

## Definition of a Serious Accident

When a serious incident occurs at a workplace, the employer is required to notify the Workplace Safety and Health Division **immediately**, by the fastest means of communication possible.

### What is a serious incident?

A serious incident is defined as one:

- in which a worker is killed;
- in which a worker suffers
  - an injury resulting from electrical contact,
  - unconsciousness as the result of a concussion,
  - a fracture of his or her skull, spine, pelvis, arm, leg, hand or foot,
  - amputation of an arm, leg, hand, foot, finger or toe,
  - third degree burns,
  - permanent or temporary loss of sight,
  - a cut or laceration that requires medical treatment at a hospital, or
  - asphyxiation or poisoning; or
- that involves
  - the collapse or structural failure of a building, structure, crane, hoist, lift, temporary support system or excavation,
  - an explosion, fire or flood, an uncontrolled spill or escape of a hazardous substance, or
  - the failure of an atmosphere-supplying respirator.

### Events that appear in the definition of a Serious Accident in other Jurisdictions (Not Reportable under MB legislation)

The above information is the Manitoba definition of a serious accident. Other jurisdictions have similar definitions but also include the following events that are not mentioned specifically by Manitoba legislation. Most of these fall under the category of incidents rather than accidents.

1. Inpatient hospitalization for a period in excess of 24 hours for other than medical examination
2. A serious permanent disfigurement
3. Dangerous incident involving explosives, whether or not there is a personal injury
4. Medical treatment by a doctor within 48 hours of exposure to a substance (likely similar to Manitoba's "poisoning" but perhaps clearer).
5. any infection to which the carrying out of work is a significant contributing factor, including any infection that is reliably attributable to carrying out work
  - a. with micro-organisms

## Safety in Numbers – Reporting of Serious Accidents

- b. that involves providing treatment or care to a person
  - c. that involves contact with human blood or body substances
  - d. that involves handling or contact with animals, animal hides, skins, wool or hair, animal carcasses or animal waste products
6. An uncontrolled escape of gas, steam or other pressurized substance
7. A fall from a height covered by fall protection even if a worker is not hurt.
8. The inrush of water, mud or gas in an underground excavation or tunnel
9. The interruption of the main system of ventilation in an underground excavation, tunnel or confined space.