

Is Saskatchewan Facing a Workplace Fatalities Crisis?

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Acknowledgements and Note on Sources

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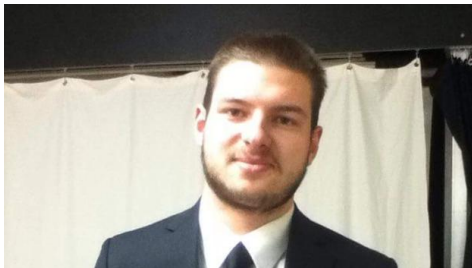
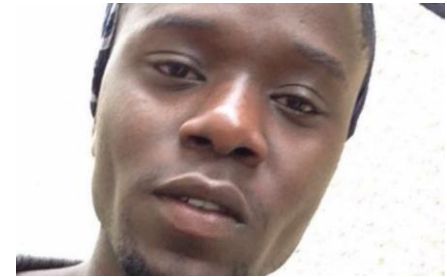
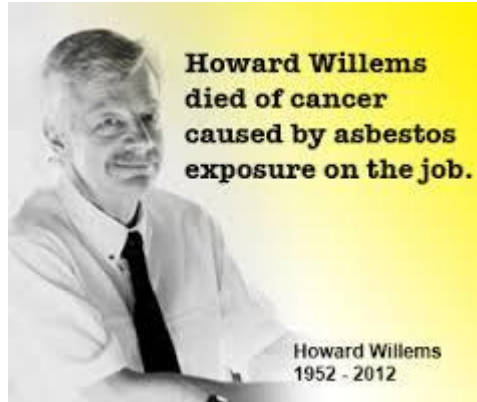
Copies of this presentation is available here:

<http://www.uregina.ca/business/faculty-staff/faculty/tucker-sean.html>

2017 Work Fatalities Report available here:

https://www.uregina.ca/business/faculty-staff/faculty/file_download/2017%20Report%20on%20Workplace%20Fatalities%20and%20Injuries.pdf

Some of the Workers Who Have Died on the Job in Saskatchewan Since 2009



Agenda

- Background on work-related fatality data
- Work-related fatality rate, 2000 to 2015
- Cause of work-related fatalities in Saskatchewan
- Preventing work-related fatalities in Saskatchewan

Work-Related Injury and Fatality Data in Canada



Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission



Work-Related Fatality Data in Canada



Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada



Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission



WORK SAFE. FOR LIFE.
WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD OF NOVA SCOTIA

Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) and Total Employed

- 47,900 employers in Saskatchewan are insured by the Saskatchewan WCB. Employers in some sectors are self-insured (e.g., agriculture, school teachers)
- **The total number of FTE reflects the estimated number of employees covered by a WCB, not the total number of people employed in Saskatchewan.**
- In 2016, 74% of workers (or 420,300 workers) in Saskatchewan were covered by the Saskatchewan WCB.
- Coverage rate in Alberta and Manitoba is 90% and 76%, respectively.

Number of Work-Related Fatalities in Saskatchewan Since 2000

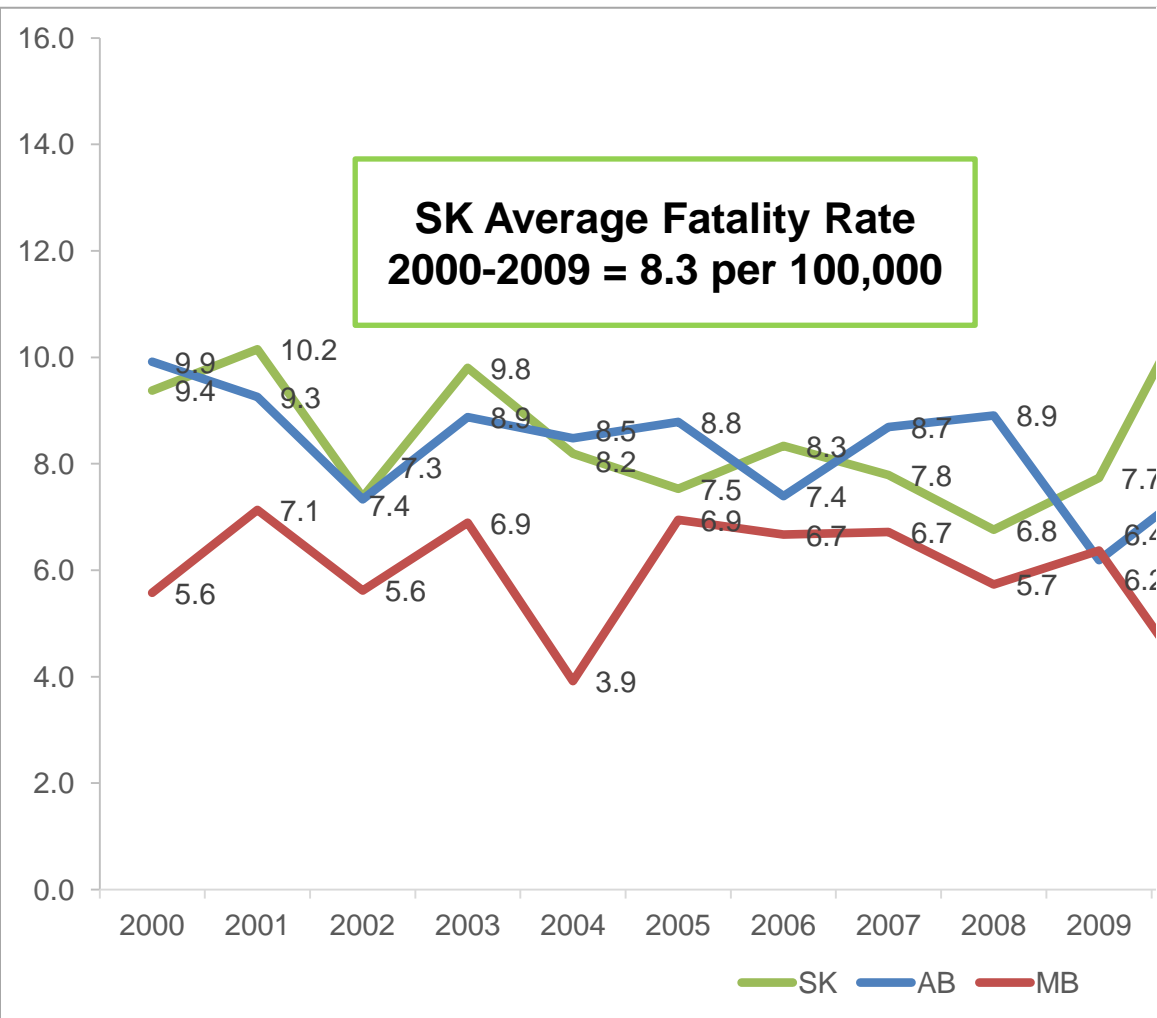
Year	Number
2000	31
2001	35
2002	23
2003	35
2004	30
2005	27
2006	30
2007	29
2008	26
2009	30
2010	45
2011	37
2012	60
2013	35
2014	39
2015	32
2016	31
Total	575

Fatality Rate (Per 100,000 FTE) Calculation

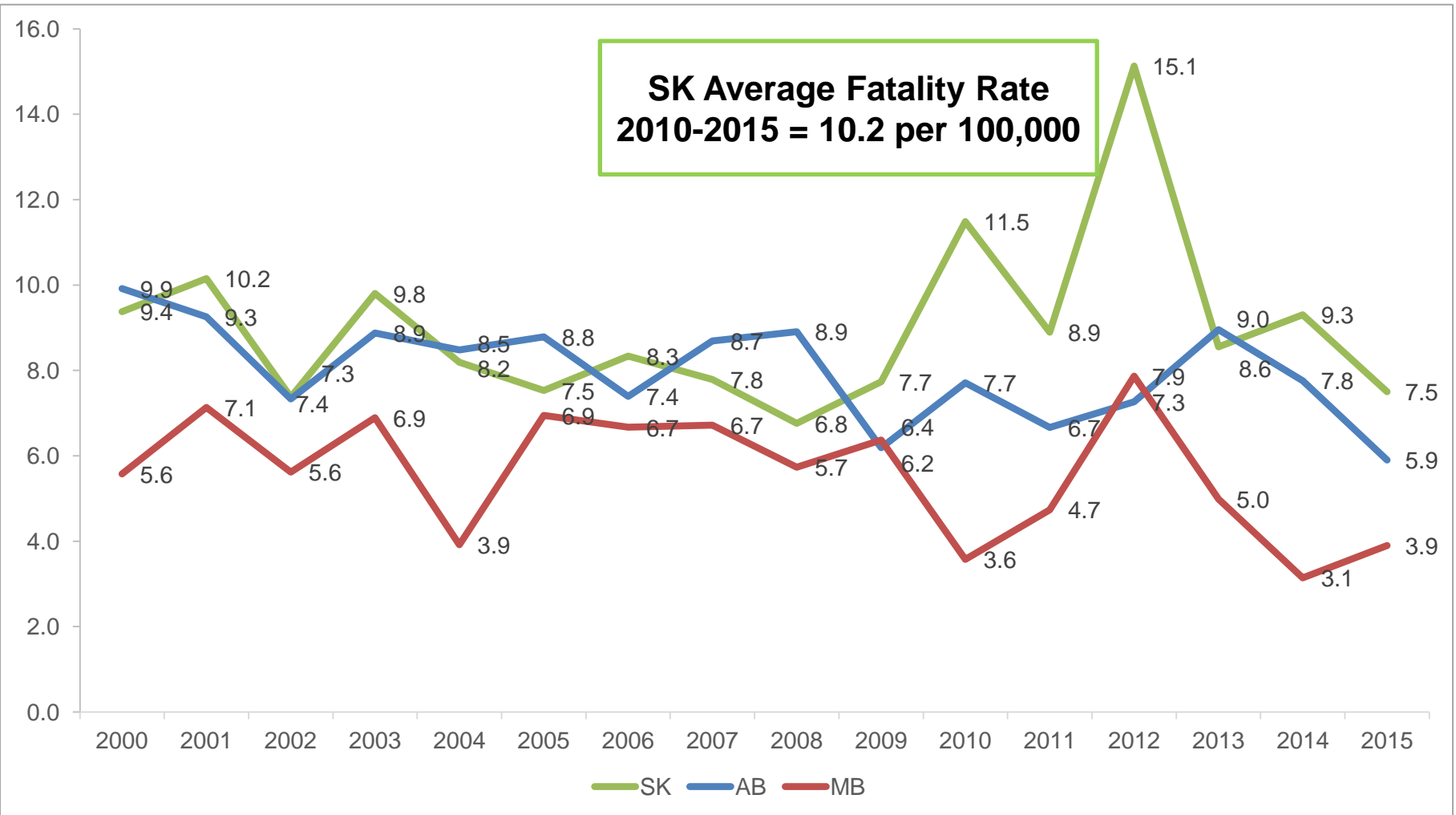
- **Work-related fatality**
 - Definition varies by jurisdiction
 - AWCBC definition:
" A fatality is a death resulting from a work-related incident (including disease) that has been accepted for compensation by a Board/Commission. "
 - Two categories: Injury and occupational disease

$$\text{Fatality rate} = \frac{\text{Total \# Fatalities}}{\text{Total \# of Full Time Equivalents (FTE)}} \times 100,000$$

Average Work-Related Fatality Rate AB, MB, SK



Average Work-Related Fatality Rate AB, MB, SK



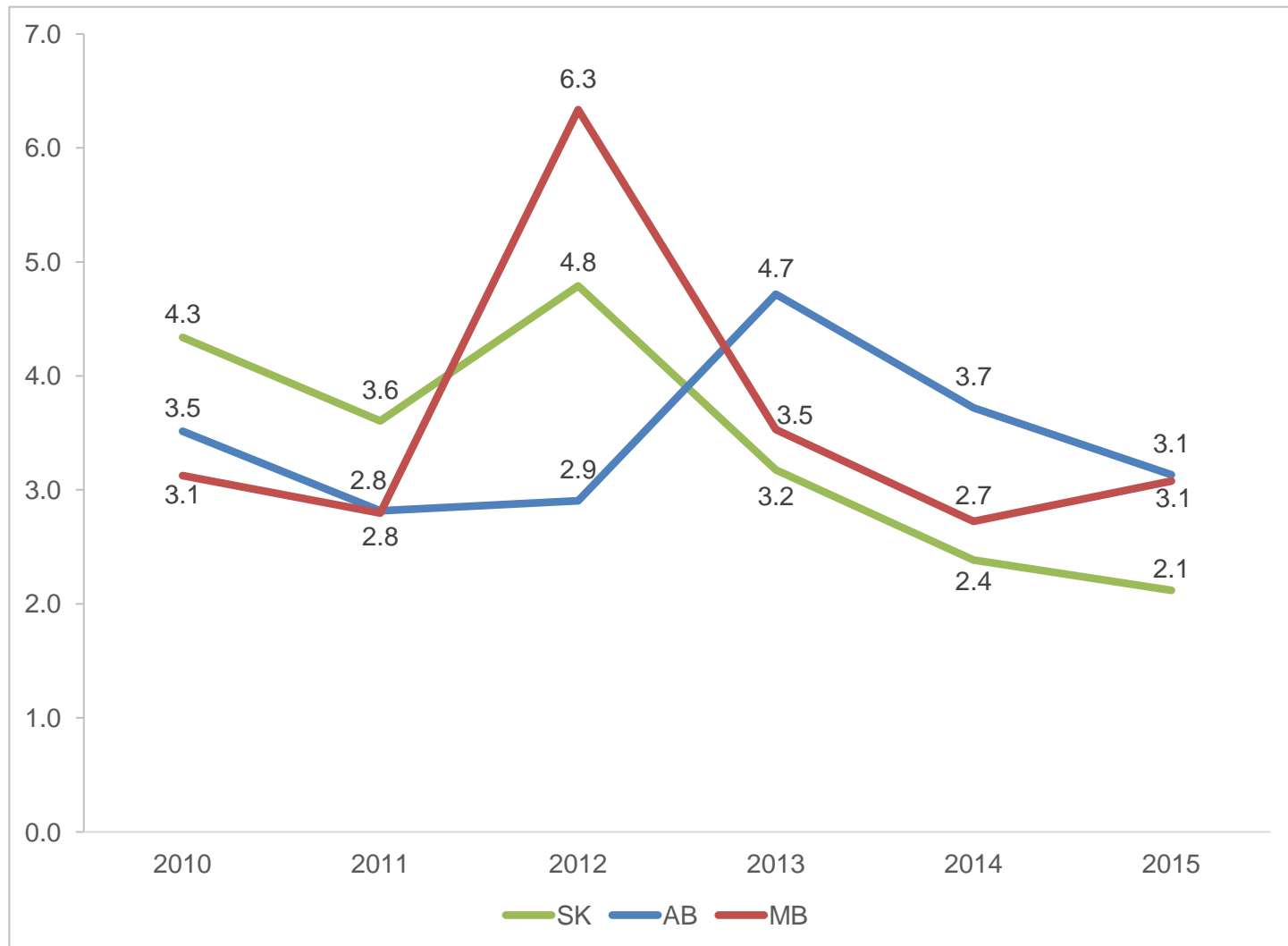
Occupational Disease Work-Related Fatalities

Average Occupational Disease Fatality Rate 2010-2015 (per 100,000 FTE)

Rank	Jurisdiction	Average Disease Fatality Rate 2010-2015
1	NL	10.1
2	NS	4.7
3	ON	4.0
4	YT	3.8
5	MB	3.6
6	BC	3.6
7	AB	3.5
8	SK	3.4
8	QC	3.4
10	NB	1.7
11	NT/NU	1.3
12	PE	0.2

- Saskatchewan has the **sixth lowest** average occupational disease fatality rate.
- 6% lower than Manitoba's rate.
- 3% lower than Alberta's rate.

Occupational Disease Fatality Rate in AB, MB, SK 2010-2015



Disease-Related Fatality Rate

In 2016 Saskatchewan's disease-related fatality rate increased to 3.3 per 100,000 FTE.

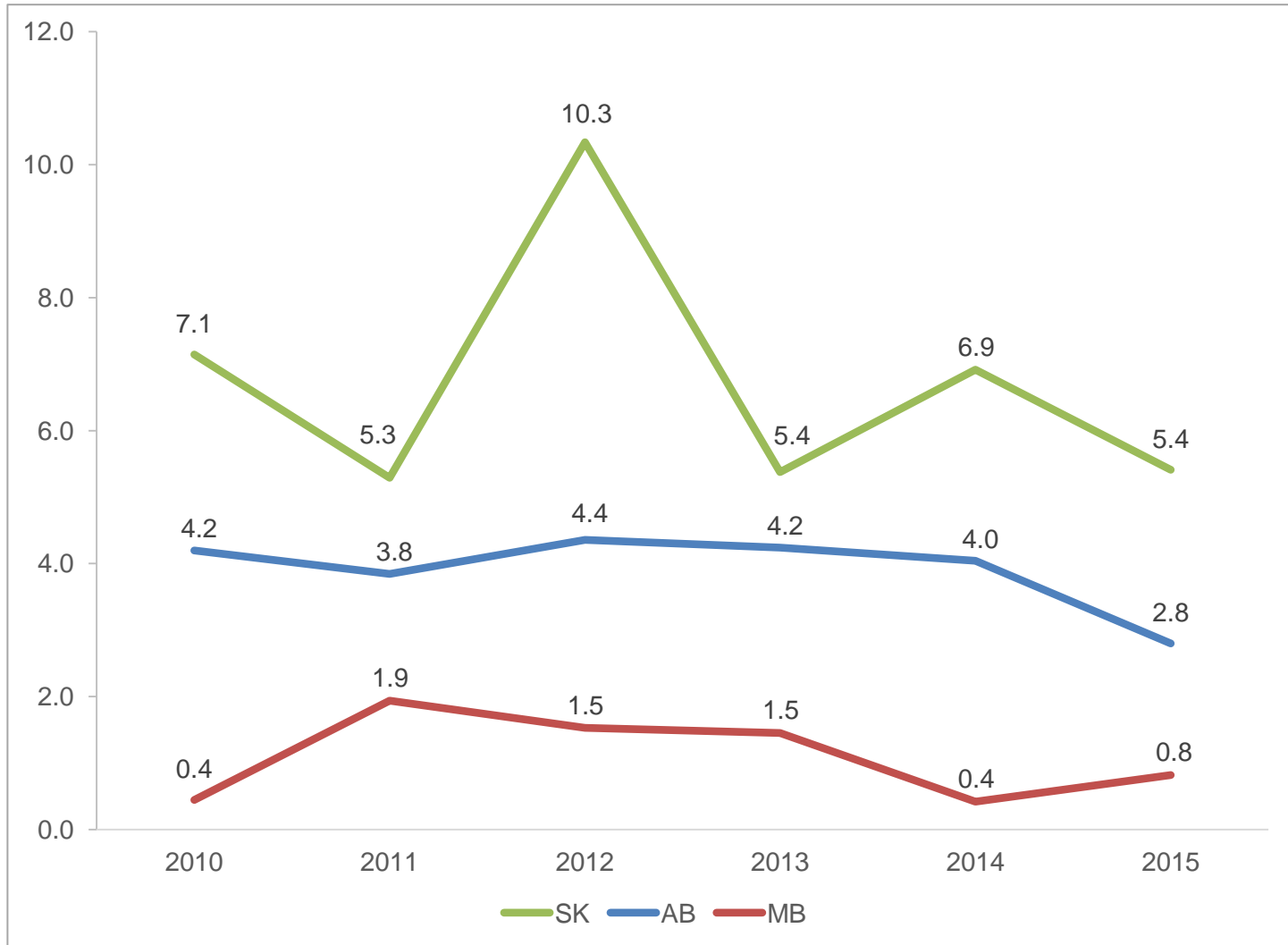
Injury Work-Related Fatalities

Average Injury Fatality Rate 2010-2015 (per 100,000 FTE)

Rank	Jurisdiction	Average Injury Fatality Rate, 2010-2015
1	NT/NU	15.3
2	YT	7.6
3	SK	6.7
4	AB	3.9
5	NL	3.9
6	BC	3.0
7	NS	2.4
8	NB	2.2
9	QC	1.9
10	ON	1.4
11	MB	1.1
12	PE	1.0

- Saskatchewan has the **third highest** average injury-related fatality rate.
- **610% higher than Manitoba's rate.**
- **70% higher than Alberta's rate.**

Work-Related Injury Fatality Rate in AB, MB, SK 2010-2015



Work-Related Injury Fatality Rate

In 2016 Saskatchewan's injury-related fatality rate decreased to 4.0 per 100,000 FTE.

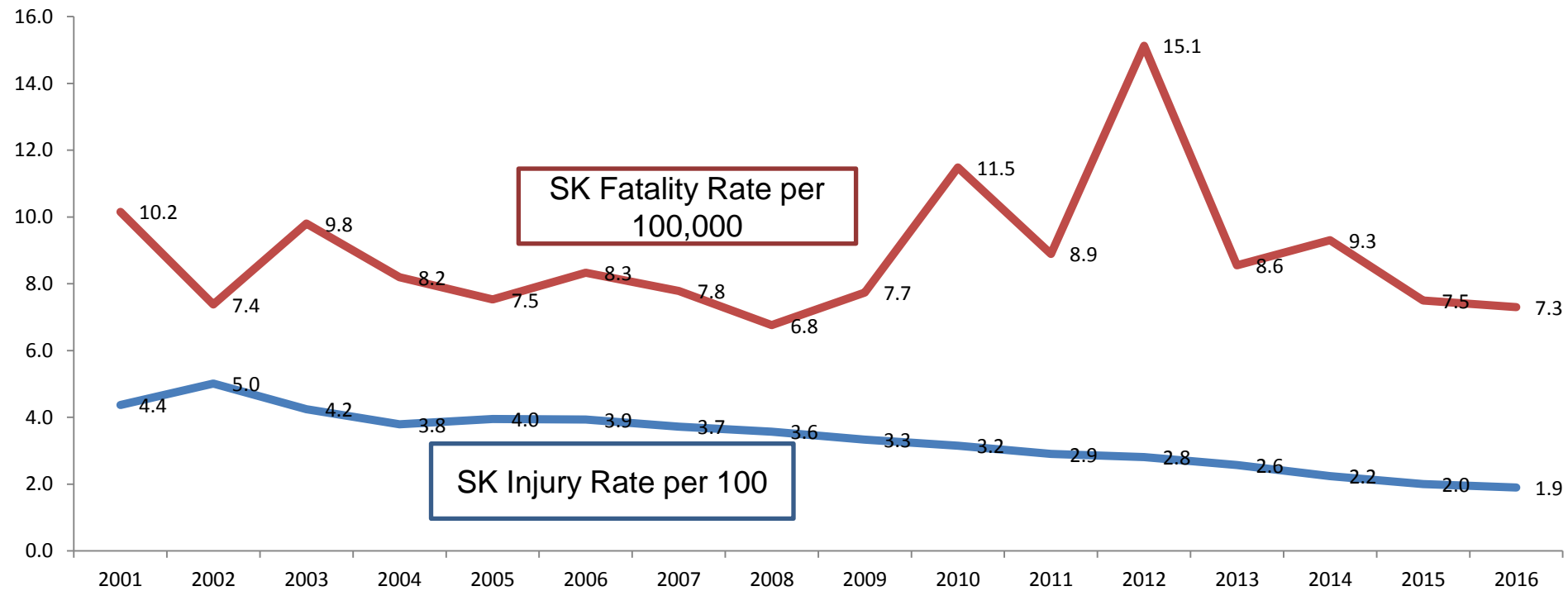
Work-Related Injury Fatalities in Saskatchewan by Cause (2011-2016, 154 Fatalities)

Heart Attack	Motor Vehicle / Aircraft	Other	Traumatic
19%	29%	17%	35%

Date Source: Saskatchewan WCB

Observations and Recommendations

A Puzzle: Saskatchewan's Steadily Declining Time-Lost Injury Rate and Increase in Injury-Related Fatalities



Average Number of Fatalities per Year by Cause 2002-2008 vs. 2009-2016

Type	2002-2008	2009-2016	Change
Occ. Disease	12.1	12.8	+0.7
MVA/Aircraft	8.7	7.5	-1.2
Traumatic	9.3	9.1	-0.2
Heart Attack	3.0	5.5	+2.5
Other	1.9	4.3	+2.4

Data Source: Saskatchewan WCB

Average Number of Injury Fatalities per Year by Rate Code 2002-2008 vs. 2009-2016

Rate Code	Rate Code Description	2002-2008		2009-2016		2002-2008 vs. 2009-2016 Difference in Number of Injury Fatalities	2002-2008 vs. 2009-2016 Difference in Number of Injury Fatalities per Year
		Number of Injury Fatalities	Number of Injury Fatalities per Year	Number of Injury Fatalities	Number of Injury Fatalities per Year		
D41	Oilwell Servicing	7	1.0	15	1.9	8	0.9
A31	Grain Elevators & Inland Terminals	0	0.0	5	0.6	5	0.6
G22	Health Authority, Hospitals, Care Homes	0	0.0	5	0.6	5	0.6
G31	Cities, Town, Villages, RMs	3	0.4	8	1.0	5	0.6
M62	Mills, Semi Medium Manufacturing	3	0.4	8	1.0	5	0.6
T51	Operation of Railways	1	0.1	5	0.6	4	0.5

Data Source: Saskatchewan WCB

Preventing Serious Injuries and Fatalities in Saskatchewan

- 3,882 worksite visits and 1,690 inspections in 2016
- Inspection "blitzes" of high risk sectors (e.g., construction)
- *Saskatchewan Employment Act* penalties up to \$1.5 million
 - Highest penalty since passage of SEA \$280,000 (2015)
- Campaign and resources to encourage safer driving
- Evidence gathering training for OHO inspectors (2015)
- Several injury prevention activities are being undertaken to strengthen Saskatchewan's safety culture.
- Detailed information on fatalities being studied to identify patterns

Enhancing Prevention of Serious Injuries and Fatalities

1. Targeted safety inspections in Saskatchewan are effective but compliance in some sectors remains low.

Funding for three new OHO in 2017 Provincial budget.

Hire and train a minimum of 7 additional Occupational Health Officers (OHO) to work in the field.



Enhancing Prevention of Serious Injuries and Fatalities

2. Summary Offense Ticketing (SOT) was introduced in 2014 and yet few OHO's are able to issue tickets. Only about 50 tickets issues since 2014.

Increase the number of OHOs with the credentials to issue SOTs. Apply SOTs to a wider range of contraventions.



The screenshot shows the Saskatchewan Government website. At the top is the Saskatchewan logo with the text "Saskatchewan GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN". Below the logo are three navigation tabs: "Residents and Visitors" (teal), "Business and Industry" (olive green, currently selected), and "Government" (light green). A breadcrumb trail below the tabs reads: "Home > Business and Industry > Safety in the Workplace > Complaints, Enforcement, and Reporting Incidents". The main heading is "Summary Offence Ticketing". The text below reads: "Summary Offence Ticketing (SOT) will make workplaces safer and will help improve Saskatchewan's injury rates. This new tool will come into effect July 1, 2014 and have an impact on people who violate Occupational Health and Safety legislation. Current enforcement tools, such as prosecutions are time consuming and costly for everyone involved, SOTs will impose a financial penalty to offenders right on the spot. Saskatchewan will be joining seven other Canadian jurisdictions that have, or will soon implement, on-the-spot penalties for health and safety violations."

Enhancing Prevention of Serious Injuries and Fatalities

3. Increase public awareness by publicly disclosing, in a timely manner, limited information about individual work-related fatalities.

See, for example,
Ontario Ministry of
Labour

(<https://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/fatalities.php>)

Recent fatal incidents

Date of Incident: August 2016

Location: Central West Region

Posted: August 30, 2016

A worker fell from a crane while trying to move telephone poles and sustained fatal injuries.

Resources:

- [Working at Heights Training](#)
- [Preventing Falls on Construction Projects](#)
- [Fall Hazards](#)

Date of Incident: August 2016

Location: Central West Region

Posted: August 30, 2016

A worker was crushed while on a scissor lift and was fatally injured.

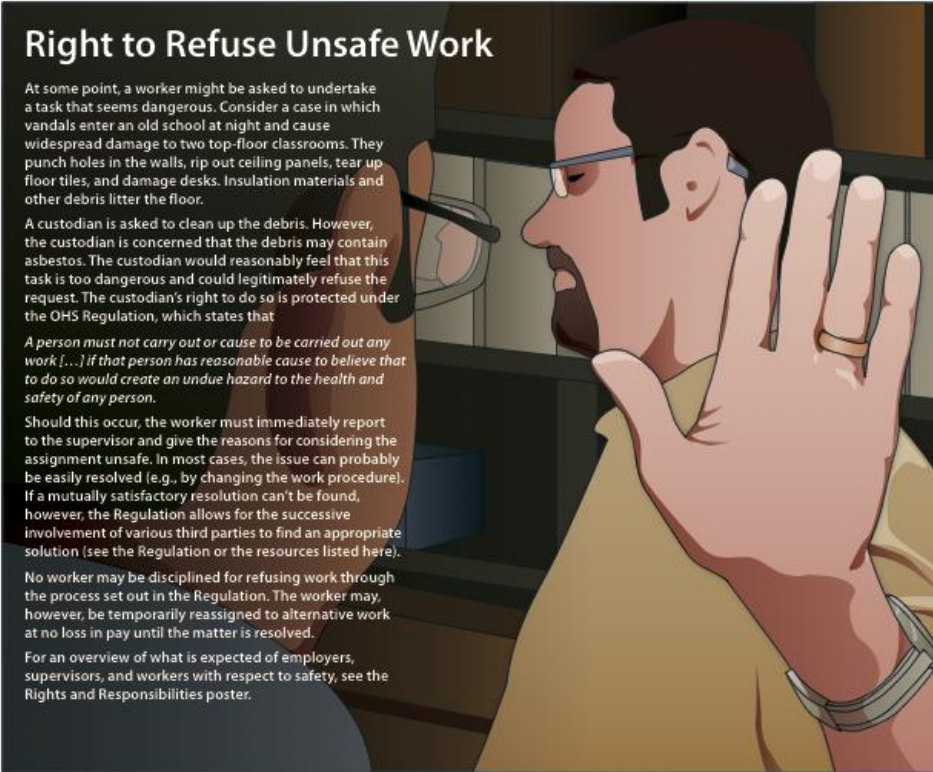
Resources:

- [Heavy Equipment](#)
- [Safety Around Heavy Equipment](#)
- [Elevating Work Platform Construction Hazard](#)

Enhancing Prevention of Serious Injuries and Fatalities

4. Increase public awareness about how to refuse potentially dangerous work.

Targeted education for employers and employees about the refusal process and protection from retaliation.



Right to Refuse Unsafe Work

At some point, a worker might be asked to undertake a task that seems dangerous. Consider a case in which vandals enter an old school at night and cause widespread damage to two top-floor classrooms. They punch holes in the walls, rip out ceiling panels, tear up floor tiles, and damage desks. Insulation materials and other debris litter the floor.

A custodian is asked to clean up the debris. However, the custodian is concerned that the debris may contain asbestos. The custodian would reasonably feel that this task is too dangerous and could legitimately refuse the request. The custodian's right to do so is protected under the OHS Regulation, which states that

A person must not carry out or cause to be carried out any work [...] if that person has reasonable cause to believe that to do so would create an undue hazard to the health and safety of any person.

Should this occur, the worker must immediately report to the supervisor and give the reasons for considering the assignment unsafe. In most cases, the issue can probably be easily resolved (e.g., by changing the work procedure). If a mutually satisfactory resolution can't be found, however, the Regulation allows for the successive involvement of various third parties to find an appropriate solution (see the Regulation or the resources listed here).

No worker may be disciplined for refusing work through the process set out in the Regulation. The worker may, however, be temporarily reassigned to alternative work at no loss in pay until the matter is resolved.

For an overview of what is expected of employers, supervisors, and workers with respect to safety, see the Rights and Responsibilities poster.

In the OHS Regulation

- Section 3.12, Procedure for Refusal
- Section 3.13, No Discriminatory Action

Resources

Available from WorkSafeBC.com/Publications

- Toolbox Meeting Guide TG 07-40: The right to refuse unsafe work
- WorkSafe Bulletin WS 07-02: Breakdown of asbestos management program exposes workers to asbestos fibres

Safety is everyone's responsibility!

WorkSafeBC Prevention Information Line: 604 276-3100 • Toll-free: 1 888 621-SAFE (7233)

WORK SAFE BC
WORKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
worksafebc.com

Enhancing Prevention of Serious Injuries and Fatalities

5. Increase public awareness about asbestos (SADAO).

Education for employers, employees, and the public about asbestos using existing educational materials. Expand asbestos building registry.

Map locations shown are approximate only.

Asbestos is a hidden killer. So now's the time to get clued in to your co-workers, your friends and your family are protected. asbestos.

Work-Related Occupational Disease Fatalities in Saskatchewan by Sector (2011-2016, 80 Fatalities)

Sector	Total Number of Occupational Disease Fatalities	Percentage of Total Occupational Disease Fatalities
Unassigned & Self Insured	18	23%
Cities, Town, Villages, RMs	16	20%
Commercial, Industrial Construction	8	10%
Electric Systems	8	10%
Residential Construction	5	6%
Construction Trades	4	5%
Refineries and Upgrader	4	5%
Iron and Steel Fabrication	3	4%
Operation of Oilwells	2	3%
Metal Foundries & Mills	2	3%

Source: Saskatchewan WCB

Work-Related Injury Fatalities in Saskatchewan by Cause and Sector (2011-2016, 154 Fatalities)

Sector	Heart Attack	Motor Vehicle / Aircraft	Other	Traumatic	Total Number of Injury Fatalities	Percent of Total Injury Fatalities
Road Construction and Earthwork	1	10	5	4	20	13%
Transportation, Courier, Commercial Bus	6	7	2	4	19	12%
Commercial, Industrial Construction	0	1	2	7	10	6%
Residential Construction	1	1	2	5	9	6%
Oilwell Servicing	4	3	0	2	9	6%
Cities, Town, Villages, RMs	1	2	2	3	8	5%
Mills, Semi Medium Manufacturing	1	2	0	4	7	5%
Construction Trades	0	4	0	2	6	4%
Operation of Railways	1	0	1	3	5	3%
Farming & Ranching	1	0	1	2	4	3%
Underground Softrock Mining	0	1	0	3	4	3%

Source: Saskatchewan WCB