection occurs.

It is alarming to hear that some employers have built policies stating things like "short duration work (less than 15 minutes) in close proximity to other workers does not require any forms of source control". This is incorrect and should be discontinued immediately. There is no evidence to suggest any form of short duration work will limit exposure to COVID-19. If physical distancing cannot be maintained, for any duration, then measures must be put in place to protect the workers.

We are also seeing masks or face coverings being used interchangeably with full face shields, especially when physical distancing cannot be achieved. This misunderstanding may lead to employers and workers feeling like they are protecting those around them from the spread of COVID-19, when, in-fact they may not be. It is important to ensure workers have a good understanding of how or why these types of protection are used to ensure in their effectiveness.

Face masks or coverings, not used as respiratory protection, are intended to stop droplets from your breath before entering the environment around you, and potentially infecting another person or worker in close proximity. Whereas, face shields are designed to stop fluids from splashing onto the face of the person wearing the device. Face shields do not stop the transmission of droplets from the person wearing the face shield as effectively as a face mask. They are both useful forms of protection, however, they do not perform the same function and as a result are not interchangeable.

We recommend, as a good starting point, that an assessment be carried out to determine the correct level of protection for any piece of equipment being used for either personal protective equipment or source control. To aid in the process of selecting the appropriate piece(s) of protective equipment for COVID-19 related issues, employers should implement a source control policy to help inform and direct workers in the appropriate use and selection of equipment for the task or type of work they are performing. Based on recommendations from public health, these

policies are intended to be developed as part of a broader comprehensive COVID-19 strategy that demonstrates the employer has a variety of measures and procedures in place to protect workers from the spread of the virus.

These policies should be based on a risk assessment along with the implementation of controls that have already been recommended by public health. Physical distancing, screening and hand hygiene are the first line of defence that should be employed at a project. Source control, like masks, are in addition to and must be used appropriately when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

The assessment of controls and their purpose should be completed before selecting the level of protection for the work performed. The purpose of this assessment is to ensure the best level of protection and to avoid creating new hazards like "heat stress" or "increased contamination opportunities" (improper donning and doffing of source protection and/or PPE).

We are all working hard to adapt to new ways of working. It is important to remain focused on protecting ourselves and those around us from the spread of COVID-19.

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

Inspectors bolster MLTSD's workplace safety commitments

As of late April, 58 new inspectors joined the hundreds of existing provincial labour inspectors on the ground to help keep Ontario's workers and workplaces safe. The inspectors, which include workers from the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) and the Ontario College of Trades (OCOT), communicate COVID-19 safety guidelines to essential workplaces or enforce emergency measures. Safety guidelines include physical distancing and the closure of non-essential businesses.

[Learn more](#)

Resources to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace

The Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD) and Ontario's Health and Safety Associations have created sector-specific guidelines and posters to help protect workers, customers and the general public from coronavirus (COVID-19) in Ontario.

[Learn more](#)

WSIB suspends in-person courses, extends certification renewal

To adhere to government guidelines regarding COVID-19, the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) has advised that all First Aid providers temporarily suspend in-person courses. All certifications that expired after March 1 are automatically temporarily extended until September 30. The WSIB will continue to monitor the situation and provide more information online if anything changes.

[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 April 1 – 30	2020 January 1 – April 30
Critical	13	64

Injury Type	2019 April 1 – 30	2019 January 1 – April 30
Critical	20	92

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: April 1 - 30, 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.

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SECTOR	REPORTED CAUSE	FALL	STRUCK BY	ELECTRICAL CONTACT	EXCAVATION COLLAPSE	OTHER	MONTH	YEAR	
RESS		2	1					3	15
INST									4
RESM		2	1					3	15
INDU		1						1	4
ROAD		1	1					2	3
EXCA									1
COMM		1			1			2	3
MINP									1
NECC									2
RAIL									1
POWP									1
GRAD									1
SHIP									1
SHAF		1						1	1
CAIS			1					1	1
MONTH			8	4		1		13	64
YEAR		45	14	1	2	2			

Critical Injuries:

Totals: April 1-30, 2020 (13)

	Date of Incident	Municipality	Sector	Occupation	Age	Details (as reported to MOL)	Reported Cause
1	7-Apr-20	Oakville	RESS			Worker tripped while walking backwards on project, fracturing right fibula	FALL
2	7-Apr-20	Ottawa	CAIS			Worker's leg was fractured when	STRUCK BY

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	Date of Incident	Municipality	Sector	Occupation	Age	Details (as reported to MOL)	Reported Cause
						crushed by concrete slab	
3	9-Apr-20	North York	RESM			Worker cut off two fingers while installing hardwood flooring	STUCK BY
4	10-Apr-20	Elora	COMM			Worker critically injured during trench collapse	EXC. COLLAPSE
5	14-Apr-20	St. Catherines	RESS			Worker fractured ankle after fall	FALL
6	14-Apr-20	Vaughan	RESM			Worker fractured arm after fall from ladder	FALL
7	16-Apr-20	Toronto	SHAF			Worker slipped on patch of ice causing fracture to ankle	FALL
8	16-Apr-20	Richmond Hill	ROAD			Worker suffers fractured ankle after being struck by wall form	STRUCK BY
9	20-Apr-20	North York	RESM			Worker fell from roof, suffers critical injuries including loss of consciousness	FALL

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	Date of Incident	Municipality	Sector	Occupation	Age	Details (as reported to MOL)	Reported Cause
10	21-Apr-20	Kanata	RESS			Worker was critically injured when telehandler he was operating tipped over	STRUCK BY
11	23-Apr-20	Dryden	INDU	Mason / Labourer		Worker suffers fractured clavicle after fall from scaffold	FALL
12	24-Apr-20	Toronto	ROAD			Worker tripped while hauling equipment and fractured arm	FALL
13	30-Apr-20	Elmwood	COMM			Worker suffered loss of consciousness after fall from Genie Boom	FALL

Section 5 – Fatal Injuries

Fatal Injuries

Year-to-Date Overview and Comparison - Construction Sector

Injury Type	2020 April 1 – 30	2020 January 1 – April 30
Fatal	0	8

Injury Type	2019 April 1 – 30	2019 January 1 – April 30
Fatal	0	3

Monthly Summary Report – Fatal April 1 – 30, 2020 – (0)

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							4
COMM							1
EXCA							1
INDU							1
RESM							1
MONTH						4	8
YEAR		4	4				

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	Date of Incident	Municipality	Sector	Occupation	Age	Details (as reported to MOL)	Reported Cause
1	8-Jan-20	C.West	RESS	Private Contractor	46	Worker fell from ladder while installing security camera	FALL
2	20-Jan-20	C.West	RESS	Gas Fitter	62	Worker fell from ladder while installing gas line at residential project	FALL
3	10-Feb-20	Pickering	RESM	Carpenter	33	Worker struck by collapsing formwork	Struck By
4	28-Feb-20	Toronto	EXCA	Labourer	32	Worker struck by falling piece of equipment during repair	Struck By
5	04-Mar-20	Markham	RESS	Carpenter	55	Worker fell from ladder	FALL
6	04-Mar-20	Toronto	RESS	Rofer	25	Worker fell from roof	FALL
7	06-Mar-20	Windsor	COMM	Labourer	55	Worker struck by limb during tree removal at project	STRUCK BY

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8	13-Mar-20	Toronto	INDU	Labourer	25	Worker crushed while on elevating work platform	STRUCK BY
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All new entries (current month and reconciled data) appear in **bold**.

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