



Work-Related Deaths & Injuries

There have been three direct harvesting fatalities in 2019, year to date

Recent work-related incidents reported to WorkSafeBC

The following sample of work-related incidents recently reported to WorkSafeBC may help you prevent similar incidents in your workplace.

HARVESTING

Injury: Fractured vertebra

Core Activity: Cable or hi-lead logging

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.

Date of Incident: June 2019

A worker (hooktender) was working at the top of a grapple yarding cutblock. A tailhold tree anchor and at least two other trees were pulled over while the yarder was yarding a turn of logs. The worker was struck and dragged down the hill by the falling trees. The first aid team treated and evacuated the worker to a helipad, and the worker was then flown to hospital in a contracted helicopter.

Injury: Bruising and cuts

Core Activity: Integrated forest management

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: June 2019

A worker in a logging camp was using a company vehicle after hours to access a hot spring. On the way back to camp, the vehicle rolled over onto the driver's side, pinning the driver between the cab of the truck and the gravel road surface. The worker was extricated from the vehicle, given first aid, and flown to a transfer point, from which the worker was transported to hospital by ambulance.

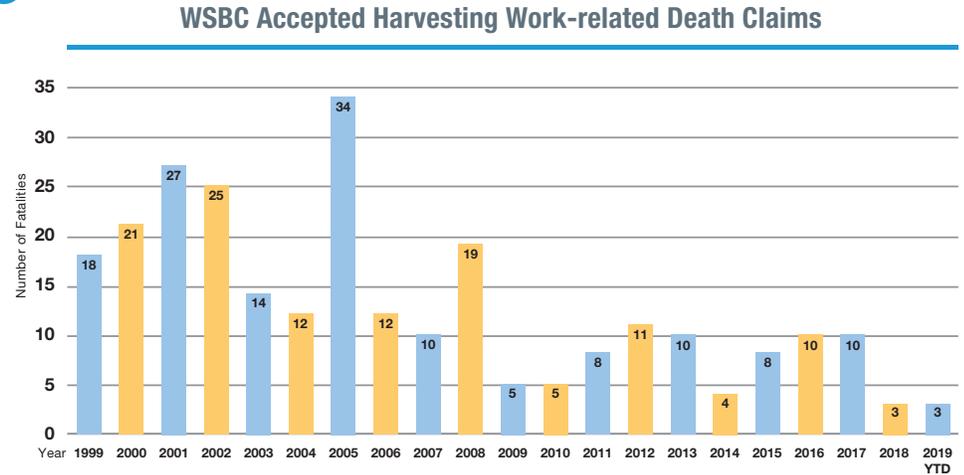
Injury: Upper body fracture, lacerations (1 worker)

Core Activity: Cable or hi-lead logging

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: June 2019

A landing worker was working on a logging landing near a grapple yarder. The crew was re-rigging to move the yarding operations to a different part of the cutblock. The yarder operator was reeling in the haulback cable when it



This information represents the number of work-related deaths by year in BC, up until June 30, 2019

became caught on an obstruction. The landing worker had walked to a position under the running haulback cable, between the grapple and yarder's tracks. The grapple was suspended immediately in front of the yarder near ground level. When the haulback cable hung up, the grapple swung and struck the landing worker. The worker was treated and evacuated by on-site first aid attendants in the employer's emergency transport vehicle (ETV). They met emergency responders en route and the worker was transported to hospital by air ambulance.

Injury: Chemical burns

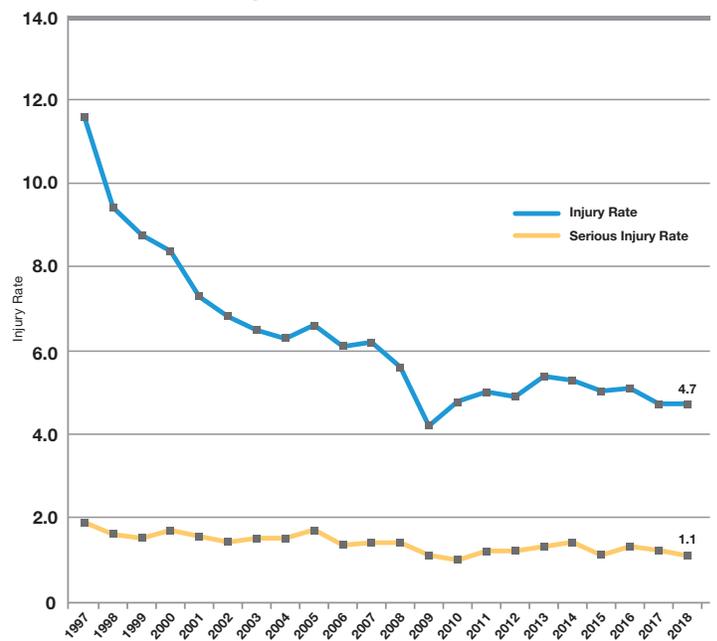
Core Activity: Bushing and weeding or tree thinning or spacing

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.

Date of Incident: May 2019

A worker came into contact with an unknown chemical liquid while clearing vegetation from a vacant lot for a utility right-of-way. The unknown chemical was

Harvesting Injury and Serious Injury Rates



This information represents the trend comparison of injury and serious injury rates from 1997 - 2018

in an unlabelled container, discarded in overgrown vegetation. The chemical spilled onto one of the worker's boots, penetrating the leather and burning the worker's foot.

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Integrated forest management

Location: Northern B.C.

Date of Incident: May 2019

A worker on a forestry cable-yarding

operation was using an excavator to construct a backspur trail on a slope of 40-45 percent. The slope around the excavator failed. As the machine started to slide, the operator released the seat belt and jumped out of the cab. The excavator slid backward down the slope about 100 feet and came to rest upright on a debris pile. The worker was assessed by the first aid attendant on site and was found to have no injuries.

Injury: Injuries to lower body
Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking / Integrated forest management
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
Date of Incident: May 2019
A faller was struck from behind by a hemlock log (27 feet long, 18 inches in diameter). The faller was positioned below a stump that the hemlock was behind and was bucking a tree (24 inches in diameter). The cut on the lower log was completed and the log dropped. The uphill hemlock moved over the stump and struck the faller from behind. The faller was flown by helicopter to a waiting ambulance for transport to hospital.

Injury: Multiple fractures
Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking / Helicopter logging
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
Date of Incident: May 2019
A faller had just felled a cedar tree (4 feet in diameter) and had moved to a safe location. After waiting several seconds and assessing the canopy, the faller took a few steps and reassessed the canopy. Not observing any hazards, the faller started walking and was struck by a cedar limb (3 inches in diameter, 16 feet long). The faller was transported to hospital by helicopter.

Injury: Injury to head
Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking / Cable or hi-lead logging
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
Date of Incident: April 2019
A faller had made the falling cuts in a second-growth Douglas fir tree (33 inches in diameter). As the tree was falling, the faller was struck by a 12-foot-long, 3-inch-diameter branch from that tree. The worker received first aid at the site, then was transported to hospital by ETV.

Injury: Multiple fractures
Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking / Integrated forest management
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
Date of Incident: April 2019

A faller had nearly completed the undercut in a short, stubby, hemlock danger tree (40 inches in diameter). The faller saw that the tree was starting to fail, dropped his saw, and attempted to get behind cover but was struck and injured by a 22-foot-long slab of the danger tree. The faller was transported to hospital by helicopter.

Injury: Missing
Core Activity: Integrated forest management
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: April 2019
A worker was driving an employer's shop truck on a resource road to get to the employer's logging camp. When the worker did not arrive at the camp, the employer initiated a search. Co-workers found signs that the truck had gone off the road and into a deep part (up to 400 feet) of a large lake. The employer reported the incident to the police, requesting assistance. Divers confirmed that the truck left impressions and debris on the steeply sloping lakebed. There are no signs that the worker got out of the truck. Neither the worker nor the truck have been located.

MANUFACTURING

Injury: Multiple injuries (1 worker)
Core Activity: Sawmill
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2019-Jun
A worker walked between two stacks of lumber to enter a yard and was struck by a lift truck.

Injury: Injury to head
Core Activity: Sawmill
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2019-Jun
While conducting work on a wood chip scow walkway, a worker was struck by an overhead steel scow winch line.

Injury: Injuries to fingers
Core Activity: Sawmill
Location: Interior B.C.
Date of Incident: 2019-May
A maintenance worker at a lumber remanufacturing facility was adjusting a planer when one hand contacted the spinning blades of the planer head.

Injury: Noxious gas inhalation (1 worker)
Core Activity: Pressed wood product manufacture
Location: Northern B.C.

Date of Incident: 2019-May
A fire started in the wood fibre belt drying system at a newly constructed pellet plant. The local fire department responded and extinguished the fire. The fire caused extensive damage to the interior of the belt dryer system. One plant worker was exposed to noxious gases.

Injury: Close call
Core Activity: Sawmill
Location: Interior B.C.
Date of Incident: 2019-May
At a sawmill, a fire occurred in the saw box on the planer trimmer line. The fire was contained by the fire suppression system and put out by workers using fire extinguishers. The fire did not enter the dust collection system. No injuries were reported and there was minor damage to equipment.

Injury: Close call
Core Activity: Sawmill
Location: Interior B.C.
Date of Incident: 2019-May
A fire occurred in the dust collection system for a debarker line in a sawmill. The fire was confined to the piping of the dust collection system by the automatic fire suppression and did not enter the baghouse. The fire continued to burn in built-up dust accumulations inside the piping and was extinguished by the local fire department.

Injury: Close call
Core Activity: Pressed wood product manufacture
Location: Interior B.C.
Date of Incident: 2019-May
Equipment feeding the dryer system at a pellet plant stopped, resulting in an internal fire in the dryer system. The local fire department responded. No workers were injured and no major equipment was damaged.

Injury: Crush injuries to hand
Core Activity: Sawmill
Location: Interior B.C.
Date of Incident: 2019-Apr
As a worker tried to clear an obstruction of wood debris from a planer, the worker's hand contacted the rotating outfeed roller drums. 🚫