Occupational Health and Safety Bulletin WORK SAFE ALBERTA

Pre-Project Meeting Guidelines

Government of Alberta



Table of Content

Planning and scheduling	4
Highlights of responsibilities	4
Prime contractor	
Contractor	5
Supplier	5
Employer	
Workers	7
Competency	7
Hazard Assessment	8
Traffic control	9
Illumination	9
Fall protection systems	9
Guardrails, wire rope, wire mesh and toeboards	
Stairways, ramps and walkways	11
Protection from falling objects	11
Covering of holes and openings	11
Building shafts	11
Working from a ladder	12
Fall protection plan	
Safe entry and exit	13
Housekeeping	13
Ladders	
Safeguards	14
Securing equipment, materials, hoses and piping	
Locking out	14
Powered mobile equipment	
Hoisting and rigging	
Cranes & hoists	16
Rigging	



Scaffolds and work platforms	18
Temporary supporting structures	18
Skeleton structures	19
Utilities (Safe limits of approach, marking and exposing)	19
Excavations and trenching	21
Compressed gas systems — fire and explosion hazards	22
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	22
Workplace Hazardous Material Information System (WHMIS) Controlled products at the work site	
Emergency response plan	23
First aid services	24
Temporary heating and ventilation	24
Toilets and washing facilities	24
Asbestos	25
Safety Committee	26
Web support	27



This Safety Bulletin is intended to help employers and workers comply with Alberta's Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) legislation. It is not a substitute for reviewing the legislation written in its entirety. In case of inconsistency between this document and the Occupational Health and Safety legislation, the legislation will always prevail.

Planning and scheduling

It makes good business sense to prevent losses (including financial, time, equipment, materials, and human suffering) caused by incidents. To accomplish this goal, carefully plan and schedule all work activities before construction begins.

Incidents have many causes, including:

- Lack of planning and scheduling
- Poor communication
- Lack of or ineffective supervision
- Absence of safety rules and safe work procedures
- Inadequate or ineffective worker training

To ensure that health and safety are an integral part of the management process, all participants involved in the project require an outline of expected performance. By clarifying these roles and responsibilities, each participant can work towards a common goal of preventing working injury and loss on the work site.

Highlights of responsibilities

Prime contractor

Every work site must have a prime contractor if there are **two or more employers** involved in work at the work site at the same time.

In the absence of a Prime Contractor being assigned, then the Owner of the work site will be responsible for the outlined duties. OHS Act Section 3(1)



Duties include:

 Maintain a safe workplace in compliance with the OHS Act, Regulation and Code. OHS Act Section 3(4)

Note: This means that items identified in this document and the legislation are in place at the site.

OHS Act Section 18

- Notify OHS and investigate serious incidents that occur at the work site.
 - Fatality
 - Worker being hospitalized for more than 2 days
 - Unplanned or uncontrolled explosion, fire or flood causing or having the potential to cause serious injury
 - Collapse or upset of crane, derrick or hoist
 - Collapse or failure of building or structural component.

Do not disturb the scene of an accident reported except as is necessary in:

- (1) attending to persons injured or deceased,
- (2) preventing further injuries, and/or
- (3) protecting property that is endangered as a result of the accident.

Contractor

Every contractor who directs the activities of an employer must ensure that the employer complies with the *OHS Act*, Regulations and Code in respect of that work site. OHS Act Section 2(5)

Note: This means that items identified in this document and the legislation are in place at the site.

Supplier

Every supplier is to ensure that any tool, appliance, equipment, material, etc. that he/she rents, leases, erects, installs or provides is in safe operating condition and complies with the *OHS Act*, Regulation and Code.

OHS Act Section 2(3)&(4)



Employer	OHS Act
Every employer is required to do everything reasonably practicable to ensure the health and safety of all workers at the work site (including other contractors at the site that the employer's work may affect). Note: This means that items identified in this document and the legislation are in place at the site.	Section 2(1)
Employer's responsibilities include:	
• Supervise and educate their workforce (management, supervisors and workers) on their legislated responsibilities and duties. Refer to competency as outlined in this bulletin.	OHS Act Section 2(1)(b)
 Comply with the direction/orders made by an OHS Officer. 	OHS Act Sections 8-12
 Upon being notified by a worker that the worker refuses to 	
carry out work because of imminent danger, the employer must: (a) investigate and take action to eliminate the imminent	OHS Act Section 35
danger, (b) ensure no other worker is assigned to perform the work, and	
(c) prepare a written record of the worker's notification, the investigation and action taken, then	
(d) give the worker who gave the notification a copy of the investigation report.	
• Make available to the workers and OHS Officer legislated	
procedures, codes of practice, and equipment specifications (manufacturer's or engineer's).	OHS Regulation Sections 7-8
• Ensure equipment used at the work site is maintained in a safe condition and will perform the function it is designed to perform.	OHS Regulation Section 12
 Enforce occupational health and safety standards 	OHS Regulation

OHS Regulation Section 13(4)



 With worker involvement, if practicable, conduct a written hazard assessment to identify potential hazards, then determine how they can be eliminated or controlled.

OHS Code Sections 7-11

Workers

Every worker is required to co-operate with his or her employer to protect the health and safety of themselves and other workers at the work site. OHS Act Section 2(2)

Workers responsibilities include:

• Comply with the directions/orders made by an OHS Officer.

OHS Act Sections 8-12

• **Refuse unsafe work** — if there is an existence of imminent danger to themselves or others. Immediately report danger to immediate supervisor.

OHS Act Section 35

• Comply with the OHS legislation and apply the safety training received.

OHS Regulation Sections 14-15

Competency

If work to be done may endanger a worker, the supervisor/employer needs to ensure the work is done by a competent worker or under the direction of a competent worker.

OHS Regulation Section 13

To bring workers that are not experienced (in the hazard control measures) up to the same skill level as an experienced (competent) worker, the Supervisor needs to verify the level of training the worker needs (and provide mentoring/guidance or a training program) to safely perform the assigned task. Competent is defined as adequately qualified, suitably trained and with sufficient experience to safely perform work without supervision or with only a minimal degree of supervision.



Competency training includes the review of:

- Written procedures and codes of practice
- Trade specific requirements
- Operation or use of equipment
- Personal protective equipment (application, care, use, limitations, maintenance)
- Working with harmful substances

OHS Regulation Sections 13-15



The following **required training** is described in the OHS Code:

•	Knowledge	in	the	hazard	controls	identified	in	the	hazard	
	assessment.									

- Asbestos Abatement Worker
- Confined Space Entry
- Emergency Response Team
- Workplace Hazardous Material Information System (WHMIS)
- Hoist Signaller
- First Aiders
- Skeleton Structure Erecting
- Signaller
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Powered Mobile Equipment Operator
- Diving Operations
- Demolition Supervisor
- Oil and Gas Well Supervisor

OHS Code Section 8(2)

Section 37

Section 46 Section 117

Section 397

Sections 71 & 111

Section 181

Section 190

Section 190

Section 228

Section 256

Section 424

Section 415

Section 751

Hazard Assessment

An employer is required to conduct a written hazard assessment to identify existing or potential hazards at each work site before work begins. The assessment will be dated and identify hazard controls methods to be used.

The hazard assessment will be repeated:

- at reasonable intervals to prevent the development of unsafe/unhealthy working conditions
- when a new work process is introduced
- when a work process or operation changes
- before construction of significant additions or alterations to a work site.

OHS Code Section 7





Traffic control

Workers are protected from traffic hazards.

OHS Code Section 194

Some requirements to consider:

- Are high visibility vests/clothing required?
- Are designated signallers and/or flag personnel required?
- Are barricades and signs directing traffic required?



Illumination

Illumination at a work site is sufficient to enable the work to be done safely.

OHS Code Section 186

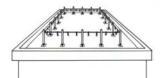
- Emergency back-up lighting available.
- Lights are protected (caged) in worker traffic areas.

Fall protection systems

Fall protection system include one or all of the following:

- Guardrail and handrails (permanent or temporary)
- Travel restraint system
- Safety net
- Control zone
- Fall arrest system

Each fall protection system has its own legislated requirements. One effective method is to install a guardrail and handrail system. Some construction companies are using engineered guarding systems so they can be reused and the guards don't impede the finishing stages. Check your options.

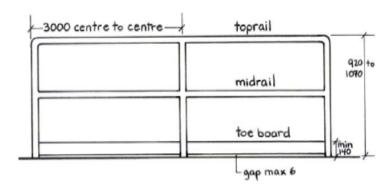




Caution: if a guarding system is removed, then hazard signs/flagging/barricades need to be erected to warn other workers of the hazard. No worker can then enter the area unless protected with another means of fall protection i.e. finishing balconies or working/extending outside of scaffolding system.

Guardrails, wire rope, wire mesh and toeboards

- Materials are not leaned against the guardrail or handrail system.
- Guardrails consist of a horizontal top member installed between 0.92 m and 1.07 m above the base, a horizontal intermediate member spaced mid-way between top member and base, and vertical supports not more than 3 metres apart.
- Guardrail system should be able to withstand a lateral force of 890 newtons (200 pounds-force) applied within 5 cm (2") of the top edge in any outward or downward direction.
- Guardrails with horizontal top and/or intermediate members made of wire rope or other similar materials should be made from at least 6 mm (1/4") thick material. System is under tension to minimize sag and visibility of rope is achieved by applying flagging at least every 1.8 m (6') or other means to effectively identify the system.
- Wire mesh system used in place of horizontal intermediate member is fabricated of wire at least 1.6 mm in diameter, spaced to reject a 40 mm diameter ball.
- Toeboards are provided (140 mm in height minimum) when material can fall on workers from a height of 3.5 m from a temporary work area or 1.8 m from a permanent work area.
- Chutes, hoppers or bins require a guarding system to prevent a worker from falling into them.



OHS Code Sections 315-316 & 321-322



Stairways, ramps and walkways

- Handrails are provided in stairways with 5 or more risers.
 Intermediate rails are required on open sides of the stairway.
- Guardrails are installed on walkways, ramps, and runways where a worker could fall. Refer to subsection 139(1)(b) of the OHS Code.

OHS Code Sections 121-123



Protection from falling objects

Workers are protected from falling objects by overhead protection or appropriate and adequate warning devices.

OHS Code Section 318

Covering of holes and openings

An opening or hole where a worker or equipment could fall into is protected by one or a combination of the following:

- A temporary covering that will hold the weight of all loads expected on it and it is secured from movement. The hazard is visibly identified on the covering e.g. spray painted with florescent paint "Danger Open Hole".
- Guardrail and toeboards.

OHS Code Section 314

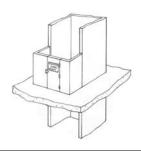


Building shafts

A building shaft is an enclosed vertical opening of a building or structure extending to 2 or more floors or levels and includes an elevator, mechanical openings/closets, stairwell or service shaft.

- When work is being done inside the shaft, a work platform is completely decked and a second platform is constructed no more than 4 metres below the first.
- Shaft openings must be fully enclosed to at least 2 metres in height with a visible warning sign affixed at each level.

OHS Code Section 313





• If there is no work platform, then the shaft must comply with the enclosure requirements.

Working from a ladder

If a worker may fall 3 metres or more from a portable ladder then fall arrest equipment must be used. A fall protection plan will also be required.

The above requirements do not apply if:

- A worker is moving up/down a ladder
- It is not practical to use fall arrest and
 - (a) work is light duty and short duration,
 - (b) worker's centre of balance is at the centre of the ladder at all times with an arm extended beyond the side rails of the ladder, and
 - (c) worker maintains three-point contact whenever the worker extends an arm beyond a side rail.

OHS Code Section 137

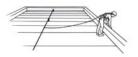


Fall protection plan

A fall protection plan needs to be developed if a worker may fall **3 metres or more** and is **not protected by guardrails**. If a plan is required, it must be available (and reviewed with the workers) at the work site prior to working at heights.

Fall protection plan must specify:

- The fall hazards at the work site.
- The fall protection system to be used at the work site.
- Anchors to be used during the work.
- The clearance distances below the work area, if applicable, have been confirmed as sufficient to prevent a worker from striking the ground or an object or level below the work area.
- The procedures used to assemble, maintain, inspect, use and disassemble the fall protection system.
- The rescue procedures to be used if a worker falls and is suspended by a personal fall arrest system or safety net and needs to be rescued.





Safe entry and exit

To allow workers to safely enter and leave a work area at all times, a work area must be maintained in a good state of repair and free from materials, equipment and other obstructions that might endanger workers or impede their exit from an area in an emergency.

OHS Code Sections 119 & 121

- This includes: ramps, runways, walkways, stairways, ladders and doors.
- Aisles and access ways are kept passable (clean) for workers in the event of an emergency escape.
- Walkways, runways, and ramps are built in accordance with section 121 of the OHS Code.
- Stairways are built in accordance with section 122 of the OHS Code.

Housekeeping

Work site is kept clean and free from materials or equipment that could cause workers to slip or trip.

OHS Code Section 185

Ladders

Provide a ladder where an elevated or sub-level work area is not provided with any other safe and recognizable means of entry or exit.

Portable ladders must be:

- Secured against movement and placed on a base that is stable.
- Extended at least 1 m (3 ft.) above the platform, landing or parapet.
- Inclined at no greater than a four to one ratio.

Manufactured portable ladders must meet the requirements of the CSA or ANSI standard applicable to that type of ladder.

OHS Code Sections 124-137



Other ladders include:

- Fixed
- Roof
- Constructed



Safeguards

Safeguards are provided where a worker **comes into contact** with:

- Moving parts of machinery
- Points of machinery where material is being cut, shaped, or bored
- Surfaces that can burn, freeze or blister skin
- Energized electrical cables (cords/cables in good repair)
- Debris, material or objects thrown from equipment
- Material being fed into or removed from process equipment
- Machinery or equipment that may be hazardous

No one can remove a safeguard unless doing so is allowed by section 311 of the OHS Code.

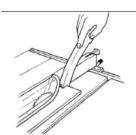
Securing equipment, materials, hoses and piping

- Hose or piping system and its connections operating under pressure are restrained.
- Equipment and materials are secured against dislodgment, moving, being spilled or damaged.

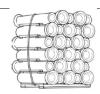
Locking out

- Equipment has been locked out of service.
- Non-Group lockout requires worker(s) to place a lock on the energy isolation device.
- Group Lockout Procedures available at the site. Affected workers trained to its content.
- Complex Group Lockout must be approved by a Director of Inspection. A work permit or master tag procedure must be implemented.

OHS Code Section 310



OHS Code Sections 188 & 189



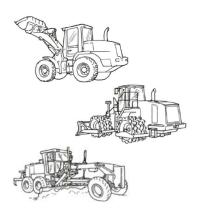
OHS Code Sections 212 – 215.5





Powered mobile equipment

- Operator trained on the equipment and has demonstrated (to the employer) competency in its operation.
- Equipment is in safe operating condition (pre-inspection).
- Area is clear of other workers before starting the unit.
- Workers in the area will not be contacted with parts of the operating equipment.
- Safe work procedure is at the work site to address workers working near operating equipment.
- Regular maintenance of the equipment is completed and a record of the maintenance inspection and work is available to the operator.
- Operator has not left the controls of unsecured equipment.
- No worker is allowed to ride on top of a load being moved.
- Do not refuel equipment with engine running unless allowed by subsection 279(4) of the OHS Code, or with a source of ignition within 7.5 metres.
- Adequate lights
- Windshield wipers
- Seat belts
- Falling Object Protective Structure
- Rollover Protective Structure
- Non-damaged glazing
- Warning signal/alarm
- Bulkheads





Hoisting and rigging

Cranes & hoists

Lifting devices and hoists with a capacity of 2000 kg or more and are not commercially manufactured must be certified by a professional engineer.

The lifting device requires a plate with the following:

- the manufacturer's rated load capacity
- the manufacturer's name, model, serial number and year of manufacture or shipment date
- load charts are required for mobile cranes, boom trucks, and tower cranes

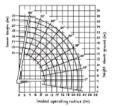
Requirements for each crane or hoist:

- Up-to-date log book
- Load charts
- Manufacturer's operating manual
- Code of signals (if competent signaler is required)

General requirements

- Verify that operators are competent (Ref. Apprentice & Industry Training Act).
- Collision prevention procedure in place where using two or more lifting devices in an area where they could collide.
- Use tag lines to prevent worker contact in pinch-points.
- Do not use an oil drum or similar container as a container for a load being lifted by a hoist unless the drum or container is hoisted in a cage designed for that purpose.







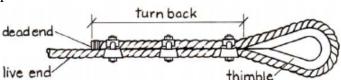




Rigging

Rigging includes rope, wire rope, chain, slings, and other fittings and attachments.

- Ensure that rigging, and all components of rigging, are inspected thoroughly at the commencement of each work shift.
- Do not use any rigging that does not comply with the OHS Code.
- A safety latch, mousing or shackle is present on the hook, if applicable.







Scaffolds and work platforms

Scaffolding

- A scaffold is to be erected, used, maintained and dismantled by a competent worker.
- Green, Yellow, or Red tag is applied to indicate readiness of the scaffold system (applies to scaffold types listed in section 326).
- Workers are protected from falling greater than 3.0 m during erection, dismantling and use.
- Scaffold platforms must be at least 500 mm, except that a nominal 300 mm wide platform may be used with ladderjacks, pump jack or similar systems.
- Scaffolds that are not referred to in the OHS Code must be manufactured, or designed and certified by a professional engineer.
- All scaffolds are set plumb on a base plate, jackscrew or other load dispersing device on a stable surface.
- Types of scaffolds referred to include: metal, wooden, bracket, ladderjack, single-pole, double-pole, outrigger, suspended, needle beam, swingstage, etc.
- Elevating platforms, aerial devices, and work platforms on forklifts must comply with the OHS Code.
- Vertical ladder attached to scaffold for access to a working level is used only to move up and down.

OHS Code Part 23



Note:

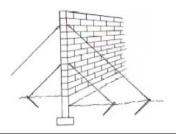
Refer to Alberta Construction Safety Association's Safe Work Practice for Scaffolds in Alberta



Temporary supporting structures

Temporary supporting structure is designed, constructed and braced in accordance with CSA Standards (*Falsework for Construction Purposes*) and, if applicable, is certified by a professional engineer.

- Shoring
- Panels
- Falsework
- Flyform Deck
- Forms
- Braces or Cables



OHS Code Sections 323-353





Skeleton structures

Erection drawings and procedures are certified by a professional engineer that include:

- The sequence of erecting the structure.
- Ensuring the stability of the structure during assembly.
- The horizontal and vertical placement of base structures and footings.

A competent worker supervises the erection of the skeleton structure.

OHS Code Section 190



Utilities (Safe limits of approach, marking and exposing)

Existing utilities

Power line operators must be contacted before work begins or equipment is operated within 7.0 m of an energized overhead power line.

- The safe limits of approach must be maintained between persons or equipment and energized power sources.
- Before the ground is disturbed, the owner of a pipeline and any other buried facility must be contacted if affected by the ground disturbance.
- Ground cannot be disturbed until the buried facilities have been marked and workers are aware of the locate marks.
- Exposing of buried facilities to sight must be done by hand or by some other non-destructive method acceptable to the owner.

OHS Code Section 225

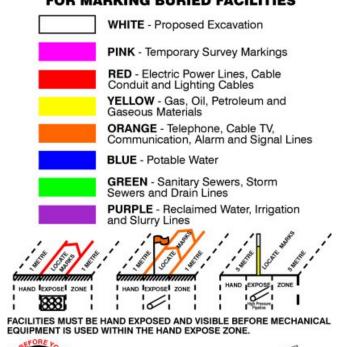
OHS Code Schedule 4

OHS Code Section 448



Workers are protected from cave-ins or sliding material when they are required to enter an excavation that is more than 1.5 m deep and closer to the wall or bank than the depth of the excavation. OHS Code Section 450

INTERNATIONAL COLOUR CODE FOR MARKING BURIED FACILITIES



1-800-242-3447

PLEASE PROVIDE AT LEAST 2 FULL WORKING DAY'S NOTICE

Note:

Check with facility owner to confirm the colour code coordination used at the work site.

For more information refer to the following web site: www.alberta1call.com

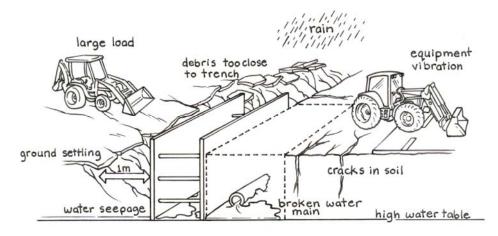


Excavations and trenching

Before workers begin working in an excavation or trench more than 1.5 m deep, the employer must ensure the worker is protected from cave-ins or sliding material.

- Spoil pile is kept back a minimum distance of 1 m.
- Sloping is to be not less than 30 degrees or 45 degrees depending on soil type. Only a Professional Engineer can certify other acceptable standard.
- Temporary protective structures (shoring) are to be certified by a Professional Engineer in a trench that is more than 3 m deep.
- Procedures must be developed for the safe installation and removal of temporary protective structures.
- Safe entry and exit from the excavation/trench is available within 8 m of the worker.

Factors that may cause cave-in of an excavation or trench







Compressed gas systems — fire and explosion hazards

Compressed and liquefied gas cylinders must be used, stored and transported in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.

- Equipped with a valve protection cap.
- Secured to prevent dislodgement.
- A flashback prevention device and a back flow prevention device are installed.
- Cylinders containing acetylene are secured and stored upright.
- Compressed air is not used to blow dust or other substances from clothing.
- Gas cylinders need to be clearly identified as to their contents.

OHS Code Section 171



WHMIS Section 398

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

If other measures (engineering or administrative) do not, or it is impracticable to, eliminate or reduce a hazard, the employer ensures workers use appropriate PPE.

Where a hazard assessment indicates the need for personal protective equipment:

- Employers ensure that workers wear the correct PPE for the hazards they are exposed to.
- Workers properly use and wear the PPE.

Workers are trained in the correct use, care, limitations and assigned maintenance of the personal protective equipment.

Personal protective equipment considerations are: head, eye, foot, limb and body, fall protection, hearing protection, and respiratory protection.

• Code of practice outlining the training, selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective equipment.

OHS Code Section 9



Because it could kill you not to.



Then you risk not seeing anything



Workplace Hazardous Material Information System (WHMIS)

Controlled products at the work site

Controlled products must be used, stored, handled or manufactured at a work site in accordance with the regulations.

- Workers are provided with site specific instructions on the hazards of the controlled products and the contents of the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS's).
- Appropriate labels are present (supplier, work site or other)
- The MSDS's are updated and readily available to workers at the work site.

OHS Code Part 29



Emergency response plan

Develop and implement (post) an emergency response plan for responding to an emergency that may require rescue or evacuation. The plan must be current and affected workers must be involved.

Part 7

Contents of the plan include:

- Identification of potential emergencies
- Procedures for dealing with the emergencies
- First aid services required
- Designated rescue and evacuation workers



OHS Code



First aid services

An employer/prime contractor needs to provide and maintain first aid services, equipment and supplies for his or her workers.

OHS Code Part 11

- Plan for adequate first aid services for the work site that meets the requirements of the OHS Code.
- Workers are informed of the location of the first aid services and names of first aid providers.
- Workers must report acute illness or injury.
- Employers record every acute illness or injury and retain the records for three years.

OHS Code – Schedule 2 defines the required equipment.

Temporary heating and ventilation

Hazard assessment must be done to determine if the heat source has the potential to ignite an explosive atmosphere.

OHS Code Sections 165 - 168

- Internal combustion engines are not to be located or operated in hazardous locations unless the combustion air intake and exhaust discharge are equipped with a flame arresting device.
- Open flames from flare pits, flare stacks or flares must not be less than 25 metres beyond the boundary of a hazardous location.
- Workers exposed to substances produced by combustion are not exposed to concentrations of the substances in excess of the Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL).



Toilets and washing facilities

Toilets and washing facilities must meet the legislated requirements.

- Ensure an adequate supply of drinking fluids is available.
- The work site is provided with the minimum number of toilets for each sex.
- Facilities for washing hands are available.

OHS Code Sections 354-361

> OHS Code Schedule 7



Asbestos

Asbestos presents a potential health hazard to workers at many work sites. It has been used in a variety of applications because of its strength and unique fire and chemical resistant properties. Prior to completing any work or renovations, the potential for disturbing asbestos-containing materials must be considered.

OHS Code Sections 28 - 40

An employer must minimize the release of asbestos into the air, keeping the worker exposure as low as reasonably practicable, and not exceeding the Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL).

- Workers must be made aware of the presence and location of asbestos-containing material.
- Workers must be instructed on the hazards of asbestos and the use of safe work procedures.
- Asbestos workers performing asbestos abatement work must be trained. Depending on the project, workers may need to have passed an approved asbestos abatement course.
- Air monitoring requirements must be considered for asbestos abatement activities.

If work is to be completed in the vicinity of asbestos-containing material, safe work procedures must be established and the workers adequately protected.

A person must not remove or abate asbestos or demolish or renovate a building or equipment containing asbestos if a Director of Inspection has not been notified.



Safety Committee

Safety committees are an effective tool used in the health and safety system. The formation of a Joint Work Site Health and Safety Committee can address a wide variety of health and safety issues at the work site.

Some suggestions include:

- Establish Terms of Reference (meeting time, number of representatives, etc.)
- Hold regularly scheduled meetings as contractors come onto site.
- Carry out regular safety inspections.
- Reporting system for near misses and incidents; conduct incident investigations.
- Monitor compliance with the *OHS Act*, Regulation and Code.



Web support



Supporting publications – OHS Contact Centre: 1-866-415-8690

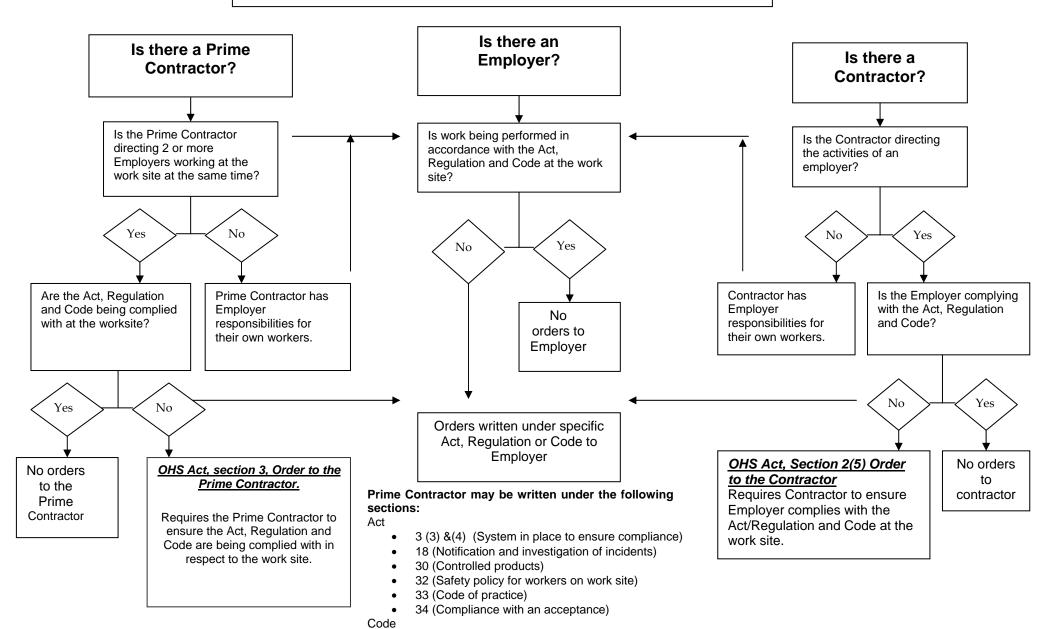
Sample fall protection plan

Company Name

Work Site:	
Address or location:	
DESCRIBE WORK TO BE DONE	
FALL HAZARDS TO BE PROTECTED AGAIN	NST:
EALL PROTECTION OVERTENO HOED	patraint fall arrest
FALL PROTECTION SYSTEMS USED e.g. guardrails, travel re	estraint, fail arrest
RESCUE PLAN e.g. ladder truck, man b	pasket, high angle rescue team
	•
WORKERS TRAINED AND INFORMED	Initial
Workers have been trained in the safe use of the fall protection equipment.	
Affected workers have been made aware of this plan.	
Comments:	
Supervisor's signature:	Date:

Occupational Health and Safety Prime Contractor/Contractor/Employer Decision Tree

Officer observed that workers are on site.



2 (Design, construction, erection or installation of

equipment)



Contact us:

Province-Wide Contact Centre

Web Site

Edmonton & surrounding area:780-415-8690

www.worksafe.alberta.ca

Throughout Alberta: 1-866-415-8690



Deaf or hearing impaired

- In Edmonton: **780-427-9999**
- **1-800-232-7215** throughout Alberta

Getting copies of OHS Act, Regulation & Code:

Queen's Printer

Occupational Health and Safety



www.qp.gov.ab.ca



www.employment.alberta.ca/ohs-legislation



Edmonton 780-427-4952

Call any Government of Alberta office toll-free Dial 310-0000, then the area code and telephone number you want to reach

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