

Occupational Health and Safety Delivery

OHS Ski Hill/Resorts Focused Inspection Project REPORT

Inspection data timeframe: October 2012 & January 2013

Report Date: March 11, 2013



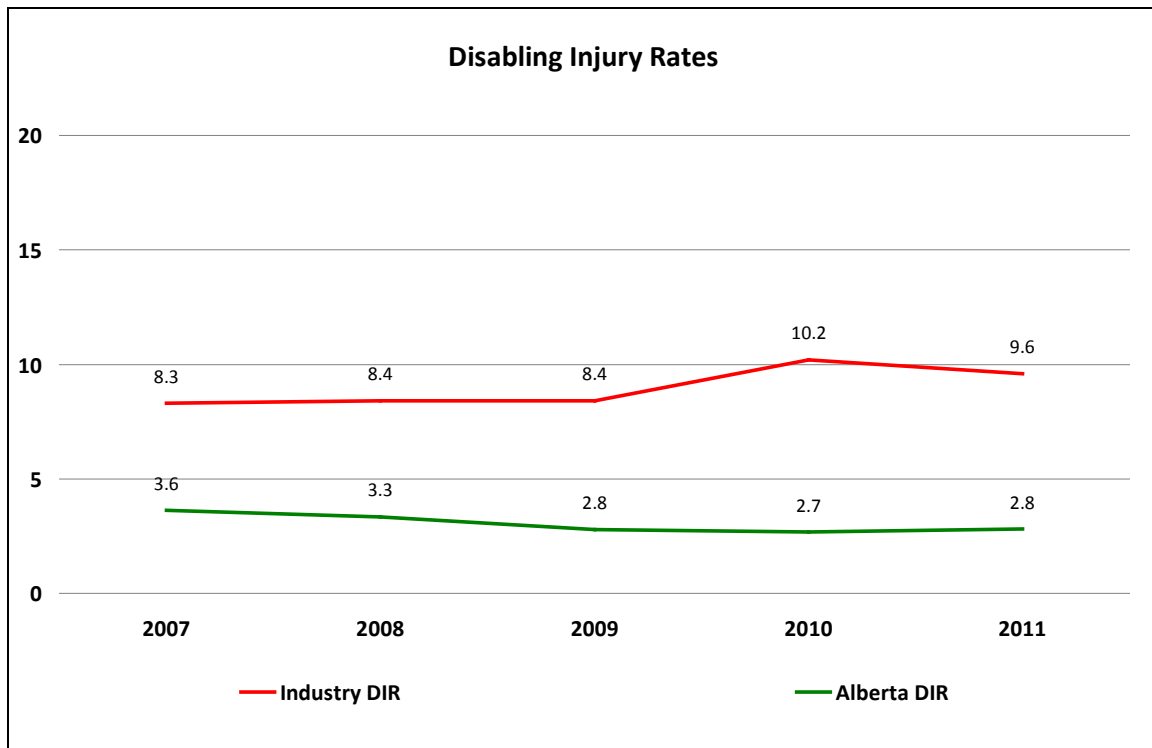
1.0 Introduction

Alberta Human Services, Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) identified *Ski Resorts/ Gondolas* as a key area for a proactive concentrated inspection and awareness campaign in the 2012-13 fiscal year.

The purpose of this focused inspection project was to raise awareness of known workplace hazards, and ensure compliance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulation and Code*.

The overall goal of the project was to enhance employer's awareness of their responsibility to protect the health and safety of their workers by identifying and controlling known hazards associated with the work, including equipment maintenance, training and supervision related to health and safety of workers and to ensure Temporary Foreign Workers (TFW's) and young workers who frequently are employed in the industry are aware of OHS legislation and its application to their work.

Graph 1: Historical DIR for ski resorts/gondolas compared to provincial averages



2.0 Overview of Focused Inspection Project

In the province of Alberta there are forty eight (48) employers who are classified under industry code 85904 relating to *Ski Resorts/Gondolas*. Twenty six (26) of these employers operate ski hills/resorts and it is these employers who were identified as the focus of the OHS inspections project.

Officers completed inspections in October 2012 prior to the beginning of the ski season and again in January 2013 when the season was in full operation. The October inspections focused on hazard assessment, and implementation of controls, ensuring workers were adequately trained and that equipment was maintained and operating in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications prior to the start of the

ski season. The January inspections focused on implementation of the employers stated hazard controls, verifying worker competency and adequacy of supervision as well as equipment maintenance records.

During the inspections officers focused on but were not be limited to the following sections of the legislation.

OHS Act Section 2 (1) - Obligations of the employers, workers.

OHS Regulation Section 12 - Equipment

OHS Regulation Section 13 - General protection of workers

OHS Regulation Section 14 - Duties of workers

OHS Regulation Section 15 - Safety training

OHS Code Part 2 - Hazard Assessment, Elimination and Control

OHS Code Part 9 - Fall Protection

OHS Code Part 15 - Managing the Control of Hazardous Energy

OHS Code Part 19 - Powered Mobile Equipment

Officers addressed any other hazards observed during their inspection. If the OHS officer identified an imminent danger, the officer was advised to consult with management before issuing a stop work or stop use order to the employer. No stop work or stop use orders were issued.

Upon completion of the inspection, the officer issued a written Contact Report to the employer documenting the results of the officer's observations and any Orders issued to correct observed deficiencies.

OHS officers completed a re-inspection of the worksite with the employer to verify compliance with any issued orders.

3.0 Results of Inspection Activity

Number of Inspections:

A total of fifty nine (59) inspections were conducted by OHS officers during the course of the project. This included twenty nine (29) inspections and thirty (30) follow up re-inspections across twenty six (26) ski resorts/gondola locations. A total of ninety four (94) activities were undertaken including inspections, re-inspections, meetings with employers and workers, review of health and safety documentation to verify compliance, educational presentations and distribution/discussion of relevant health and safety publications.

Orders Issued:

A total number of sixty four (64) Orders were issued during the project.

Four (4) Notices to Produce documents requiring that occupational health and safety information be provided were issued to employers. One (1) Demand Notice was issued to an employer. Notices to Produce and Demands are not viewed as orders in the provincial legislation.

Table 1: Orders/ Notices to Produce/ Demands issued

Type	Count	% (*)
Order	64	92.8%
Stop Use Order	0	0
Stop Work Order	0	0
Notice to Produce	4	5.8%
Demand	1	1.4%
Total Orders	69	100

Table 2: All Orders Orders/ Notices to Produce/ Demands issued, by part or section of the *OHS Act, Regulation and Code*

OHS Act	Count	%
Section 8 – Inspection	4	5.8%
Section 19 – Investigation of an Accident	1	1.4%
OHS Regulation		
Section 7 – Availability of Specifications	1	1.4%
OHS Code		
Part 2 - Hazard Assessment, Elimination and Control	8	11.6%
Part 3 - Specifications and Certifications	1	1.4%
Part 4 - Chemical Hazards, Biological Hazards and Harmful Substances	2	2.9%
Part 5 - Confined Spaces	1	1.4%
Part 6 - Cranes, Hoists and Lifting Devices	2	2.9%
Part 7 - Emergency Preparedness and Response	5	7.2%
Part 8 - Entrances, Walkways, Stairways and Ladders	1	1.4%
Part 9 - Fall Protection	7	10.1%
Part 10 - Fire and Explosion Hazards	3	4.3%
Part 11 - First Aid	1	1.4%
Part 12 - General Safety Precautions	1	1.4%
Part 15 - Managing the Control of Hazardous Energy	4	5.8%
Part 16 - Noise Exposure	2	2.9%
Part 18 - Personal Protective Equipment	4	5.8%
Part 19 - Powered Mobile Equipment	4	5.8%
Part 21 - Rigging	1	1.4%
Part 22 - Safeguards	3	4.3%
Part 25 - Tools, Equipment and Machinery	3	4.3%
Part 28 - Working Alone	1	1.4%
Part 29 - Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)	9	13.0%
Total Orders	69	100

4.0 OHS Focused Inspection Projects

Inspection results may be used to determine future inspection areas, frequency of inspections of individual workplaces and to track the progress and trends related to the control of workplace hazards within specific industries.

Next Steps

As part of the focused inspection wrap up OHS executives met with senior executives of some of these employers to illustrate the economic benefits as well as the social value of implementing strong health and safety programs. The consequences when adequate training, proper supervision and committed leadership are not part of the employers culture and business plan were also outlined.

Ski Resort executives indicated to OHS that there was great value in these meetings and have pursued additional presentations from OHS to ensure the industry as a whole receives the benefit of this additional information. The Canadian Western Ski Association Alberta (CWSAA) has invited OHS management to speak at their annual conference in the spring of 2013 to discuss these significant developments and opportunities.

OHS management remains committed to continuous improvements in health and safety with the industry by engaging the resources of OHS Delivery and OHS Partnerships.