

For more information or assistance, contact your local union health and safety representative, your union executive, your CUPE representative or the CUPE health and safety representative for your province at:

Canadian Union of Public Employees

Alberta Regional Office
300, 10235 - 124 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5N 1P9
Tel: (780) 484-7644

Or contact CUPE's Health and Safety Branch at:

Tel: (844) 237-1590 (toll free)
Email: health_safety@cupe.ca

For additional health and safety resources, visit cupe.ca/health-and-safety

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YOU CAN REFUSE UNSAFE WORK



ALBERTA

Section 17 of Alberta's *Occupational Health and Safety Act* protects a worker's right to refuse work if the worker believes on reasonable grounds that there is an undue hazard at the work site or that the work constitutes an undue hazard to the worker's health and safety (or to the health and safety of another worker or person).

Here's how you can refuse unsafe work:

- 1) Notify your employer or supervisor at the worksite that you are refusing work because you do not think it is safe and state your reason for refusal. The employer must then immediately notify the committee or health and safety representative.
- 2) If the employer does not remedy the dangerous condition immediately after discussing the situation with the worker, the employer shall immediately inspect the alleged undue hazard.

3) After the inspection, the employer will prepare a written report of the refusal to work, the inspection and the action taken (if any). A copy of the report must be provided to you, and the committee or health and safety representative.

4) If, in your opinion, a danger still exists, you can file a complaint with a government occupational health and safety officer.

5) The officer shall investigate the complaint and decide whether there is a dangerous condition. They must prepare a report and provide a copy to you and the health and safety committee member or representative.

6) If you are not satisfied with the officer's report and recommendations, you must legally return to work, but may appeal the report within 30 days.