



Report for Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board

Q2 2025

July 31, 2025

1.0 2025 Saskatchewan Strategic and Operational Plan

Energy Safety Canada (ESC) is pleased to present the Q2 report, showcasing progress in implementing the 2025 Saskatchewan (SK) Strategic and Operational Plan and advancing safety standards in Canada's energy industry.

1.1 Q2 2025 Highlights

- The ESC SK Advisory Committee held its Q2 meeting, presenting corporate and regional updates along with key statistics and data. The draft 2026 SK Strategic and Operational Plan and proposed 2026 budget were provided to the ESC SK Advisory Committee, and members were asked to provide feedback before the Q3 meeting.
- Employer support meetings have begun with surcharged employers, and 39 meetings have been completed so far this year. In Q3, ESC will identify 12 additional employers showing an upward trend in WCB claims and costs and will offer industry support meetings and resources.
- Collaborating with WCBs across Western Canada and industry representatives from safety associations from various industries (e.g., mining, construction) to develop a pilot COR (Safety Management System) for implementation in Saskatchewan.
- Motor Vehicle Incident Tracking survey data was reviewed to assess risk tolerance, leading indicators and contributing factors to near misses and potential serious injuries. Results will be analyzed and shared with industry in Q3 2025. The initiative was developed in response to SK WCB's forecast that vehicle-related incidents will lead worker injury statistics in SK by the end of 2025.
- The ESC SK Advisory Committee has approved a letter to Minister Jim Reiter, requesting an amendment to The Saskatchewan Employment Act to add a Creative Sentencing provision under Section 3-79 of the OHS section. The amendment would allow courts to direct fines from OHS convictions toward worker safety training and education initiatives.

1.2 Industry Impact & Development Initiatives

ESC successfully met its targeted goals and projected activities for Q2.

Highlights:

- Attended the 2025 Energy Safety Conference & Tradeshow in Banff, AB, joining over 1,000 participants. ESC SK engaged with Saskatchewan industry leaders to strengthen relationships and stay informed on regional priorities. Presentation materials and speaker resources are available at [EnergySafetyCanada.com](https://www.energysafetycanada.com)

- Attended the 2025 Williston Basin Petroleum Conference in Regina, which focused on cutting-edge innovations and strategies driving the future of sustainable oil production in Saskatchewan.
- Participated in the Prairie South School Division “Try a Career” Expo, WorkSafe SK Try A Career Day, Skills Canada National Competition 2025 and the Cade Sprackman Safety Day youth events, which collectively saw approximately 8,000 attendees. ESC SK promoted the Energy Wheel and the Careers in Energy virtual reality experiences of real-life worksites with the attendees.
- Attended the Saskatchewan Common Ground Alliance (SCGA) breakfasts in Weyburn and Estevan. April Safe Dig month is the unofficial start of spring digging season and is a reminder to homeowners and contractors to request a line locate before starting any projects and ensure safety through safe digging practices.
- ESC SK facilitated the D51 & D52 Working Group and SK Trucking Group meetings to gain deeper insight into industry challenges and identify opportunities for targeted support, particularly in light of these groups' notably high claim count rates.
- Managed an exhibitor booth at the WCB's 27th annual Compensation Institute 2025 in Saskatoon. This one-day event featured presentations on workplace safety, safety leadership and practices. ESC SK joined in on a panel discussion on top safety priorities and shared an example of how ESC supports employers in resolving safety issues.
- ESC SK Information Group meeting was held in Estevan, SK. Discussed organizational updates and included guest speaker presentations from RCMP Lead Investigators Sergeant Jeff Burnett and Corporal Adele Breen from the Forensic Collision Reconstruction Program on SK WCB's projection that driving-related workplace incidents are expected to become the leading type of workplace claim by 2025.

1.3 WCB Premium & Claims

- ESC's SK Operational WCB 2025 levy is \$0.077 per \$100 of payroll, slightly higher than the 2024 levy of \$0.075.
- The 2025 premium average for ESC rate codes is \$1.39 per \$100 payroll, slightly higher than the provincial rate of \$1.28.
- Comparing premiums from 2023 to 2025:

Saskatchewan WCB rate code	2023	2024	2025	Difference 2024-2025
D32 (Operation of Oilwells)	\$0.47	\$0.42	\$0.43	(+) \$0.01
D41 (Oilwell Servicing)	\$1.39	\$1.41	\$1.52	(+) \$0.11
D51 (Service Rigs)	\$1.80	\$1.64	\$1.83	(+) \$0.19

D52 (Drilling)	\$1.67	\$1.69	\$1.77	(+) \$0.08
Average	\$1.33	\$1.29	\$1.39	(+) \$0.10

- The D41, D51 and D52 rate codes had some of the province's highest WCB injury claim durations reported in the 2024 Saskatchewan WCB Annual Report. ESC will continue to focus on sectors with the highest claim duration and meet with companies operating in Saskatchewan. ESC will seek input from the ESC SK Trucking Group, ESC SK D51 and D52 Working Group, and other key stakeholders for field perspective on incidents, root causes, mitigating worker injuries and reducing claim duration.
- SK WCB Preliminary 2026 Rate Setting Overview:

Payroll Projections	2024 Actual Assessed (\$M)	Current 2025 Forecast (\$M)	% in 2025 Forecast	2026 Projection (\$M)	Projected % Change in 2026
D32 - Operation of Oilwells	388.0	388.0	0.0%	388.0	0.0%
D41 - Oilwell Servicing	405.7	405.7	0.0%	405.7	0.0%
D51 - Service Rigs and Water Well Drilling	108.3	109.4	1.0%	110.5	1.0%
D52 - Seismic Drilling	111.7	117.3	5.0%	123.1	5.0%

Source: Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board

- Comparison of claim counts in ESC's SK WCB rate codes for Q1 and Q2 (January 1 - June 30) shows a slight increase in both No Time-loss and Time-loss claims in 2025 compared to 2024. The overall change remains modest.

Claim	Q1 & Q2 2024	Q1 & Q2 2025	Difference 2024 – 2025
No Time-loss	99	105	(+) 6 or (+) 6%
Time-loss	31	34	(+) 3 or (+) 10%
Fatalities	0	0	0
Total - All Categories	130	139	(+) 9 or (+) 7%

2.0 Education and Training

Energy workers provide essential services and must receive the necessary training to work safely. Our ESC Authorized Training Providers (ATPs) in Saskatchewan offer both classroom and virtual training to students across the province. ESC's SK training highlights for Q2 2025 included:

- Top 3 courses in SK: H₂S Alive® (2,479 enrolled), Common Safety Orientation (418 enrolled) and Fall Protection (346 enrolled).
- Total enrolment for all ESC courses in Saskatchewan was 4,055.
- Conducted a support visit on behalf of the ESC Evaluations team to assess an applicant seeking designation as an Authorized Training Provider (ATP) facility, ensuring it meets the necessary requirements to deliver ESC courses.

3.0 Funding/Budget

Q2 operational costs were consistent with the 2025 quarterly budget allocations. Key figures included:

- SK WCB funding for 2025: \$800,000, with average annual operation costs of approximately \$907,000. The carry-forward fund reduction occurs annually, targeting a complete fund reduction by year-end 2025.
- Q2 2025 instalment received from WCB: \$200,000.
- As of the end of Q2 2025, ESC SK had 4 employees.

Refer to Appendix A for full Q2 SK 2025 unaudited financial statement.

Appendix A | SK Q2 2025 Unaudited Financial Statement

June 30, 2025 Actuals			
Revenue	Budget	Actual	Variance
SK WCB funding	\$800,000	\$400,000	\$400,000
Other revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total revenue	\$800,000	\$400,000	\$400,000
Expenses	Budget	Actual	Variance
Salaries - Head Office support	\$82,000	\$44,898	\$37,102
Salaries - Direct	\$470,000	\$231,753	\$238,248
Benefits - Head Office support	\$20,000	\$9,936	\$10,064
Benefits - Direct	\$120,000	\$51,786	\$68,214
Consultants & contractors	\$500	\$0	\$500
Accounting & legal fees	\$500	\$0	\$500
Advertising	\$7,000	\$830	\$6,170
Board expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
Building & services	\$10,000	\$4,503	\$5,497
Communications	\$2,000	\$914	\$1,086
Conferences & conventions	\$6,000	\$0	\$6000
External events & meetings	\$1,000	\$0	\$1000
Furniture & equipment	\$25,000	\$9,444	\$15,556
Leasehold improvements	\$0	\$0	\$0
Office supplies	\$8,000	\$1,380	\$6,620
Property taxes & general insurance	\$0	\$0	\$0
Publications	\$0	\$0	\$0
Rent - Office	\$78,000	\$38,795	\$39,205
Technology	\$50,000	\$4,321	\$45,679
Training - Staff	\$2,000	\$2,291	(\$291)
Travel	\$25,000	\$13,744	\$11,256
Miscellaneous	\$300	\$110	\$190
Total expenses	\$907,300	\$414,704	\$492,596
Excess (deficiency) revenues over expenses	(\$107,300)	(\$14,704)	(\$92,596)

Appendix B | ESC SK Advisory Committee Members

Trade Association – Company	Voting Member
Canadian Association of Geophysical Contractors (CAGC)	Rod Garland
Canadian Natural Resources Limited (CNRL) - A member of Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP)	Rob Black
Independent Well Servicing Ltd. - A member of Canadian Association of Energy Contractors (CAOEC)	Brian Crossman
Reliance Oilfield Services - A member of Enserva	Ben Heath (Vice chair)
SaskEnergy/TransGas	Darren Janke
Saturn Oil and Gas Inc.	Wade Ashworth (Member at-large)
Whitecap Resources Inc. - A member of Explorers and Producers Association of Canada (EPAC)	Ron Bartlett (Chair)
Trade Association or Organization	Observing Member
CAOEC	Lindsay Sinclair
CAOEC	Russell Nibogie
Enserva	Katy Carley
Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety (LRWS)	Ila Klassen
Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board (SK WCB)	Guru Parekh
Energy Safety Canada	Member
Alberta	Murray Evenson
Saskatchewan	Arnold Betzema
Saskatchewan	Bob Ross
Saskatchewan	Julianne Weaver

Safety Doesn't Clock In And It Doesn't Punch Out It's 24/7

About Energy Safety Canada

For over 75 years, Energy Safety Canada (ESC) has been at the forefront of safety in Canada's energy sector. Created by industry, for industry, and backed by the Workers Compensation Boards of British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan, we are the national safety association dedicated to keeping energy workers safe and driving safety improvement across the sector.

What We Offer



Training

Focusing on practical, fit-for-purpose safety training, ESC delivers programs at hundreds of locations nationwide, equipping energy workers with the skills and knowledge they need to stay safe on the job.



Industry Engagement

ESC brings industry together through committees and communities of practice, fostering collaboration and the exchange of insights to elevate safety standards.



Safety Data and Insights

We provide valuable safety data and analytics, enabling the industry to identify trends, address challenges, and discover opportunities for continuous improvement.



Certifying Partner

As the official Certifying Partner for Canada's energy sector, ESC helps maintain and advance safety standards to protect workers and strengthen industry practices.

At Energy Safety Canada, our commitment is clear: to advance safety for every worker and organization across the energy landscape.

Looking to enhance your safety performance, access top-tier training, or engage with like-minded safety professionals? Visit [EnergySafetyCanada.com](https://www.energysafetycanada.com) to explore our training programs and join our safety communities. Let's work together to make safety a shared priority.