

OHS Fines Scorecard for 2024 (Jan. 1 thru Feb. 13)



Six weeks into the year, there have been 11 OHS reported fines across Canada in 2024. Among these, 6 totaled over \$100,000. As one would expect, Ontario accounted for the most reported fines—6 of 11, as well as 4 of the 6 biggest fines. The other 2 6-figure fines during the period came from Alberta, including the largest reported fine—\$350,000 against an oilfield company for a pipe worker's fatality.

A single Ontario case involving a construction collapse that killed 2 workers and critically injured 4 others accounted for 2 of the period's biggest fines, including a penalty of \$260,000 against the company responsible for the formwork and \$140,000 against the company that carried out the concrete pouring operation that caused the collapse.

Keep in mind that these numbers are artificially low to the extent that many provinces don't publicly report their OHS fines and WorkSafeBC, which hands out the most fines of any jurisdiction by far, doesn't report penalties until roughly 3 or 4 months after it hands them out. Here's a summary of all of the major OHS fines from January 1 through the first 2 weeks of February.

OHS Fines Reported from January 1

to February 13, 2024 (over \$20,000)

Jurisdiction	Fine	Company	What Happened	Violation(s)
Alberta	\$350,000	Xtreme Oilfield Group Inc.	Check valve of pipe under pressure breaks, strikes and kills worker performing tests on the pipe	Failure to ensure a worker's health and safety
Ontario	\$260,000	iSpan Systems LP	Concrete pour operation causes construction collapse, killing 2 workers and seriously injuring 4 others	Failure to ensure that a building, structure or any part of it was capable of supporting loads that may be applied to it
Ontario	\$140,000	East Elgin Concrete Forming Ltd.	Concrete pour operation causes construction collapse, killing 2 workers and seriously injuring 4 others	Failure to provide proper safety information, instruction and training on concrete measuring

Jurisdiction	Fine	Company	What Happened	Violation(s)
Ontario	\$120,000	OJB Industries Inc.	Worker sandblasting metal turret in metal turret in abrasive blast room dies of carbon monoxide poisoning	Failure to ensure that the compressed breathing air system of victim's respirator was equipped with a continuous carbon monoxide monitor and properly calibrated
Ontario	\$110,000	Matpol Metal Roof Manufacturing Ltd., c/o/b as Canadian Metal Roof Manufacturing Ltd.	Worker suffers fatal fall while installing metal sheathing on a second-storey roof	Failure, as constructor, to ensure fall protection to a worker at risk of falling more than 3 metres
Alberta	\$102,000	Great Northern Plumbing Inc.	Rack holding steel pipe buckles under the weight and collapses on worker causing serious injury	Failure to ensure that rated capacity on the operation of equipment wasn't exceeded

Jurisdiction	Fine	Company	What Happened	Violation(s)
Ontario	\$70,000	Amco Farms Inc.	Worker replacing the hydraulic cylinders on a scissor lift injured when lift's platform and lifting mechanism collapse	Failure to ensure that lift's platform and lifting mechanism were securely blocked to keep them from moving or falling
Saskatchewan	\$46,000	Pedigree Poultry Ltd.	Poultry plant worker suffers serious injury after getting foot entangled in a horizontal auger system	Not disclosed, but presumably failure to properly guard a machine
Manitoba	\$45,000	MacDougall Steel Erectors Inc.	Steel column falls while being hoisted striking worker's foot resulting in amputation of several toes	Failure to ensure that workers and supervisors were properly trained on hazards of the work
British Columbia	\$43,359	VPAC Construction Group Ltd	Inspectors spot OHS violations	Multiple violations

Jurisdiction	Fine	Company	What Happened	Violation(s)
Saskatchewan	\$24,000	J & H Rentals Ltd.	Worker suffers serious injury after falling through an opening in a work platform	Failure to ensure that a floor or work surface opening through which a worker is covered with a securely installed covering capable of supporting a load of 360 kg per square metre and marked with a warning sign

Source: Bongarde