



Work-Related Deaths & Injuries

There have been three direct harvesting fatalities and one indirectly related to manufacturing in 2019, year to date

On April 28, 2019, a faller was fatally injured in an incident near Holberg, Vancouver Island. Please see the safety alert: <http://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/3322>

On April 18, 2019 a faller was conducting forest road right-of-way falling when he was struck by a tree felled by an adjacent faller, south of Kitimat. Please see the safety alert: <http://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/3320>

On April 15, 2019, a sawmill worker was fatally injured when the car he was travelling in as a passenger was hit by a train. Please see the safety alert: <http://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/3323>

On February 11, 2019 a worker was fatally injured when the pickup truck he was working on moved unexpectedly and he was run over. The incident occurred in the 100 Mile House area.

This is the fourth fatality in the last three years where a worker has been struck or run over by a vehicle that they were working on. Please see the safety alert: <http://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/3280>

Our condolences go out to the families and friends of the deceased and our sympathies to all those affected by these incidents.

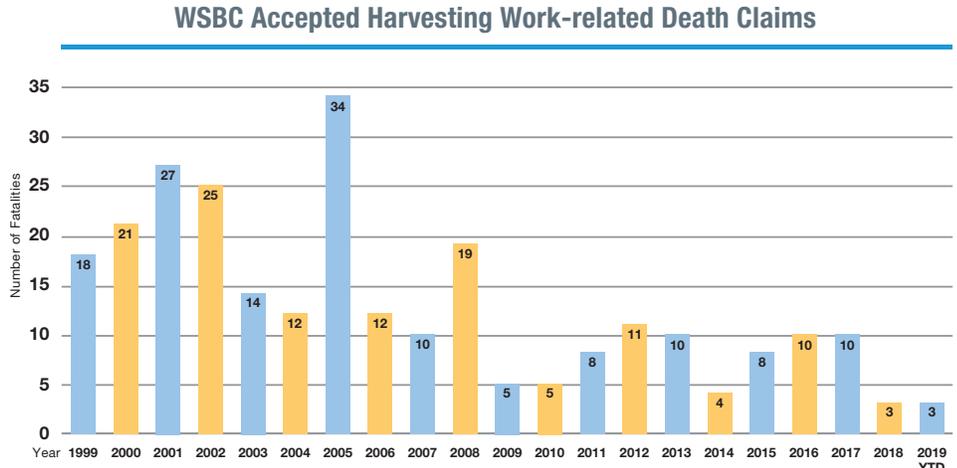
Recent work-related incidents reported to WorkSafeBC

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

HARVESTING

Injury Type: Injuries to head
Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
Date of Incident: 2019-Apr
A manual tree faller was processing a cedar tree (26 inches in diameter) he had just felled. As he was removing the limbs with his chainsaw, he cut into a limb under considerable tension. The limb broke free from the stem of the tree and struck the faller. The faller was treated on site by a first aid attendant, then transported to hospital by helicopter.

Injury Type: Injuries to legs
Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking / Integrated forest management
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
Date of Incident: 2019-Mar
As a faller stepped on the side of a previously bucked root wad (from a 48-inch-diameter balsam), the root wad suddenly started to stand up, pinching the faller's leg momentarily. When the root wad stopped moving, the faller was seated on top of the stump with his other leg pinned between the stump



This information represents the number of work-related deaths by year in harvesting in BC, up till May 10, 2019.

of the root wad and another previously bucked log. The faller was transported to hospital by helicopter.

Injury Type: Close call
Core Activity: Logging road construction or maintenance
Location: Interior B.C.
Date of Incident: 2019-Feb
An excavator contacted a 25 kV power line while travelling to a logging worksite. The 25 kV power line was severed and whipped up into a 60 kV overhead power line, tripping both circuits.

Injury Type: Close call
Core Activity: Log hauling / Integrated forest management
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
Date of Incident: 2019-Feb
A loaded log transporter travelling through a town flipped onto the driver's side while navigating a sharp corner. The driver was not injured. A passenger vehicle was struck by logs that spilled from the truck but the occupant of the vehicle was not injured.

Injury Type: Injury to upper body
Core Activity: Mechanized tree falling
Location: Northern B.C.
Date of Incident: 2019-Feb
A worker had just finished refuelling a feller-buncher from a tank mounted on a pickup truck. The worker went to move the pickup truck and it would not go into gear. The worker crawled under the truck (engine running) to see if there was a problem. As the worker made adjustments, the pickup went into gear and the undercarriage struck the worker.

Injury Type: Fractured rib and finger
Core Activity: Integrated forest management
Location: Northern B.C.
Date of Incident: 2019-Feb
A heel-boom log loader overturned while heeling a 64-foot hemlock to the bucking skid. The machine came to rest on the boom side.

Injury Type: Laceration, bruising
Core Activity: Integrated forest management

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
Date of Incident: 2018-Nov
A forestry worker (hooktender) involved in cable yarding operations was struck by a yarding grapple. The hooktender was checked by first aid on site, then driven to hospital.

MANUFACTURING

Injury Type: Close call
Core Activity: Pressed wood product manufacture
Location: Northern B.C.
Date of Incident: 2019-Apr
A wood pellet plant was working to resume regular production after a five-day annual shutdown. A fire was observed in the silo bucket elevator system that transports the wood pellets. The wind blew embers from this fire onto the roof of a nearby building, which houses electrical components, and started a second fire. The fire department responded and extinguished both fires. There was extensive building and equipment damage as a result of the two fires but no workers were injured.

Injury Type: Crush injury to lower body (1 worker)
Core Activity: Sawmill
Location: Northern B.C.
Date of Incident: 2019-Mar
Two workers were connecting a hydraulic cylinder to a log kicker gate. The lead worker instructed the second worker to pull the lever that activates the hydraulic cylinder. The second worker pulled the lever but the cylinder did not move. The lead worker then entered the area behind the gate to investigate, and the hydraulics activated, resulting in the kicker gate pinning him against a wall.

Injury Type: Amputation injuries to fingers
Core Activity: Wooden component manufacture
Location: Northern B.C.
Date of Incident: 2019-Mar
A chop saw line operator reached under the saw blade guarding to push a block of wood onto the outfeed conveyor. While reaching, the operator inadvertently contacted the foot pedal power control and activated the saw. ⚠️