

BCSATODAY

NEWSLETTER OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA SAFETY AUTHORITY
SUMMER 2009

The British Columbia Safety Authority is an independent, self-funded corporation that inspires safety excellence in British Columbia by partnering with business, industry and the general public to enhance the safety of technical systems, products, equipment and work.

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BC SAFETY AUTHORITY
CORPORATE OFFICE
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▶ ABOUT THE BC SAFETY AUTHORITY

The British Columbia Safety Authority is an independent, self-funded corporation that inspires safety excellence in British Columbia by partnering with business, industry and the general public to enhance the safety of technical systems, products, equipment and work.

We are a not-for-profit organization incorporated through the *Safety Authority Act*. We administer the *Safety Standards Act* and portions of the *Railway Safety Act*, and the power to do so is delegated by Administrative Agreements with the Province of British Columbia.

We deliver safety services that apply to work and products, and oversee the safety of the following industry sectors in the province:

- Amusement rides
- Boilers, pressure vessels, and refrigeration systems
- Electrical equipment and systems
- Elevating devices such as elevators and escalators
- Natural gas and propane appliances and systems, including hydrogen
- Passenger ropeways such as aerial trams and ski lifts
- Railways, including rapid transit

STATISTICS ON OUR SERVICES (FOR 2008)

- ▶ We conducted 293 inspections of amusement rides.
- ▶ We had 373 active amusement rides registered with us.
- ▶ We conducted 9,578 inspections of boilers, pressure vessels and refrigeration systems.
- ▶ We issued more than 65,000 electrical installation permits.
- ▶ We conducted almost 41,000 electrical inspections.
- ▶ More than 23,000 elevating devices are registered with us.
- ▶ We completed 2,866 inspections of elevating devices.
- ▶ We conducted more than 13,000 inspections of gas installations.
- ▶ We conducted 195 passenger ropeway inspections.
- ▶ More than 3,000 hours were spent conducting safety assessments of the 4 classes of railway operations.
- ▶ We are one of only 24 organizations worldwide to be accredited by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers as an Authorized Inspection Agency.



DID YOU KNOW...?



“2008 has been a particularly big one on the inspection front because of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Pretty much every Olympic venue uses technology we regulate. We have been very gratified in our work with VANOC in making sure that all the Olympic facilities are built according to regulations, and will be operated safely.

Also, while not a direct Olympic facility, we have regulatory oversight on the new Peak to Peak Gondola that bridges Whistler and Blackcomb mountains. We are particularly proud of our work on this international project that is truly not just a Canadian wonder but a global masterpiece of engineering and construction.”

Harry Diemer, BCSA President and CEO
2009 BCSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(The BCSA is also providing regulatory oversight to the Canada Line and the Whistler Conversion Project where Terasen Gas converted the entire community of Whistler to natural gas.)

► HEADS UP FOR SAFETY CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

Electrical and gas contractors are being encouraged to contact the BC Safety Authority for free *Heads Up for Safety* brochures to use with renovation quotations.

This offer to contractors is part of the BC Safety Authority's (BCSA) *Heads Up for Safety* campaign which will be implemented in October – just in time when home renovation season kicks into full gear.

Heads Up For Safety is a public education campaign focused on two key goals: to encourage homeowners to hire contractors who are licensed by the BCSA; and to educate homeowners that permits must be taken out for regulated work.

Over the past two years, the *Heads Up For Safety* Campaign has resulted in a marked increase in homeowners hiring licensed contractors.

"We are encouraging homeowners to do reference checking," says Paula Barrett, Director of Safety Services, Operations. "Especially to ensure that the tradespeople showing up at their door are licensed with the BC Safety Authority. This is a reminder to contractors to carry their BCSA license."

Heads Up for Safety brochures can be ordered free by contacting Kenman Chau at 778-396-2101 or kenman.chau@safetyauthority.ca.



► Pearse Walsh, Leader, Business Research and Development (left), explains the important role that contractors have by educating homeowners to hire licensed contractors.

► BCSA ONLINE SERVICES PERK UP

Client satisfaction remains a high priority for the BC Safety Authority. And we're listening to our clients' feedback!

For example, on April 20, the BC Safety Authority rolled out a redesigned certification process for power engineers – a process that is highly improved and available online while ensuring strict compliance with the *Safety Standards Act* and the Power Engineers, Boiler, Pressure Vessels and Refrigeration Regulations.

With the new process, applicants for a power engineer's certificate will be able to use BCSA's online services (www.safetyauthority.ca) to do the following:

- Apply for evaluations of their qualifications
- Apply for exams
- Pay online using Visa/MasterCard
- Review the status of their applications
- Update their contact information
- Have the option to take a multiple choice exam electronically in any of our exam offices throughout the province
- Get their results (pass/fail) immediately upon completion of the electronic exam.

On July 13, the BCSA responded to privacy concerns by implementing system changes for contractors applying for gas and/or electrical permits through BC Online. Users of the system must now provide the following information:

- Last name of the Field Safety Representative or Gas Fitter
- FSR or Gas Fitter number

Your feedback is important to the BC Safety Authority. Feel free to contact us via our toll-free number 1-866-566-7233.

► REPORTING ON BC'S STATE OF SAFETY

The BC Safety Authority (BCSA) has released its *State of Safety Report 2008* which provides an overview of reported incidents related to the technologies that we regulate. The report also summarizes the outcome of inspections carried out by safety officers and analyzes inspection data and safety risks.

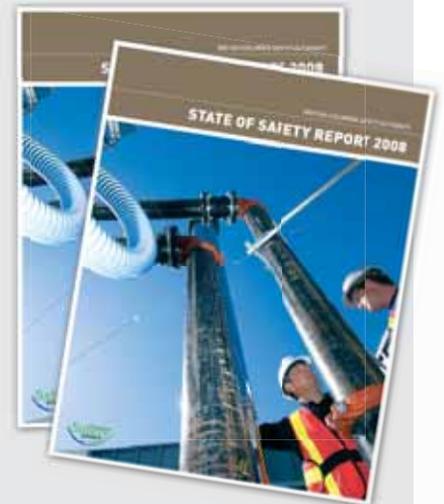
In 2008, there were a total of 456 incidents reported to the BCSA, of which 359 were directly related to regulated equipment or operations under the BCSA's jurisdiction. This represents a 5% decline from the 483 reported incidents in 2007.

There were fewer minor injuries last year at 80 from 151 in 2007. Major injuries were higher at 58 from 10 in the previous year. The rise in major injuries was largely caused by a single incident that sent 27 people to a hospital for carbon monoxide exposure. Two deaths were also reported due to separate gas-related incidents.

The report also summarizes the enforcement activities conducted by the BCSA. In 2008, a total of 625 enforcement actions were carried out, most of which were compliance orders and suspensions of permit privileges.

The BCSA considers the data it collects every year as fundamental to its operations. According to Harry Diemer, the BCSA's President and Chief Executive Officer, "The data allows us to identify high-risk areas and create strategies to reduce risk and prevent accidents across our province."

To read and download the *State of Safety Report 2008*, visit the BCSA's website at www.safetyauthority.ca.



► BCSA CALENDAR

September 2 – 6
Interior Provincial Exhibition
Armstrong

BC's premier Agricultural Exhibition. Come by the BCSA booth for our safety tips. Information: www.armstrongipe.com Contact: info@armstrongipe.com

September 28 – October 02
Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention
Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre

This year's theme: A Province of Champions. Information: www.civicnet.bc.ca Contact: ubcm@civicnet.bc.ca

October 15 – 18
Vancouver Home and Interior Design
BC Place Stadium

Vancouver's largest home show featuring all the latest trends, design and renovating tips from industry leaders. Visit the BCSA booth to learn what to do before starting any renovations. Information: www.vancouverhomeandinteriordesignshow.com Contact: jillp@marketplaceevents.com

► ENFORCEMENT STEPS UP

The BC Safety Authority is increasing its enforcement activity against those who do regulated work without taking out the required permits, or who do work that doesn't meet codes and standards.

In the first quarter of 2009 alone, the BCSA issued 136 enforcement actions against contractors and certified individuals in BC, slightly higher than the 134 actions during the same period last year.

The 136 enforcement actions included 101 compliance orders and 35 permit privilege suspensions. Of the 101 compliance orders, 84 were based in the electrical industry, 16 in gas and one in the boiler industry.

In 2008, the BCSA conducted 625 enforcement actions, up from 560 in 2007. These included 325 permit privilege suspensions, 286 compliance orders and five monetary penalties. The other actions carried out included the suspension of authorization and permit privileges, contractors' licenses and certificates of qualifications.

Enforcement actions or penalties set out in legislation include:

- Prosecution
- Revocation or suspension of a Contractor's License
- Revocation or suspension of a Certificate of Qualifications
- Imposing a Monetary Penalty
- Issuance of a Compliance Order
- Suspended authorization and/or permit privileges.



►► Safety officers work with contractors to enhance the safety of technical systems, products, equipment and work.

As an added tool to its enforcement efforts, the BCSA also introduced a property ownership search process that allows its safety officers to identify a specific property owner when all other means of identification have failed.

An Enforcement Program feedback survey is posted on our website at www.safetyauthority.ca. Please take a few minutes to tell us what you think.

October 23 – 25 Nanaimo Fall Home Expo Beban Park Centre

For 21 years, this popular home show features information on building, renovations, home improvements, design and home décor. Stop by the BCSA booth to get some guidelines when planning for renovations.

Information: www.homeshowtime.com
Contact: info@homeshowtime.com

October 30 – November 1 Campbell River Fall Home Expo Campbell River Sports Complex

Building, renovation and design show. Come by the BCSA booth to learn what to do before starting any renovations.

Information: www.homeshowtime.com
Contact: info@homeshowtime.com





BCSA staff hand out brochures with safety tips to skiers on Cypress Mountain

▶ TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

What do you think of this newsletter?
We'd like to know.

Email your comments, ideas and thoughts to
roy.siojo@safetyauthority.ca

Need to contact the BCSA?
Toll Free 1.866.566.7233
Corporate Office 778.396.2000
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New Westminster, BC V3L 0E1



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▶ GETTING PEOPLE TO ACT SAFELY

Every winter ski season, safety experts at the BC Safety Authority kept noticing a disturbing trend – a spike in the number of injuries among young boys.

Analysis of the injuries and the technical equipment being used identified, among other things, a lack of attention to posted rules when getting on or off chairlifts, resulting in increased exposure to accidents.

So the BC Safety Authority has set out to do something about this as part of its Education Program.

Falls from Chairlifts is one of several education campaigns underway, or being planned for the near future.

Education is a major component of the BCSA's operational philosophy, better known as the Accident Prevention Model. The Education Program addresses specific, major risks identified in the different technologies regulated by the BCSA.

"It's not just the transfer of important information that we are championing but rather a change in culture or attitude toward risk taking, and getting people to act safely because it makes sense, not simply because it's the law," says Harry Diemer, President and CEO of the BCSA.

Education Programs will also provide those who work in the safety industry with information about risks and what to do to avoid them. BCSA staff will provide expertise in developing the educational materials while networks within industry will be tapped in getting the materials out.

Initiatives from the Education Program include:

- **Elevator and Escalator Safety** – a program to prevent trips or falls on elevators and escalators
- **Falls From Chairlifts** – a program for parents and children to prevent accidents while loading and unloading from chairlifts
- **Can You Dig It?** – a campaign aimed at reducing gas line hits
- **Heads Up For Safety** – a campaign to raise awareness of the value of hiring a licensed contractor.

Lieutenant Governor's **AWARDS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY 2009**

► **NOMINATION FORM**

NOMINATIONS DEADLINE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2009

Please print clearly. All information must be completed in full.

Include this form with every nomination package.

AWARD CATEGORY

I am submitting this nomination for an:

- Individual Award Organization Award Lifetime Achievement Award

APPLICABLE INDUSTRY SECTOR

Does this nomination relate to one or more of the industry sectors overseen by the BC Safety Authority in the province?

Yes, it relates to:

- amusement rides
 boilers, pressure vessels and refrigeration systems
 electrical equipment or systems
 elevating devices such as elevators and escalators
 natural gas and propane appliances or systems, including hydrogen
 passenger ropeways such as aerial trams and ski lifts
 railways, including rapid transit

No, it relates to (please describe): _____

NOMINEE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE: _____

DATE: _____

.....

NOMINATOR: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR: _____

DATE: _____

► **NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS**

NOMINATIONS DEADLINE
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2009

A complete nomination package must include:

Nomination Form: Please complete the attached nomination form in full, and submit it with all documentation.

Nomination Description: Provide up to a one-page description of the reasons the individual or organization should be considered for an award.

Nominee Profile: Provide a one-page personal biography or corporate profile.

Supporting Reference Letters: Provide two letters supporting the nomination. Letters must be signed and include contact information.

Optional: Provide up to three pages of additional information or supporting documentation about your nominee.

All materials must be submitted on 8.5" x 11" paper. Only one copy is necessary. Please note it is the responsibility of the nominator to ensure that the nomination package is complete and includes the supporting reference letters at the time it is submitted to the BC Safety Authority. Nomination packages will not be returned and will be kept confidential. Additional nomination forms are available at www.safetyauthority.ca.

Please submit nomination packages by mail or in person to:

**5TH ANNUAL LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S
 AWARDS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY
 BRITISH COLUMBIA SAFETY AUTHORITY
 ATTN: CHRISTINE MORRIS
 MARKETING BUSINESS PARTNER
 SUITE 200-505 6TH STREET
 NEW WESTMINSTER, BC V3L 0E1**

For more information:
christine.morris@safetyauthority.ca
 778.396.2103

► LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S AWARDS SEEKING NOMINATIONS

"The BC Safety Authority is seeking nominations to the Lieutenant Governor's Awards for Public Safety which honour individuals and organizations for their outstanding contributions to public safety in British Columbia. Nominations must be received by Sept . 18, 2009 (Please use nomination form on page 7).

With this annual awards program, we are able to bring the public eye towards safety," says Harry Diemer, President and CEO of the BC Safety Authority. "We are able to recognize unsung heroes. And in the process, we hope to encourage others to take safety seriously."

The 2008 Lieutenant Governor Award winners were:

Lifetime Achievement Award: Jim Barker, the Electrical Safety Manager for the City of Surrey, dedicated his career to electrical safety and promoted electrical safety standards throughout BC. The award was presented in remembrance after Jim was killed in a motor vehicle accident in July 2008.

Individual Award: Brian Leighton, Safety Manager of Whistler Blackcomb. Brian has been with the Whistler Blackcomb team for over 30 years. He has been instrumental in developing standardized safety policies as well as safety and risk management seminars for BC ski resorts.

Organization Award: The CN Dangerous Goods Team created the Responder Education Assistance and Certification Training (REACT) initiative – a program offered to various emergency responders in 36 communities throughout BC.

Terasen Gas and Fortis BC, who are the 2009 Platinum Sponsors, are encouraging industry and those who work in the safety community to file a nomination.

"Terasen Gas holds strong to a safety culture that is integrated into every element of our business," said Randy Jespersen, President and CEO, Terasen Gas. "We emphasize that safety is our first priority – for our employees, for our customers, and for the public at large. The bottom line is we want everyone, for their own benefit as well as for those who depend upon them, to return home safely every day. We encourage other organizations to join us by nominating a safety ambassador for the Lieutenant Governor's Awards for Public Safety."

Award recipients will be honoured at a luncheon to be held on Nov. 25, 2009 at the Vancouver Convention Centre.

► 2009 SPONSORS

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Vancouver Regional Construction Association



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