



# Work-Related Deaths & Injuries

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## 2018 year in review and look ahead

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January is the month of resolutions where we commit to getting in better shape and start eating healthier, all in the name of self-improvement.

Supporting this theme, the forest industry has continued to demonstrate new levels of self-improvement in worker safety.

Over the last two years, positive progress has been made on a number of fronts. In 2017, the overall harvesting injury rate was 4.7 which is the second lowest injury rate on record. 2009 was the only year with a lower injury rate of 4.2, which was strongly influenced by the 2009 financial crisis and record low harvest volume of 51.7 million m<sup>3</sup>. The injury rate for manual tree falling was 22.7 in 2017 and also represents the second lowest injury rate on record behind 2009's rate of 18.8. While still very high, industry's continued focus on manual tree falling is generating positive results. (Note: Injury rates for 2018 will be available in Q2 2019.)

In 2018, there were three direct harvesting work-related deaths. While this number represents the lowest number of work-related deaths on record, it also represents three individuals that did not make it home to their families. What these improvements demonstrate is that getting to zero work-related deaths is achievable.

### Critical mass culture change point now being reached

The critical mass culture change point in the BC industry is now being reached to where discussion on the importance of reducing injuries to improve business results and to attract new employees occurs regularly in industry leadership and association meetings. The integration of injury reduction with good business process is also occurring. These efforts support the principle that injury prevention is most effective when the overall industry owns and leads the change.

### 2019 focus will be on log hauling and manual tree falling activities

Looking ahead in 2019, the BCFSC will be focusing its efforts on log hauling and manual tree falling activities. Between 2013 and 2018, these activities accounted for 60% of the total number of work-related deaths (26) and 50% of the total number of serious injuries in 2017. These efforts will include working with industry to support the use and implementation of the competency-based training, assessment tools and best practices developed by industry for industry.

### Thank you for your efforts to support safety

On behalf of the BCFSC, I would like to thank you for your individual and collective efforts to ensure that everyone goes home at the end of every workday and wish you a healthy, safe and prosperous 2019! 🍀

# 2018 work-related fatality rate is lowest on record for BC forestry industry

**September 20, 2018:** On a resource road, a worker was repairing the front steering of his 1-ton truck when he was struck by the truck. See safety alert: <http://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/3195>

**August 28, 2018:** A log truck driver was fatally injured when the log truck he was driving overturned on a resource road in the Cranbrook area. See safety alert: <http://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/3182>

**March 7, 2018:** The driver of a loaded logging truck was fatally injured when the truck left the road and went into the ditch on the 100 Forest Service Road north of Fort St James. The impact caused the logs on the trailer to come forward, crushing the cab. See safety alert: <https://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/3087>.

The BC Forest Safety Council extends sincere condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of the deceased, and deepest sympathy to all those affected by these events.

## Recent work-related incidents reported to WorkSafeBC

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

### HARVESTING

**Injury Type:** Bruising, soreness  
**Core Activity:** Dry land sort  
**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.  
**Date of Incident:** 2018-Dec

A worker was strapping a bundle of logs when a log dislodged, striking and knocking the worker to the ground.

**Injury Type:** Fractured vertebra  
**Core Activity:** Log towing / Integrated forest management  
**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.

**Date of Incident:** 2018-Dec  
 A tugboat was operating in log dewater/reload grounds when its mast contacted an overhead anchor cable under tension. The mast snapped and hit a worker on the deck of the tugboat.

**Injury Type:** Fractured leg, soft tissue injuries  
**Core Activity:** Manual tree falling and bucking  
**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.

**Date of Incident:** 2018-Nov  
 A worker was falling a tree. As the tree started to fall and the worker was moving uphill to a predetermined safe location, the worker was injured when his leg slid into a hole. He was transported to a higher level of first aid by helicopter and then to hospital.

**Injury Type:** Concussion, lacerated hands  
**Core Activity:** Log hauling  
**Location:** Interior B.C.  
**Date of Incident:** 2018-Nov  
 A loaded conventional log hauler experienced a mechanical failure as it was travelling on a forest service road. The compensator's camshaft pulled out of the trailer's reach, and the trailer detached from the tractor unit. As the log hauler travelled around a sharp corner, the tractor and trailer assembly separated. The load of logs slid off the trailer and struck a parked pickup truck, injuring a worker inside.

**Injury Type:** Close call  
**Core Activity:** Logging road construction or maintenance  
**Location:** Lower Mainland  
**Date of Incident:** 2018-Oct  
 As a blaster was conducting a post-blast inspection, a blasting agent detonated on the surface of a muck pile. No injuries occurred.

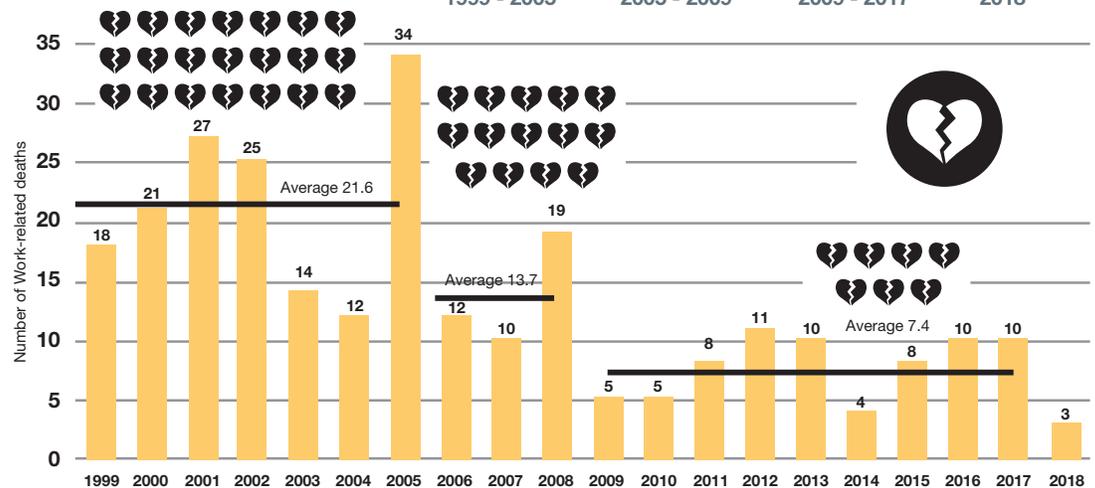
**Injury Type:** Multiple injuries  
**Core Activity:** Log hauling  
**Location:** Interior B.C.

- 3 work-related deaths in harvesting in 2018
- No work-related deaths in manufacturing in 2018
- One death is still too many
- Every worker must go home safe at the end of each work day

## WORK-RELATED DEATH CLAIMS

WORKERS KILLED ON THE JOB

22 (1999 - 2005) | 14 (2005 - 2009) | 8 (2009 - 2017) | 3 (2018)



As of 2014, the work-related death claim stats reflect the fatalities that occurred during the calendar year. This information represents the number of work-related deaths by year in harvesting in BC, up till December 31, 2018. There have been no work-related deaths in 2019, as at January 10, 2019.

**Date of Incident:** 2018-Oct  
 A worker was operating a mobile crane when the crane boom dropped about 1 foot and struck the worker.

### MANUFACTURING

**Injury Type:** Amputated fingers  
**Core Activity:** Wooden component manufacture  
**Location:** Northern B.C.  
**Date of Incident:** 2018-Nov

A worker was clearing a jam in a planer when the worker's hand contacted an energized rotating cutting head.

**Injury Type:** Undetermined injuries  
**Core Activity:** Sawmill  
**Location:** Interior B.C.

**Date of Incident:** 2018-Oct  
 While performing clean-up duties inside a sawdust and shavings bin enclosure, a young worker was engulfed and buried to about head or chest depth. The worker was extricated by a co-worker.

**Injury Type:** Various injuries (17 workers)  
**Core Activity:** Commercial bus, shuttle operations, or public transit / Sawmill  
**Location:** Northern B.C.  
**Date of Incident:** 2018-Nov  
 During a snowstorm, a chartered coach transporting sawmill workers to their workplace left the road and ended up in a ditch. 🚗