

# OHS Fines Scorecard for 2024 (November 14 to December 15)



After a dramatic 4 weeks from mid-October to mid-November, 2024 seems to be coming to a quiet conclusion. Reported OHS fines between November 14 to December 15 were down sharply in terms of both fine volume and fine amounts. There were only 9 significant OHS fines reported during the period, tied for the fewest of the year. Those fines came from only 3 provinces.

In a year where fines totaling \$200,000 or more have become so common, the biggest fine of the period was surprisingly only \$152,309. However, 4 of the reported 9 fines were in the 6-figure range, which is consistent with the pattern for the year where nearly 1 in every 2 reported OHS fine is at least \$100,000.

**Table 1. OHS Fines in 2024 At A Glance  
(through December 15)**

| Period                 | Total Reported Fines | Reported 6-Figure Fines |
|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Jan to mid-Feb         | 11                   | 6                       |
| Mid-Feb to mid-March   | 11                   | 4                       |
| Mid-March to mid-April | 10                   | 2                       |
| Mid-April to mid-May   | 12                   | 9                       |
| Mid-May to mid-June    | 12                   | 5                       |

| Period                       | Total Reported Fines | Reported 6-Figure Fines |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Mid-June to mid-July         | 10                   | 4                       |
| Mid-July to mid-August       | 14                   | 6                       |
| Mid-August to mid-September  | 12                   | 4                       |
| Mid-September to mid-October | 9                    | 4                       |
| Mid-October to mid-November  | 19                   | 11                      |
| Mid-November to mid-December | 9                    | 4                       |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>129</b>           | <b>59</b>               |

**Source:** Bongarde

## 6-Figure OHS Fines

Of the 4 6-figure OHS fines reported in Canada during the mid-November to mid-December period, 3 came from B.C., including the top fine of \$152,309 against a mushroom farm operator for a repeat violation of failing to ensure that there was a qualified first aid attendant at the growing site. B.C. also reported the second and third biggest fines of the period: \$132,369 against a recreational services firm for a fatal forklift tip over and \$105,078 against a spa operator for failing to comply with previously issued OHS orders. Saskatchewan, which last month reported the biggest OHS fine of 2024 (and provincial history), accounted for the only other 6-figure fine of the period.

**Table 2. Top 7 OHS Fines of 2024 At A Glance (through December 15)**

| Fine Amount | Province | Type of Company/Incident |
|-------------|----------|--------------------------|
|-------------|----------|--------------------------|

|   | <b>Fine Amount</b> | <b>Province</b>  | <b>Type of Company/Incident</b>  |
|---|--------------------|------------------|--|
| 1 | \$840,000          | Saskatchewan     | Power company/3 OHS violations resulting in fatal fall of 2 workers from a bucket truck. |
| 2 | \$783,068          | British Columbia | Smelting facility/Fatal fall during overhead crane inspection.                           |
| 3 | \$710,488          | British Columbia | Shipyard/Confined space asphyxiation.  |
| 4 | \$700,000          | Saskatchewan     | Power company/Exposure to energized electrical conductor resulting in serious injuries.  |
| 5 | \$600,000          | Ontario          | Truck manufacturer/Explosion during handling of flammables resulting in 6 fatalities.    |
| 6 | \$420,000          | Alberta          | Contractor/Powered mobile equipment fatality.  |
| 7 | \$391,534          | British Columbia | Lumber company/Repeat violations not connected to a specific incident.                   |

**Source:** Bongarde

Ontario continues to lead the nation in 6-figure OHS fines reported in 2024 with 17, but only one of those fines is on the list of 10 biggest fines nationwide. Although B.C. has dished out 2 fewer fines in the 6 figures with 15, it has accounted for 3 of the year's top 7. Similarly, while Alberta has imposed far fewer overall fines than Ontario and B.C., 13 of them have been for \$100,000 or more, including the sixth highest OHS fine of 2024. Saskatchewan has had the greatest per capita enforcement impact with 9 reported OHS fines of \$100,000 or more, including the year's biggest and fourth biggest. Northwest Territories and Nunavut haven't handed out many fines but the ones they have levied have made an impact with 3 in the 6-figure range. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia

are the only other jurisdictions that have reported 6-figure OHS fines in 2024.

**Table 3. 6-Figures OHS Fines in 2024 By Jurisdiction (through December 15)**

|   | Jurisdiction          | Reported 6-Figure Fines in 2024 |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Ontario               | 17                              |
| 2 | Alberta               | 13                              |
| 3 | British Columbia      | 12                              |
| 4 | Saskatchewan          | 8                               |
| 5 | Northwest Territories | 2                               |
| 6 | Nova Scotia           | 1                               |
| 6 | New Brunswick         | 1                               |
| 6 | Nunavut               | 1                               |

**Source:** Bongarde

## Overall OHS Fines

In terms of fine volume, B.C. handed out the most fines of the period with 4. Ontario reported 3 OHS fines but at relatively low amounts. Saskatchewan accounted for the remaining 2 of this month’s reported 9 fines.

**Table 3. OHS Fines Reported November 14, 2024 to December 15, 2024\* (over \$25,000)**

| Jurisdiction | Fine      | Company                         | What Happened  | Violation(s)  |
|--------------|-----------|---------------------------------|--|---|
| BC           | \$152,309 | Highline Mushrooms West Limited | OHS inspectors determine that mushroom farm operation didn't have a qualified first aid attendant at its growing site, a repeat violation. | Failure to ensure it provided first aid attendants and services adequate for promptly rendering first aid to workers. |

| Jurisdiction | Fine      | Company   | What Happened   | Violation(s)   |
|--------------|-----------|---|---|--|
| BC           | \$132,369 | Cypress Bowl ULC/Cypress Bowl Recreations Limited Partnership | Forklift operator is killed after leaving the cab to check the load when the forklift tips and falls on them. | <p>Failure to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipment was capable of functioning safely.</li> <li>• Workers received adequate operator training for lift trucks.</li> <li>• Workers received the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety.</li> </ul> |

| Jurisdiction | Fine      | Company                                 | What Happened   | Violation(s)  |
|--------------|-----------|---|---|---|
| BC           | \$105,078 | Harrison Hot Springs Resort & Spa Corp. | WorkSafeBC issues OHS orders for health and safety deficiencies, including noise measurement, heat stress, and asbestos inventorying. | Failure to comply with OHS orders after a reasonable period.  |
| SK           | \$100,000 | Rite Way Mfg. Co. Ltd.                  | Farm equipment plant worker suffers serious injury after getting struck by a suspended piece of metal.                                | Failure to ensure that lifting devices, including all rigging, are safely designed, constructed, installed, maintained, and operated. |

| Jurisdiction | Fine     | Company                         | What Happened   | Violation(s)   |
|--------------|----------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| SK           | \$84,000 | Kevin's Custom Ag Ltd.          | Worker dies of carbon monoxide exposure while using a sandblaster.  | Failure to provide and maintain approved blasting hoods supplied with clean air at a reasonable temperature for workers engaged in abrasive blasting, resulting in a worker's death. |
| ON           | \$79,500 | Saputo Dairy Products Canada GP | Dairy worker suffers serious injury while attempting to clean waste cheese particles out of a groove in a moving conveyor drive roller. | Failure to ensure conveyor was properly guarded.   |



| Jurisdiction | Fine     | Company              | What Happened  | Violation(s)  |
|--------------|----------|----------------------|--|---|
| ON           | \$60,000 | General Coach Canada | Worker suffers critical injury while cutting a piece of melamine with a table saw that wasn't equipped with required guards. | Failure to ensure that the panel saw was equipped with the protective shield that goes over the saw blade to prevent inadvertent blade contact. |
| ON           | \$50,000 | Inject Tech Plastics | Worker operating a lift truck backs into industrial racking and suffers critical injury.                                     | Failure to ailing to provide proper training and supervision on the safe operation of lift trucks.  |

| Jurisdiction | Fine     | Company   | What Happened   | Violation(s)  |
|--------------|----------|---|---|---|
| BC           | \$42,173 | Secure Energy Inc. & Secure Energy Services Inc. et al. | Two workers injured in explosion inside a shaker building at a facility that accepts oilfield waste from oil producers. | Failure to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the risks of the work activities.</li> <li>• Implement safe work procedures for hot work.</li> <li>• Have a qualified person conduct safety tests to ensure the safety of workers before welding near flammable or explosive substances.</li> </ul> |

\* BC OHS fines get reported a month late but are included in the most recent period to ensure continuity and consistency for comparison purposes across all provinces.

**Source:** Bongarde