

## Key WorkSafeBC OH&S Regulations and Issues at Current Fire Hall

Occupational Health and Safety Regulation Section	Regulation	Issue at current Fire Hall
4.1 Safe workplace	<i>A workplace must be planned, constructed, used and maintained to protect from danger any person working at the workplace. [Enacted by B.C. Reg. 258/2008, effective January 1, 2009.]</i>	<b>Long term health risks resulting from exposure to reduced air quality and lack of space for adequate decontamination process.</b>
4.2 Safe buildings and structures	<i>The employer must ensure that each building and temporary or permanent structure in a workplace is capable of withstanding any stresses likely to be imposed on it.</i>	<b>It does not meet post-disaster standards.</b>
4.33 Arrangement of work areas	<i>(1) A work area must be arranged to allow the safe movement of people, equipment and materials. (2) If, to ensure safety, an aisle or passageway is designated for pedestrian traffic, the route must be clearly indicated by markings or other effective means and, where practicable, floor or grade markings must be used.</i>	<b>There is inadequate space.</b>
4.40 Wet floors	<i>If a work process results in a liquid accumulating on the floor or grade surface in a work area and the liquid creates a slipping or other hazard, floor drains or other suitable means must be used to control the hazard.</i>	<b>Flat floors render drain ineffective.</b>
4.72 Design and operation	<i>(1) An employer must ensure that a ventilation system for the supply and distribution of air and removal of indoor air contaminants is designed, constructed and operated in accordance with (a) established engineering principles, and (b) ASHRAE Standard 62-1989, Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality. (2) An adequate supply of outdoor air must be provided to the workplace in accordance with Table 2 of ASHRAE Standard 62-1989. (3) For a building ventilation system installed prior to 1989, an adequate supply of outdoor air must be provided in accordance with the ASHRAE standard in place at the time the ventilation system was designed.</i>	<b>Hazardous contaminants brought to the fire hall from fires are spread into all work spaces.</b>  <b>Indoor office spaces air quality impacted by vehicle exhaust.</b>

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	<p><i>[Amended by B.C. Reg. 312/2003 effective October 29, 2003.]</i></p> <p><b>Note:</b> If workers occupying a building exhibit signs or report symptoms of illness the circumstances must be investigated as required by <a href="#">Part 5 (Chemical Agents and Biological Agents)</a>. If such signs or symptoms are attributed to an inadequate supply of outdoor air, the Board will, under subsection (3), consider a standard other than the ASHRAE standard in place at the time the ventilation system was designed where necessary to address the circumstances.</p>	
<b>4.74 Distribution</b>	<i>Outdoor air must be effectively distributed throughout the workplace.</i>	<b>There is inadequate ventilation / air exchange.</b>
<b>4.85 Washroom facilities</b>	<p><i>(1) Except as provided by subsection (2), the employer must ensure that a sufficient number of plumbed washroom facilities are readily available for workers.</i></p> <p><i>(2) If plumbed washroom facilities cannot be provided because of the nature of the workplace or the nature of the work in which the worker is involved, the employer must</i></p> <p><i>(a) provide access to portable washroom and hand-washing facilities, or</i></p> <p><i>(b) make such other reasonable arrangements to accommodate workers as the circumstances allow, if access to portable washroom and hand-washing facilities cannot be provided.</i></p> <p><i>(3) If washroom facilities are provided they must be</i></p> <p><i>(a) maintained in proper working order,</i></p> <p><i>(b) kept clean and sanitary, and</i></p> <p><i>(c) provided with the supplies necessary for their use.</i></p> <p><i>[Enacted by B.C. Reg. 421/2004, effective January 1, 2005.]</i></p>	<b>There are an inadequate number of washrooms (2).</b>
<b>4.86 Change areas</b>	<p><i>If the employer requires the worker to change into protective work clothing at the workplace, the employer must ensure that adequate change areas are provided.</i></p> <p><i>[Enacted by B.C. Reg. 421/2004, effective January 1, 2005.]</i></p>	<b>No space for change areas.</b>
<b>5.60 Application</b>	<i>Sections 5.61 to 5.71 apply to ventilation used for the control of air contaminants in the workplace, except for heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems in buildings, which are subject to requirements on indoor air quality in Part 4 (General Conditions).</i>	<b>No separation between contaminated areas and clean areas.</b>

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<b>5.61 Engineering principles</b>	<i>A ventilation system for controlling airborne contaminants in the workplace must be designed, installed and maintained using established engineering principles.</i>	<b>No ventilation / air exchange that controls airborne contaminants such as asbestos brought back on equipment from a fire response.</b>
<b>5.64 Controlling air contaminants</b>	<i>(1) If ventilation is used as an engineering control, an air contaminant must be controlled at the source by an effective local exhaust ventilation system. (2) If local exhaust ventilation is not practicable, general (dilution) ventilation, or a combination of general and local exhaust ventilation must be used.</i>	<b>No ventilation / air exchange that controls airborne contaminants such as asbestos and other carcinogens brought back on equipment from a fire response.</b>  <b>Personal protective gear is exposed to diesel exhaust contaminants.</b>
<b>5.67 Effectiveness</b>	<i>(1) An exhaust ventilation system used to control air contaminants in the workplace must remain in operation until the work process is completed and the air contaminants generated have been removed so as not to be a hazard to workers. (2) An exhaust ventilation system used to control air contaminants in the workplace must be regularly inspected and monitored to ensure that it remains effective.</i>	<b>Inadequate ventilation / air exchange for diesel exhaust from fire apparatus.</b>  <b>No ventilation / air exchange that controls airborne contaminants such as asbestos brought back on equipment from a fire response.</b>
<b>5.82 Employer's responsibility</b>	<i>(1) If a work process may result in harm to a worker from contamination of the worker's skin or clothing by a hazardous substance, the employer must (a) supply appropriate protective clothing, (b) launder or dispose of the protective clothing on a regular basis, according to the hazard, (c) provide adequate wash facilities, and (d) allow time for washing before each work break.  (2) If work processes involving substances such as lead, mercury, asbestos, silica or pesticides are high hazard, the employer must also ensure that workers are provided</i>	<b>Existing Fire Hall does not have facilities to allow for personal clothing storage, appropriate decontamination equipment and does not have adequate wash facilities.</b>

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	<p><i>with</i></p> <p><i>(a) clothing lockers in separate rooms for street clothing and work clothing,</i></p> <p><i>(b) heated shower facilities between the rooms, and</i></p> <p><i>(c) time for showering and clothing change before the end of the work shift.</i></p> <p><i>(3) In a remote location where provision of change rooms and shower facilities is not practicable, separate clothing storage and adequate washing facilities must be provided.</i></p>	
<b>5.83 Worker's responsibility</b>	<p><i>A worker engaged in a work process described in section 5.82 must</i></p> <p><i>(a) wear the supplied protective clothing,</i></p> <p><i>(b) wash effectively before each work break and the end of the work shift, and</i></p> <p><i>(c) shower at the end of the work shift, if required by the hazard.</i></p>	<b>Existing Fire Hall does not have enough showers (1) to allow workers to shower after attending an emergency incident involving harmful contaminants as per regulations.</b>
<b>31.11 Maintenance</b>	<p><i>(1) The employer must have written procedures for the inspection of protective clothing and equipment at regular intervals.</i></p> <p><i>(2) Procedures for cleaning and drying protective clothing must be in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.</i></p> <p><i>(3) Defective items of protective clothing or equipment must be repaired or replaced.</i></p>	<b>Existing Fire Hall does not have the proper equipment and space to allow for cleaning and drying of protective clothing as per manufacturer's instructions.</b>



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