



British Columbia Mine Safety Awards

Underground Mine Awards

General Rules

1. At the Chief Inspector's discretion awards will be given to those eligible underground mines which have the lowest injury-frequency rate in the competition period or year.
2. The competition year is from January 1st to December 31st.
3. Only permitted mines are eligible.
4. There are two categories for Underground Mine Awards:
 - a. **Small Underground:** Property must have had between 10 and 100 employees, or have worked 20,000–240,000 worker hours during the year (or 2,500–30,000 person shifts equivalent)
 - b. **Large Underground:** Property must have more than 240,000 worker hours during the year (or 30,000 person shifts equivalent)
5. One-third (1/3) of the worker hours must have been worked underground.
6. Worker hours include supervisory and contractor hours worked underground.
7. The property must have operated at least nine (9) months during the calendar year.
8. A fatality automatically disqualifies a mine.
9. Industrial diseases are not classed as injuries.
10. When disputed accidents are adjudicated in favour of the injured person at a date later than **February 1st** of the following year, they will be charged to the year in which the adjudication was made.
11. Lost-time accident frequency will be a factor used in determining a winner, and the following formula applies:

$$\text{Injury-frequency rate} = \frac{\text{Number of lost-time injuries} \times 200,000}{\text{Number of hours worked}}$$

12. Other factors that will be considered are lost-time accident frequencies for the two (2) most recent consecutive years, and a comparison to the industry average which is determined from WorkSafeBC's estimated injury rates.¹
13. In the case of a tie, the award will be given to the mine with a lower injury severity.²
14. The Chief Inspector of Mines administers the competition.

¹ Injury rate as defined by WorkSafeBC is the number of short-term disability claims per 100 person years of WorkSafeBC-covered employment. Person years as defined by WorkSafeBC is one year of work in the given industry by one person.

² Injury severities will be measured according to the number of days an injury prevents an employee from working or, in the case of multiple injuries, the total number of missed days for all injured employees.