



## **BC Safety Authority: Consequences for creating undue risk**

The BC Safety Authority (BCSA) took 98 enforcement actions against contractors, equipment owners and others doing work in BCSA-regulated technologies in the first half of 2011.

Enforcement actions are part of an effort by BC Safety Authority to promote compliance with safety standards and legislation. "We use enforcement to keep people safe and to help level the playing field for a fair business environment," says BCSA Director of Technical Programs, Greg Paddon.

Since the beginning of the year, BC Safety Authority has issued 95 compliance orders, imposed one discipline order suspending a Certificate of Qualification and imposed two monetary penalties.

A compliance order is most commonly issued to require a person to either take action, stop, and/or modify their regulated work or use of a regulated product because it doesn't meet code or otherwise contravenes legislation.

Fifty-seven compliance orders were issued in the electrical technology, 35 in the gas technology, two in elevating devices and one in amusement rides so far this year.

The two monetary penalties imposed included one in the amount of \$3,800 issued to an individual for operating regulated amusement rides without a valid permission. The other monetary penalty, worth \$250, was imposed on Chet Construction Ltd for causing gas line hit incidents.

In a similar case, BC Safety Authority also collected a \$7,400 monetary penalty from BC Underground Contractors this year. The Kelowna excavating company caused multiple gas line hits, including damage to a main gas line causing disruption of service to more than 850 homes.

According to Paddon, “Operating outside the safety system creates undue risk and there are consequences for this type of activity.”

Quarterly statistics on enforcement actions are published on BC Safety Authority’s website at: [www.safetyauthority.ca/enforcement](http://www.safetyauthority.ca/enforcement).

In order to understand enforcement actions in the broader perspective of BC’s safety system, please refer to the State of Safety Report which can be accessed at [www.safetyauthority.ca/about/publications](http://www.safetyauthority.ca/about/publications).

The BC Safety Authority keeps people safe by mandating the safe installation and use of technical equipment. BCSA also issues permits and licences, educates, and conducts on-site inspections in high-risk situations.

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