

A newsletter by the Employers' Advisers Office, Ministry of Labour, B.C. Government.  
The Employers' Advisers Office provides advice, assistance, representation and training on all aspects of workers' compensation.

To subscribe/unsubscribe, call 1-800-925-2233 or email [EAO@eao-bc.org](mailto:EAO@eao-bc.org)

EAO Website: [www.gov.bc.ca/employersadvisers](http://www.gov.bc.ca/employersadvisers)

## Cannabis: Are You Ready?

Cannabis legalization will occur on October 17. WorkSafeBC has put together a number of [resources](#) to help you ensure your impairment policies and procedures meet your workplace safety obligations.



## WorkSafeBC Policy and Regulation Updates

1. Amendments to the [Mental Disorder policy](#) came into effect on July 23, 2018. These amendments reflect the recent changes to the *Workers Compensation Act* that create a presumption for workers in specified occupations who are diagnosed with a mental disorder arising from a traumatic event. An [Interim Practice Directive](#), also effective July 23, provides a new method for analyzing whether a worker experienced a traumatic event or significant stressor in the workplace.
2. [Revised Exposure Limits](#) for hazardous chemical substances ACGIH Threshold Limits came into effect in July.

## Ministry of Labour News

1. [Workers Compensation Act Getting an Update](#) – The *Statute Revision Act* mandates the periodic consolidation, renumbering and reorganizing of BC's statutes into more coherent and readable "revised" Acts. [Proposed amendments to the Workers Compensation Act](#) effect this purpose, including reorganizing parts and sections. There are no substantive changes to the law. If approved, the revisions will come into effect on March 1, 2019.
2. [Correctional Officer Defined](#) – On June 26, [OIC 325-2018](#) was issued to define "correctional officer" for the application of the presumption in the recently amended mental disorder provisions and [policy](#). The definition includes correctional officers working in correctional and youth custody centres. It also includes wardens and others working in federal penitentiaries.

## Report Out of the WorkSafeBC Rate Consultations

The EAO learned that 118,000 employers will see their base rate decrease while 108,000 will see an increase. The average rate assessed remains at 1.55% for BC's 230,000 employers.

## WorkSafeBC Consultations

1. [Partners in Injury and Disability Prevention Program – Certificate of Recognition \(COR\)](#) - Feedback on amendments to the interim policy in addition to extensive practice materials (including a prescriptive Audit Standard) is due October 1, 2018.
2. [Mobile Equipment](#) – Submissions for proposed amendments to the Mobile Equipment regulation are due October 10, 2018.
3. [Diving, Fishing and Other Marine Operations](#) – Proposed amendments designed to streamline, clarify and remove duplicate content are open for feedback until October 12, 2018.

## WorkSafeBC Safety Initiatives

1. WorkSafeBC's second quarter results of its [High Risk Strategies](#) and [Industry Initiatives](#) are now available.
2. The third annual [Ergonomics Forum](#) will be held in Richmond on October 11. Online registration is required.

## Findings in the Fernie Memorial Arena Tragedy

WorkSafeBC has released the [results of its investigation](#) into the causes leading to the death of three workers in October, 2017. An excellent video highlighting the findings is found [here](#).

## BC First Responders Mental Health Website

This BC First Responders Mental Health Committee is a multi-agency group representing labour and management from rural and urban areas to promote positive mental health for first responders. Its website contains excellent resources for those working in this industry.



The Employers' Advisers Office will be exhibiting at the 2018 Surrey Small Business Information Expo at Surrey City Hall on **October 2, 2018**. Join us and other support programs who provide valuable resources to small businesses!