

LIFE SAVING RULES - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. WHY IS ENERGY SAFETY CANADA ENCOURAGING COMPANIES TO ADOPT THE LIFE SAVING RULES?

Part of our mandate is to collaborate with industry to develop standards and arrive at one clear, simple and agreed-upon way of performing work safely. Life Saving Rules are one of those standards.

2. HOW DO THE LIFE SAVING RULES BENEFIT WORKERS?

The goal is to have a standard set of core rules across industry. This will simplify things for workers moving from site to site, and will lead to a safer and more efficient work environment.

3. HOW AND WHY WERE THESE RULES CHOSEN?

With industry participation—including representation from oil sands, upstream oil and gas, and the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers—a detailed review of fatality data and a gap analysis were undertaken. The 10 resulting Life Saving Rules focus on those unsafe behaviours with the greatest potential for serious injury or fatality.

4. ARE THESE RULES AN INDUSTRY ACCEPTED STANDARD?

Yes, they are. As the name suggests, an Industry Accepted Standard is a standard that a large majority of the industry has agreed to implement within their respective businesses within Canada. By making Life Saving Rules an Industry Accepted Standard, industry can achieve better safety outcomes and be more efficient in its operations.

5. HOW DOES A COMPANY ADOPT THE LIFE SAVING RULES?

Each employer is responsible for rolling out and educating employees about the Life Saving Rules, and several resources are available at EnergySafetyCanada.com to assist with this. They include a step-by-step implementation program, a readiness checklist, an explanation guide, Toolbox Talks and more.

6. DO THESE RULES APPLY TO VISITORS?

Yes, the Life Saving Rules apply to anyone present on a work site, including contractors, employees and visitors.

7. WHAT IF MY COMPANY DOESN'T WANT TO ADOPT THE LIFE SAVING RULES, OR WE HAVE OUR OWN?

You must comply with whatever rules are in place at the company you are working for. Over time, the majority of industry is expected to transition to these Life Saving Rules, but they will do so at different times and over different durations.

8. SHOULD I INTERVENE IF I OBSERVE SOMEONE IN VIOLATION OF A LIFE SAVING RULE?

Yes. If you see someone who may be breaking a Life Saving Rule you should intervene, provided it is safe to do so. Intervention is about respectful peer-to-peer coaching and each of us must have the courage to speak up for and protect one another, as well as accept questions from others. Intervening may be the last chance to stop a serious injury or fatality.

9. HOW CAN COMPANIES ENSURE FAIR AND CONSISTENT TREATMENT IF A LIFE SAVING RULE IS VIOLATED?

First, companies—along with the prime contractor, client and contractors—must conduct a thorough investigation of the Life Saving Rule violation and should have a consequence matrix or accountability model (examples are available in the Life Saving Rules Program at EnergySafetyCanada.com). Each company may have slightly different models and policies, but the disciplinary action should be proportional to the violation.

It is also recommended that companies create an investigation panel or committee to review any violations. This, combined with the accountability model, should ensure fair and consistent treatment of workers if a violation occurs.

Finally, it is important to note that each violation must be considered in the context of the situation where the violation occurred; therefore violation of a Life Saving Rule does not mean automatic termination of the worker.