

Starting a new job? Ask about Safety!



Starting a new job can be exciting—but it can also be overwhelming. Whether you're new to the workforce or just starting a different role, it's important to know your workplace rights and responsibilities when it comes to health and safety.



In British Columbia, all workers have three fundamental health and safety rights:

1. The right to know about hazards in the workplace
2. The right to participate in health and safety activities
3. The right to refuse unsafe work without being punished or fired

Questions to Ask About Workplace Safety

It's always a good idea to ask about safety during a job interview or on your first day.

Here are some key questions:

- What safety training will I receive before I start work?
- What hazards are involved in this job (e.g., hot oil, sharp knives, heavy lifting, loud noise)?
- Will I be trained in how to prevent injuries?
- What are my health and safety responsibilities?
- Is there a Joint Health and Safety Committee or a Worker Health and Safety Representative?
- How can I participate?
- What should I do if I get injured at work?

Speaking Up About Safety

Even experienced workers can feel nervous about bringing up safety concerns, but your employer wants you to be safe. If you're unsure how to do something safely, ask! Try saying:

"I really enjoy working with this equipment, but there's a lot to learn. Can you go over it with me again?"

"I think I've got the hang of this, but could you watch me to make sure I'm doing it correctly?"

"I'm still not comfortable with this. Can you explain it again?"

How to Report a Safety Concern

If you notice something unsafe at work, here's what to do:

- Talk to your supervisor or manager
- If the issue isn't resolved, talk to your Worker Health and Safety Representative, a Joint Health and Safety Committee member, or a union steward (if applicable).
- If the concern is not addressed, speak to their supervisor
- If you still feel unsafe, you can contact WorkSafeBC anonymously at 604.276.3100 (Lower Mainland) or 1.888.621.7233 (toll-free)

Your Right to Refuse Unsafe Work

If you believe a task is unsafe, you have the right—and the responsibility—to refuse to do it. Your employer cannot fire or punish you for refusing unsafe work. If something doesn't feel right, trust your instincts and talk to your employer.

Looking for more Health & Safety Resources?

go2HR is the resource for people in tourism, and the Health and Safety Association for the Tourism & Hospitality industry of BC.

Your safety and well-being on the job are crucial to creating a positive, productive, and enjoyable work environment.

Use the QR Code to find more resources and training on the go2HR Worker Hub.

