

# Understanding the duty to report

The [Guideline on the Duty to Report](#) is a resource intended to help engineers better understand their legal, ethical, and professional obligations to report unsafe, illegal, or unethical conduct. This quick guide provides an overview of registrants' role in fulfilling their duty to report, and situations where reporting may be encouraged or required.

## Protection of the public interest

Engineers are expected to protect the public interest by upholding their code of ethics and professional conduct. This expectation also exists while observing the work and conduct of other engineers.

## The duty to report

As registrants of a provincial or territorial regulatory body, engineers have a legal, professional, and ethical obligation to report activities that could pose harm to the public or the environment.

## Regulatory reports

Regulatory reports are made by an individual or a firm. They help facilitate or encourage risky or problematic conduct being brought to the attention of authorities with jurisdiction to mitigate the risk and protect the public.

The duty to report can be mandatory (required by law) or permissive (not required by law, but encouraged if there is reasonable need to do so).

## When to make a report

Examples of incidences that could/should be reported:



Criminal activity



Unsafe practice



Incompetence



Discrimination



General misconduct



Failure to comply with requirements

Section  
6.4

Section  
3