



Yukon Workers'
Compensation
Health and
Safety Board

For Release

January 8, 2009

YWCHSB Reports Fewer Yukon Workers Hurt in 2008.

WHITEHORSE: The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board (YWCHSB) announced today that, for the first time in six years, the annual number of reported workplace injuries declined slightly. As of December 31, 2007 there were 1960 injuries reported. As of the same date in 2008 there were 1936.

This is an achievement, especially given the fact that Yukon's workforce increased by 600 in 2008. In 2007, there was a workplace injury for every 9 workers; in 2008, this dropped slightly to 1 injury for every 9.4 workers. While this marks an improvement, there is still obviously a long way to go.

Two years ago the Board started promoting the reporting of all workplace injuries because many injuries were not being reported.

Last year, YWCHSB pushed for injury reports to be filed in a timely manner; while the law stipulates that Employer's Report of Injury be submitted within three days, the average reporting time was more than a month.

The delayed filing was driving up claims costs. YWCHSB can not begin assisting injured workers and their employers until reports are filed. Some minor injuries progressed to long term disabilities because of delays in treatment caused by the late filing of injury reports.

However during the last year employers and workers have shown an overall improvement in filing Reports of Injury/Illness and doing it in a timely manner. Part of this improvement could be attributed to YWCHSB financially penalizing three employers \$500 each last year for late filing.

Another contributing factor to improved reporting is that YWCHSB has simplified the reporting forms and made it convenient for workers and employers to file their reports on-line through our website.

YWCHSB is now further streamlining the reporting process.

If an injured worker does not require medical treatment beyond the job site or need time off work beyond the day of injury, a Report of Injury/Illness does not have to be filed with YWCHSB. However, the employer must keep a written record of the incident.

If the injured worker requires treatment by a medical professional and/or needs time off work beyond the day of their injury, a Report of Injury/Illness must be filed within 72-hours to YWCHSB.

If a worker has suffered a major injury, including fractures, loss of consciousness etc. immediately call Occupational Health and Safety at 867-667-5450 or 1-800-661-0443. Reports of Injury/Illness must also be filed with YWCHSB.

Immediately call Occupational Health and Safety at either of the numbers listed above to report any close calls, even if they don't result in an injury. These include any incidents that likely would have caused death or serious injury but for safety precautions, rescue measures or chance.

Contact:

Frank Fry
Public Relations Liaison
Phone: 667-3445