

OHS SCORECARD: The Biggest OHS Fines in Alberta During 2017



POP QUIZ

How many 6-figure OHS fines did Alberta dish out to employers in 2017?

- A. 0
- B. 3
- C. 12
- D. 22

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ANSWER: C

OHS fines of \$100,000 or more used to be a relative rarity happening maybe once or twice a year. Not any more. Prosecutions are becoming more frequent and fines higher. Alberta is a representative example of what's taking place across Canada. Here's the catalog of the 12 reported 6-figure fines from 2017. Also keep in mind that penalties for OHS violations include not only fines but administrative monetary penalties and stop work and stop use orders.

FINE	DATE (2017)	VIOLATOR	VIOLATION(S)
\$488,750 + 2 years' corporate probation	Nov. 1	Sahib Contracting Inc.	Failure, as employer, to protect worker killed in sewer trench collapse at residential construction site
\$402,500	Feb. 23	Marra Concrete Ltd.	5 counts stemming from fatal carbon monoxide poisoning of worker during basement renovation
\$345,000	Oct. 27	Bird Construction Co.	Failure to ensure use of fall protection system after worker working alone falls into holding tank and drowns
\$285,000	Apr. 24	Suncor Energy Inc.	Failure to protect upgrade supervisor found dead at bottom of 10-foot-deep hole near road at tailing sands dump
\$250,000	Apr. 21	Arion Construction Ltd.	Failure to provide machine guards after 15-year-old worker contacted a moving conveyor belt of a gravel crusher and was crushed to death
\$175,000 + 16 months' corporate probation	May 31	Contour Earthmoving Ltd.	Failure to protect worker killed by a falling Caterpillar cab which wasn't secured to the forklift being used to move it

\$161,250 + 2 years' corporate probation	Nov. 1	Haya Homes Ltd.	Failure, as prime contractor, to protect worker killed in sewer trench collapse at residential construction site (same incident as Sahib Contracting case listed above)
\$132,250	Apr. 20	Rock Hard Excavating Ltd.	Failure to protect worker who suffers serious burns in underground sewage system manhole welding incident
\$115,000 + 18 months' corporate probation	Dec. 4	Northface Mechanical Ltd.	Failure to protect worker killed in apparent ladder fall while servicing HVAC equipment on a roof
\$115,000	Apr. 21	1233025 Alberta Ltd. trading as Great North Roofing	Failure to ensure use of fall protection system after roofer is hospitalized in 7.9 metre fall
\$100,000	Dec. 8	River Valley Crushing Ltd.	Failure to ensure proper de-energization of machinery during servicing after worker in rock washer fixing auger suffers serious injuries when system activates
\$100,000	Apr. 28	Brayford Trucking Ltd.	Two counts stemming from death of worker when track hoe excavator he's operating broke through the ice and sank into water below

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