



Video transcription

Your Rights and Safety at Work

Have you ever thought about your rights as an employee? As a worker, you have many rights and responsibilities that are not just about doing your job, but also about staying safe at work. And it's not only about keeping yourself safe—it's also about protecting everyone around you.

Today, we will talk about your rights as a worker in British Columbia and how to stay safe at work.

Let's start by talking about WorkSafeBC. This is an organization that helps make workplaces safe and healthy. WorkSafeBC's goal is to prevent injuries, illnesses, and deaths at work. They also help injured workers with fair compensation and rehabilitation. Their vision is to create healthy workplaces with caring and responsive service.

WorkSafeBC values things like accountability, compassion, excellence, integrity, and respect. They work with businesses and workers to make sure everyone goes home safe at the end of the day.

You can learn more about them by visiting their website, which has helpful resources and support. But today, we'll focus on three important rights that every worker should know.

1. The Right to Know About Hazards

You have the right to be informed about any dangers in your workplace. This could include harmful chemicals, broken equipment, or unsafe conditions.

What does this mean for you?

- Your employer must give you training and information about hazards in your workplace. For example, if you work with chemicals, they must provide documents explaining the risks and how to handle them safely.

For example, if you work in a factory with chemicals and are asked to handle a solvent, your employer should train you on the risks, give you safety gloves and goggles, and provide a document explaining emergency steps in case of exposure.

2. The Right to Participate

You have the right to be part of the process when it comes to workplace safety. This means you can help improve safety, spot hazards, and work with others to make your workplace safer.

What does this mean for you?

Some of the topics covered in these videos are sensitive. If you have questions related to health, well-being, laws, duties or rights, we recommend that you consult a specialist.



- You can join a health and safety committee, where employees and employers work together to solve safety problems.
- You can report hazards to your supervisor or suggest ways to make things safer.

For example, if you notice a spill in the hallway that could cause someone to slip, you should report it immediately and suggest putting up warning signs or placing mats in the area. If you're on the safety committee, you can also suggest regular inspections to spot hazards early.

3. The Right to Refuse Unsafe Work

If you think a task or situation is unsafe, you have the right to stop working until the issue is checked and fixed. You cannot be punished or fired for stopping work to protect your safety.

What does this mean for you?

- You can refuse to use broken equipment, handle dangerous materials without proper training or gear, or work in unsafe conditions.
- Your employer must investigate the problem and fix it before asking you to continue the work.

For example, if you're working on a construction site and your safety harness is damaged, you can refuse to use it until it is replaced with a safe one. Your employer must inspect the equipment and give you a safe harness before you can continue working at heights.

Why Is It Important to Know These Rights?

Knowing your rights helps protect you and everyone else around you. When you know your rights, it helps make sure safety rules are followed and prevents accidents.

Remember, safety is everyone's responsibility. A safe workplace is your right, and using it helps everyone. Protect yourself, protect others, and don't hesitate to ask for help if you have questions. Your safety is the most important thing!