



An employer who fails to comply with the Occupational Health & Safety Regulation or Board orders or directions is subject to sanctions as prescribed in the Workers Compensation Act.

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Date of Issue	Number	Number of Orders	Employer	Location	Classification Unit Number	Activity Time Recorded*	Travel Time Recorded*
2011/05/02	2011163500060	3	832097	007	766004	2.50	1.00

\*The Time Recorded reflects only that time which has been charged to this inspection up until the document was printed for delivery. Subsequent time may be added for additional activity related to this inspection.

Number of Workers	Project Number	Site Visit Date	Lab Samples Taken	Direct Readings	Results Presented	Sampling Inspection(s)
101 or more		2011/04/19	N	N	N	

Head Office	Job Site
<b>EMERGENCY AND HEALTH SERVICES COMMISSION</b> <b>ATT: WORKSAFEBC CONTACT BLOCK C - 2251 KEATING CRO</b> <b>PO BOX 9600 STN PROV GOVT</b> <b>VICTORIA</b> <b>BC V8W9P1</b>	<b>BCAS</b> <b>Station 123</b> <b>3300 Douglas Street</b>  <b>Victoria</b> <b>BC</b>

Portion Inspected	<b>Station 123</b>
Violations	<b>REFER TO ORDERS ON FOLLOWING PAGE(S)</b>

Employer Representative Name	Accompanied by Employer Representative
<b>Grant Brilz</b>	<b>Grant Brilz</b>
Employer Representative Position	Accompanied by Worker Representative
<b>Supervisor</b>	<b>Spoke with Workers</b>
Phone Number	Organization
Signature	Officer of the Board / Signature <b>Ianson, Dawn</b>

**For Internal Use Only**

**Delivery Method: Email**

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**Regulation(s) Referenced in Inspection Text**

**OHS 4.50.(1), OHS 4.84.(1), OHS 4.19.(1)**



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**Inspection Text**

WorkSafeBC Officer, Dawn Ianson (OHO) attended the work site located at 3300 Douglas Street, Victoria BC on April 19, 2011. British Columbia Ambulance Service (BCAS)

Workplace inspections are occurring on a regular bases at the station level. The inspectional checklist includes a comprehensive list that focuses primarily on the station and the vehicles. It does not however include the inspection of work practices and work methods, which is the number one contributor to injuries at this workplace. Additionally it was suggested that as the organization moves forward in ensuring the those workers who may be required to enter areas over or around water are supplied with personal floatation devices that this item be included in the PPE section of the checklist.

For the most part it would appear as though there is prompt action on correcting deficiencies identified during the workplace inspections.

Incident Investigations are conducted as required by the OHS Regulations and as of recently direction to include the participation of a worker representative has been issued. In reviewing the incidents from the previous 6 months the majority of worker injury is occurring from patient handling in the field.

The employer reported that a recent statistical analysis of worker injury showed that there is a need to ensure that other agencies (such as Fire Rescue and Police) are provided with instruction and training on the safe and correct use of items such as the ambulance cots.

OHS Regulations 4.50.(1) states that the employer must eliminate or, if that is not practicable, minimize the risk of MSI to workers. In order to eliminate one must first examine engineering controls, then administrative controls and finally the deployment of personal protective equipment. It is suggested that the employer should be seriously reviewing the appropriateness of the current ambulance cot being used. It would appear as though there are a number of scenarios where the emergency situation does not provide a appropriate situation or circumstances to ensure all those involved have adequate knowledge or (Fire, Police, family members, general public)and the result is the worker is put at risk of injury. The industry offers more suitable equipment that requires no lifting on the part of the worker. (thus eliminating the risk) This must be examined in more detail. It is acknowledged that these cots are a significant cost to the employer. At this time the transfer of the BCAS into the PHA classification units has provided significant freed up funding in insurance premiums and it would make good business sense to invest in the

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Grant Brilz	Ianson, Dawn

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reduction of injuries through deploying cots like the Stryker Power Pro XT.

Workers reported very few incidents of Violence and the incident report reviewed by the Officer confirmed this.

Workers and managers were not aware of the "purple dot" system used by most of the health authorities in the province to identify patients/clients/ residents with a history of violence. If the business operations of station 123 (and all other station) is to transport patients/clients/ residents from sites within Vancouver Island Health Authority it is necessary that workers become familiar with this system. It is the responsibility of the VIHA to ensure that there is a coordination of health and safety related activities and information at multi-employer workplaces. (WCA 118)

It was reported that dispatch does inquire regarding weapons at the location of the response. If possible dispatchers should be required to inquire regarding a history of violence, for example if the response is for a dementia patient, then more specifically what is the risk to workers --- assaults, pinching health care providers etc. (it is recognized that in a emergency situation this is not always possible)

BCAS has a comprehensive Exposure Control Plan (ECP) related to biological Agents such as HIV, Hepatitis B, Norwalk and the Pandemic Flu. Workers reported receiving training in the ECP. As of April 30, 2011 all workers will have completed the annual fit testing. It is recommended that the medical monitoring element of this plan include a more stringent schedule of titer level monitoring.

During the station walk through it was observed that the minutes from the District Occupational Safety and Health minutes were not posted, although there is a labelled spot for them. In general the Safety Board required some attention, many items were mislabeled or missing. (as discussed with the management representative).

Lastly there are a number of circumstances where a worker may be considered to be impaired. The OHSR that apply to worker impairment include 4.19 and 4.20. The employer is encourage to examine the current practice of deploying workers who are fatigued as a result of either long work hours or insufficient nutritional breaks. Noting that (OHS 4.84.(1)) requires that workers must not keep or consume food in an area of a workplace where it could become unwholesome because of workplace contaminants. (this would include in the ambulances).

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Orders						
Order No.	1	Decision	DN	WCB Reference	OHS3.5	

As detailed in the text of this inspection report the employer has failed to ensure that regular inspections are made of work practices and methods, at intervals that would prevent the development of unsafe working conditions.

This is in contravention of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation Section 3.5.

Every employer must ensure that regular inspections are made of all workplaces, including buildings, structures, grounds, excavations, tools, equipment, machinery and work methods and practices, at intervals that will prevent the development of unsafe working conditions.

Employer's Compliance Action	Date	Decision	Initials

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Order No.	2	Decision	DN	WCB Reference	WCA138.(b)
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The employer has not posted or kept posted the reports of the 3 most recent district occupational safety and health committee meetings.

This is in contravention of the Workers Compensation Act Section 138 (b).

At each workplace where workers of an employer are regularly employed, the employer must post and keep posted the reports of the 3 most recent joint committee meetings.

Employer's Compliance Action	Date	Decision	Initials

Order No.	3	Decision	D	WCB Reference	WCA194.(1)
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You are required to notify the Board, in writing, of the steps to be taken to correct the contraventions cited that require a 'Notice of Compliance' [Decision Code will contain the letter N].

The Notice of Compliance shall be delivered to:

WorkSafeBC  
Dawn Ianson  
4514 Chatterton Way  
Victoria, BC  
V8X 5H2  
Fax: 250 881 3482  
Email: dawn.ianson@worksafebc.com

by June 06, 2011.

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This order includes a requirement for a compliance report in accordance with WCA section 194(1).

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