What are my health and safety rights?

Right to know

You have the right to know about all potential health and safety hazards in the workplace and the measures in place to protect you from harm. Your employer must provide you with health and safety information, procedures, equipment, training, and supervision to keep you healthy and safe.

Right to participate

- You have the right to participate in keeping your workplace healthy and safe, which may include being a joint committee member or a worker health and safety representative.
- You have the right to report unhealthy and unsafe conditions, incidents, and near misses.
- You have the right to participate in training, risk assessments of hazards in your work, inspections, investigations, and any follow-up activities arising from reports you submit.
- You have the right to make suggestions to the committee or employer on how to make your workplace safer.

Right to refuse

You have the right to refuse unsafe work. You must not do work that you believe to be unsafe for yourself or your co-workers. To learn more about the proper procedure to follow, see the “How to refuse unsafe work” fact sheet.

Right to no prohibited action

You have a right to no retaliation for using your health and safety rights.

This means you cannot be fired, disciplined or treated differently for using your health and safety rights. This may include coercion or intimidation, loss of opportunity for promotion, suspension, firing, or reduction of wages or changes in working hours or duties.



It’s the law

These four rights for workers are written into B.C’s health and safety law and regulation.

REFUSE UNSAFE WORK

More about the right to refuse unsafe work.

Related fact sheets

- **How to refuse unsafe work**
- **Reassignment of refused work**