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OCCUPATIONAL INJURY AND ILLNESS PREVENTION PROGRAM

1990 Annual Report

April 1991

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GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The total number of accidents, the number of accidents which did not result in employee time lost, time loss accidents and the number of employee days lost in 1990 were significantly lower than the number which occurred during 1989. Three factors can be attributed to the success of this year's Accident Prevention Program. First, 1990 marked the first full year that all provincial park campgrounds were operated by permittees. Accordingly, the number of employee hours worked in 1990 was reduced by fourteen (14%) percent. Second, the ministry held seminars and workshops aimed at increasing the level of safety awareness and improving the attitude toward safety. Third, the Occupational Injury and Illness Prevention Program was implemented. The program fulfils and at times, exceeds the Worker's Compensation Board's requirements for a written safety program.

Twenty-two accidents were reported in 1990, down from forty-eight in 1989. Time loss accidents decreased from twenty-four in 1989 to nine in 1990. Employee days lost fell significantly to 31.5 days from 6286 days (included 6000 day penalty for an employee death) in 1989.

Park assistants, due to the nature of their work, continued to lead all employee classifications in the number of accidents (18), time loss accidents (6) and employee days lost (20.5). Park technicians suffered only one time lost accident, accounting for seven employee days lost. The remaining classifications were subject to two time loss accidents, resulting in four employee days lost.

Employees with over five years of service in the ministry continued to lead all other employees, in the number of accidents recorded, time lost and employee days lost. They accounted for sixty percent of the number of accidents recorded, seventy-eight percent of all time lost accidents and seventy-five percent of the total number of employees days lost.

Leg injuries, including knees, ankles and feet, accounted for over one-third (34%) of all recorded accidents. Back injuries were next at 30%, followed by head and neck injuries (23%). However, back injuries accounted for almost half (48%) of the employee days lost.

Slightly more than one-third (35%) of all accidents occurred during the summer season (May - August). This is down from fifty-nine percent in 1989. Employee days lost during the summer decreased to 32% from 97% in 1989.

Two districts, the West Kootenay and Peace-Liard districts, achieved zero Accident Frequency Rates (A.F.R.) in 1990. The overall district A.F.R. improved to one accident every 18.2 thousand hours worked from one every 11.3 thousand hours worked in 1989. Two of the three regional offices were accident free in 1990.

Eight district offices reported a zero Accident Severity Rate (no time loss accidents). The overall district accident severity rate improved to 0.05 percent time loss of total time worked from 8.1 percent time loss a year ago. The high A.S.R. value in 1989 was due to the employee fatality.

The West Kootenay district had the best overall Occupational Injury prevention record, finishing first by recording no accidents, time lost accidents and employee days lost. The West Kootenay district, for the fifth consecutive year achieved a zero A.S.R. and for the second consecutive year recorded a zero A.F.R.

While the overall safety record for 1990 improved significantly, management direction and priorities for 1991 must endeavour to better last year's performance. Priorities have been identified as follows:

- increasing staff familiarization of the O.I.I.P. program
- teaching how to use equipment properly
- instructing seasonal staff on the O.I.I.P. program

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INTRODUCTION

The 1990 Accident Prevention Program report is intended to provide management with the information required to evaluate existing safety programs; to identify areas which need improvement; and to design and implement new safety strategies.

An effective accident prevention program, which will now be referred to as the Occupational Injury and Illness Prevention Program (O.I.I.P. Program), is dependent on strong management support, continued good supervision of the program by area and zone supervisors, the maintaining of active Industrial Health and Safety Committees, and employee participation in safe work practices.

For the purpose of a safety program review, this report uses the accident frequency rate (A.F.R.) and the accident severity rate (A.S.R.) as indicators to measure the change in the safety record at B.C. Parks.

The 1990 program shows an encouraging improvement trend. Three significant events in 1990 should be noted. First, 1990 was the first year that all road accessible provincial park campgrounds and day use areas were operated by permittees. Thus the number of hours that B.C. Parks staff worked was reduced (14%). Second, in 1990 the ministry developed and implemented an Occupational Injury and Illness Prevention Program. The policy and procedures outlined in the program manual which was produced fulfils the Workers' Compensation Board requirements for a written safety program. Third, all supervisors were provided with specific O.I.I.P. program training. All district managers also attended a seminar on safety in the workplace. These three important events have resulted in a significant reduction in accidents and injuries.

1. VOLUME OF ACCIDENTS

Twenty-two accidents were reported in 1990, twenty-six less than in 1989, a decrease of fifty-four percent (54%). In addition to the decrease in the number of accidents, the number of time loss accidents declined to 9 from 24, a sixty-three percent (63%) reduction. The number of employee days lost dramatically decreased as well, to 31.5 from 6286. The abnormally high number of employee days lost in 1989 was due to a fatality, which assessed 6000 time loss days.

Total hours worked in 1989:	743,233
Total hours worked in 1990:	635,895
Reduced hours:	107,338
107,338 hours represents 14%	

For the second consecutive year the West Kootenay District did not record any accidents. The Peace Liard District was the only other district which did not suffer any accidents this year. The Southern Interior regional office was the only regional office which operated without any time loss incidents.

2. ACCIDENTS BY EMPLOYEE CLASSIFICATION

Total Accidents, the number of time loss accidents and the number of employee days lost are calculated by three employee classification groups. The breakdown of these categories by these classification groups is provided below.

TABLE 2 Percentage of Accidents by Employee Classification

Park Assistants	1987	1988	1989	1990
Total Accidents	74%	81%	83%	77%
Time Loss Accidents	70%	90%	79%	67%
Employee Days Lost	87%	94%	4%	65%
Park Technicians	1987	1988	1989	1990
Total Accidents	20%	12%	4%	4%
Time Loss Accidents	18%	5%	8%	11%
Employee Days Lost	8%	5%	.1%	22%
Other Classifications	1987	1988	1989	1990
Total Accidents	6%	7%	13%	9%
Time Loss Accidents	12%	5%	13%	22%
Employee Days Lost	5%	1%	96%	13%

Park Assistants lead in every category. Percentages for number of total accidents and time loss accidents remained relatively constant. Employee days lost decreased significantly, again due to the fatality in 1989.

Park Technicians showed the greatest improvement in 1990. Only two accidents were recorded.

Park Technicians and Assistants work under different conditions, some working as full-time employees and others as part-time employees. The ratio of volume of hours worked between Park Assistants and Park Technicians have varied over the past three years as campground operations have been converted to operation permits. However, 1990 was the first year in which all campgrounds were operated by contractors. Therefore, the ratio of volume of hours worked between the two classifications should remain fairly constant in future years.

3. ACCIDENTS BY AREA OF INJURY

Leg injuries, including feet and ankle injuries, accounted for over one-third (34%) of all **recorded accidents**. This was followed by back injuries (30%), head injuries, including neck and facial injuries (23%), and arm injuries, including shoulders and hand injuries, (9%). Table 3 gives a more detailed breakdown of injuries.

In terms of **time loss accidents**, back injuries were responsible for forty-four (44%) percent of employee time lost, followed by leg injuries, thirty-three (33%) percent, and arm and head injuries, eleven (11%) percent each.

Back injuries accounted for forty-six (46%) percent of **all employee days lost**. Head and leg injuries were next with twenty-two (22%) percent, arm injuries had sixteen (16%) percent and multiple injuries accounted for thirteen (13%) percent.

TABLE 3

ACCIDENTS BY AREA OF INJURY

AREA OF INJURY	TOTAL ACCIDENTS		TIME LOSS ACCIDENTS		EMPLOYEE DAYS LOST		TOTAL EMPLOYEE DAYS LOST %	
	1988	1989 1990	1988	1989 1990	1988	1989 1990	1988	1989 1990
Head, Face or Neck	4	1 3	1	0 1	1	0 7	0.2	0 22.2
Eyes	1	3 2	0	0 0	0	0 0	0	0 0
Torso, Chest or Stomach	1	3 0	1	1 0	9	6 0	1.8	0.2 0
Back	15	6 6	9	4 4	317	57 14.5	62	1 46.0
Arm, Wrist, Shoulder or Elbow	8	5 1	2	1 0	21	3 0	4.1	0.1 0
Hand or Fingers	10	6 1	2	3 1	5	37 3	6.1	1.0 9.5
Leg, Knee or Hip	5	8 2	2	4 1	136	133 1	3.0	26.6 3.2
Ankle, Toes or Foot	6	6 5	3	6 1	15	43 2	2.9	0.7 6.3
Multiple	4	6 1	1	4 1	3	7 4	0.6	0.2 12.7
Other	3	4 1	1	1 0	4	6000 0	0.8	95 0
TOTALS	57	48 22	22	24 9	511	6286 31.5	100	100 100

4. ACCIDENTS BY LENGTH OF EMPLOYMENT

B.C. Parks staff who have been employed for a period greater than five years accounted for seventy-eight percent (78%) of all recorded accidents in 1990. This is a forty-three percent (43%) increase from last year. The percentage of total time lost for this group was eighty-one (81%). This is an increase of seventy-eight percent (78%) over last year. These increases may, to a significant degree, be due to the decrease in shorter term employees between 1989 and 1990 as a result of completing the implementation of the operations permit program and resulting increases in the percentage of employees who have greater than five years employment.

Those employed over a year, but less than five years, were responsible for four percent (4%) of the total number of accidents. Time lost for this group was six percent (6%) of the total number of employee days lost.

Personnel employed for less than one year accounted for the remaining eighteen percent (18%) of total recorded accidents in 1990 and thirteen percent (13%) of employee days lost. It should be noted that many who fell into this classification were seasonal employees who worked primarily during the summer months (May - August). Table 4 on the following page illustrates accidents by length of employment in greater detail.

TABLE 4

ACCIDENTS BY LENGTH OF EMPLOYMENT

LENGTH OF EMPLOYMENT	TOTAL ACCIDENTS		TIME LOSS ACCIDENTS		EMPLOYEE DAYS LOST		TOTAL EMPLOYEE DAYS LOST %				
	1988	1989 1990	1988	1989 1990	1988	1989 1990	1988	1989 1990			
Under 1 Month	3	2	2	4	0	143	39	0	3.6	28	0
1 Mo. - 6 Mos.	10	2	5	5	0	92	6007	0	18	95.6	0
6 Mos. - 1 Yr.	2	2	1	0	1	1	0	4	0.2	0	12.3
1 Yr. - 5 Yrs.	7	8	1	3	0	3	20	0	0.6	0.3	0
Over 5 Yrs.	35	20	17	13	12	272	220	27.5	53.2	3.5	87.7
TOTALS	57	48	22	24	9	511	6286	31.5	100	100	100

5. ACCIDENTS BY MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

The summer months May through August accounted for:

	1988	1989	1990
Total Accidents	70%	59%	43%
Time Loss Accidents	73%	54%	38%
Employee Days Lost	73%	97%	41%

Since most employee hours are recorded during the summer, results are predictably highest during this period. The highest number of recorded accidents in a single month was seven (7) in July 1990.

TABLE 5

ACCIDENTS BY MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

MONTH	TOTAL ACCIDENTS		TIME LOSS ACCIDENTS		EMPLOYEE DAYS LOST	
	1988	1989 1990	1988	1989 1990	1988	1989 1990
January	2	4 0	0	3 0	0	9 0
February	3	4 2	3	2 0	19	15 0
March	3	3 3	2	1 1	43	2 1.5
April	3	3 1	0	1 1	0	2 2
May	11	4 1	4	2 1	40	5 1
June	5	5 3	2	2 1	273	12 7
July	8	11 7	3	7 1	11	6050 2
August	16	8 0	7	2 0	49	14 0
September	3	4 1	1	3 0	73	144 0
October	2	1 2	0	1 2	0	33 7
November	0	0 2	0	0 2	0	0 11
December	1	1 0	0	0 0	0	0 0
TOTALS	57	48 23	22	24 9	511	6286 31.5

6. ACCIDENT FREQUENCY RATE (A.F.R.)

The accident frequency rate (A.F.R.) indicates the ratio between the total employee hours worked and the number of recorded accidents multiplied by one thousand. It is calculated as follows:

$$\text{A.F.R.} = \frac{\text{Employee hours worked}}{\text{No. of accidents} \times 1,000}$$

Therefore, an A.F.R. of 5.2 indicates a frequency of 5,200 employee hours worked for each accident reported. A high A.F.R. value reflects a better safety performance than a low A.F.R. value. An A.F.R. value of zero indicates no accidents were recorded for that year.

For the second consecutive year and for three of the last four years, the West Kootenay district achieved an accident free year. The Peace-Liard district, which had the worst A.F.R. last year, also recorded an accident free year. The Southern Interior and South Coast Regional Offices registered their second successive accident free year.

The Malahat district recieved the worst A.F.R. this year (6.7). For three out of the last four years, the Malahat district has had the worst or second worst A.F.R. Attention should be paid to this area. 1990 A.F.R. results are provided on Table 6. Past district A.F.R. performances are provided on Table 7.

TABLE 6 ACCIDENT FREQUENCY RATE (A.F.R.) - 1990

	HOURS WORKED	"C" HAZARD ACCIDENTS	A.F.R.	A.F.R.	% CHANGE FROM 1989 HOURS
B.C. Parks District Average			18.2	27.6	
Victoria & Regional H.Q.'s					
Victoria H.Q.	118499	1	118.5		+10
Southern Interior Regional Office	33429	0	0.0		-16
South Coast Regional Office	35985	0	0.0		-6
Northern BC Regional Office	29968	1	29.9		+3

"B" HAZARD

	HOURS WORKED	ACCIDENTS	A.F.R.	% CHANGE FROM 1989 HOURS
1. West Kootenay	25672	0	0.0	-17
2. Peace-Liard	18132	0	0.0	-22
3. Strathcona	40192	1	40.2	-25
4. Thompson River	39498	1	39.5	-22
5. Skeena	31756	1	31.8	-11
6. Cariboo	30050	1	30.1	-7
7. East Kootenay	28200	1	28.2	-27
8. Okanagan	26835	1	26.8	-16
9. Garibaldi	34804	2	17.4	-9
10. Fraser Valley	43571	3	14.5	-64
11. Vancouver	40519	3	13.5	---
12. Prince George	25136	2	12.6	-21
13. Malahat	33651	5	6.7	-15

0 = Accident free
 A.F.R. = Thousands of hours worked before an accident occurs

TABLE 7

ACCIDENT FREQUENCY RATE(A.F.R.)
"B" HAZARD 1986-1989

DISTRICT	1986	A.F.R.
1. Barkerville		0.0
2. Prince George		0.0
3. West Kootenay		48.3
4. East Kootenay		23.4
5. Thompson River		23.0
6. Strathcona		21.7
7. Skeena		17.1
8. Cariboo		16.0
9. Peace-Liard		15.2
10. Malahat		10.4
11. Ft. Steele		7.8
12. Okanagan		6.8
13. Fraser Valley		6.6
14. Garibaldi		6.0

DISTRICT	1987	A.F.R.
1. West Kootenay		0.0
2. Prince George		0.0
3. Skeena		0.0
4. Thompson River		32.2
5. Cariboo		29.6
6. Strathcona		29.5
7. East Kootenay		23.4
8. Fraser Valley		13.2
9. Peace-Liard		12.7
10. Okanagan		8.7
11. Garibaldi		6.5
12. Malahat		4.1

DISTRICT	1988	A.F.R.
1. Skeena		28.1
2. Cariboo		26.1
3. Peace-Liard		22.3
4. West Kootenay		18.4
5. East Kootenay		14.8
6. Strathcona		13.0
7. Okanagan		10.5
8. Thompson River		10.2
9. Fraser Valley		10.2
10. Prince George		9.1
11. Garibaldi		6.7
12. Malahat		5.3

DISTRICT	1989	A.F.R.
1. Skeena		0.0
2. West Kootenay		0.0
3. Thompson River		50.6
4. Okanagan		31.9
5. Prince George		31.7
6. Strathcona		26.6
7. East Kootenay		19.3
8. Cariboo		16.1
9. Garibaldi		12.7
10. Fraser Valley		8.4
11. Malahat		3.3
12. Peace-Liard		2.9

0 = accident free

A.F.R = thousands of hours worked before an accident occurs

7. ACCIDENT SEVERITY RATE (A.S.R.)

The Accident Severity Rate (A.S.R.), expressed as a percentage, is the ratio of employee hours lost to total employee hours worked. It is calculated as follows:

$$\text{A.S.R.} = \frac{\text{Employee hours lost} \times 100}{\text{Total employee hours}}$$

For the purposes of this report, one day is equivalent to seven (7) hours. Low A.S.R. values reflect lower time loss than do high A.S.R. values. Zero indicates that no time loss occurred.

The district A.S.R. average improved to 0.05. This is probably due to the reduced number of employee hours. In 1990 eight (8) districts recorded a zero A.S.R. rate, up from only five districts last year and two districts in 1988. For the fifth consecutive year the West Kootenay district achieved a zero A.S.R. value. The Peace-Liard district, with an A.S.R. value of zero, has steadily improved since 1987, when it ranked last. Accident Severity Rates for 1990 are provided on Table 8 and past district A.S.R.'s are provided on Table 9.

The Malahat district has finished in the lower quarter for three successive years. Attention should be paid to this area.

TABLE 8 ACCIDENT SEVERITY RATE (A.S.R.) AND AVERAGE HOURS LOST FROM TIME LOSS ACCIDENTS - 1990

	A.S.R.
B.C. Parks	0.05
District Average	0.07

"C" HAZARD

	A.S.R. %	AVERAGE EMPLOYEE HOURS LOST/TIME LOSS ACCIDENT
Victoria H.Q.	0.01	14
Southern Interior Regional Office	0	0
South Coast Regional Office	0	0
Northern BC Regional Office	0.05	14

"B" HAZARD

	A.S.R. %	AVERAGE EMPLOYEE HOURS LOST/TIME LOSS ACCIDENT
1. West Kootenay	0	0
2. Peace-Liard	0	0
3. Strathcona	0	0
4. Thompson River	0	0
5. Skeena	0	0
6. Okanagan	0	0
7. East Kootenay	0	0
8. Garibaldi	0	0
9. Fraser Valley	0.06	28
10. Vancouver	0.07	28
11. Prince George	0.08	21
12. Cariboo	0.16	49
13. Malahat	0.20	22.2

A.S.R. = ratio of total time lost in accidents to total time worked.

TABLE 9

ACCIDENT SEVERITY RATE (A.S.R.)
"B" HAZARD 1986-1989

DISTRICT	1986	A.S.R.
1. West Kootenay		0.0
2. Cariboo		0.0
3. Prince George		0.0
4. Barkerville		0.0
5. Malahat		0.02
6. Thompson River		0.02
7. East Kootenay		0.04
8. Ft. Steele		0.04
9. Strathcona		0.09
10. Skeena		0.16
11. Garibaldi		0.28
12. Fraser Valley		0.86
13. Peace-Liard		0.99
14. Okanagan		5.37

DISTRICT	1987	A.S.R.
1. West Kootenay		0.0
2. Prince George		0.0
3. Skeena		0.0
4. Thompson River		0.0
5. Cariboo		0.0
6. Strathcona		0.0
7. East Kootenay		0.0
8. Okanagan		0.0
9. Garibaldi		0.07
10. Fraser Valley		0.27
11. Malahat		0.36
12. Peace-Liard		1.82

DISTRICT	1988	A.S.R.
1. West Kootenay		0.0
2. East Kootenay		0.0
3. Okanagan		0.02
4. Skeena		0.07
5. Prince George		0.10
6. Garibaldi		0.19
7. Peace-Liard		0.22
8. Thompson River		0.28
9. Fraser Valley		0.52
10. Strathcona		0.73
11. Malahat		1.82
12. Cariboo		3.75

DISTRICT	1989	A.S.R.
1. West Kootenay		0.0
2. East Kootenay		0.0
3. Skeena		0.0
4. Okanagan		0.0
5. Cariboo		0.0
6. Fraser Valley		0.03
7. Garibaldi		0.04
8. Peace-Liard		0.12
9. Malahat		0.16
10. Prince George		0.18
11. Strathcona		1.68
12. Thompson River		83.0

A.S.R. = ratio of total time
lost to accidents to
total time worked

SUMMARY OF ACCIDENTS - 1990

Type of Work	District & Region	Length of Employment	Injury	Date	Time Loss Yes/No	Total Time Loss (Days)	Particulars
P.A. (aux.)	Prince George NBC	2 weeks	back of head & top back of neck	90/02/03	No		Rear ended by another vehicle and his head hit the back window of the truck.
P.A.	Malahat, SCR	19 years	scratched right eye	90/02/03	No		While using a pick around stair post, gravel flew up striking him in the right eye.
P.A.2-3	E. Kootenay, S/R	12 years	Nail puncture right heel	90/03/05	No		Cleaning up yard, stepped on nail hidden in tall grass with right heel.
P.A. 2	SCR Malahat	10 years	Back	90/03/21	Yes	1.5 days	Employee slipped on wet section of trail and landed hard on left hip.
P.A.3	Fraser Valley, SCR	12 years	Right shoulder	90/03/30	No		Employee was walking through bush carrying a shovel and a chainsaw when a stick went between his coveralls and safety chaps causing him to fall on his right arm/shoulder.
O.A. 2	SCR HQ- Victoria		Foot	90/04/25	Yes	2 days	Walking down stairs, missed step, fell and tore ligament on foot.
P.A. 2	SCR Malahat	8 years	Calf muscle	90/05/08	Yes	1 day	Employee was carrying a trail sign up steep section of trail, when he felt pain in his leg.
P.A.	NBC Cariboo	5 years	Jaw/teeth	90/06/26	Yes	7 days	Employee was dismounting from horse, horse spooked, rider went underneath horse & got kicked in jaw.
P.A.	SCR Vancouver	18 years	Ankle	90/06/30	No		Slipped when walking on trail, twisted ankle, causing severe sprain.

SUMMARY OF ACCIDENTS - 1990

Type of Work	District & Region	Length of Employment	Injury	Date	Time Loss Yes/No	Total Time Loss (Days)	Particulars
P.A. 2	NBC Skeena	30 days	Back	90/06/30	No		Carrying heavy back pack, sprained support muscles.
P.T. 2	SCR Garibaldi	20 years	Ankle	90/07/03	No		Stepping off boat onto wharf and ankle turned (tore tendons).
Admin. Superv.	NBC Regional Office		Back	90/07/07	Yes	2 days	Employee lifted box of files down onto a chair and then lifted it onto the floor hurting lower back.
P.A. 2	SCR Vancouver	14 years	Shin bone	90/07/09	No		Employee was piling wood on side of trail when he slipped on a wet log, hitting his leg.
Park Tech.	SIR Okanagan	11 years	Hernia	90/07/12	No		While loading a truck with concrete blocks weighing over 100 pounds by hand and alone, employee received a hernia.
P.A. 2	SCR Fraser Valley	3 years	Eye	90/07/14	No		While driving with window down, a branch struck him in the left eye.
Labour-er	Thompson River, SIR	11 days	Occipital lobe	90/07/22	No		Employee was hauling a food cooler into an overhead bear-proof food cache when the haul rope broke, causing the cooler to drop approx 2m. onto his head.
P.A.	SCR Strathcona	15 years	Back	90/07/23	No		While removing a spare tire, employee twisted his back.
P.A.2	SCR Malahat	3 months	Ankle	90/09/27	No		While traversing log with 400 feet of water line and back pack, employee slipped and fell approximately four feet.

SUMMARY OF ACCIDENTS - 1990

Type of Work	District & Region	Length of Employment	Injury	Date	Time Loss Yes/No	Total Time Loss (Days)	Particulars
P.A.	Fraser Valley, SCR	6 months	Strain lower back	90/10/12	Yes	4 days	Employee was using an industrial belt sander during part of her shift on Oct 12&15&16/90. On Oct 20, she reported that she was suffering from a sore back.
P.A.	Prince George, NBC	10 years	Cut left thumb	90/10/24	Yes	3 days	Utility knife slipped while employee was cutting a piece of cardboard.
P.T. 4	SCR Malahat	14 years	Injured lower back	90/11/11	Yes	7 days	Worker was trying to close an exit gate in Goldstream Park during an evacuation due to high winds.
P.R.	Vancouver, SCR	26 years	Center lower back & left hip	90/11/15	Yes	4 days	Employee was pushing leaves with a pitch fork into a 1 ton truck & experience pain in his centre lower back, left hip, arms & legs.