



Work-Related Deaths & Injuries

Update: There have been four direct harvesting fatalities in 2019, year to date

On July 15, 2019, an equipment operator was driving to work in his employer's pickup truck on Highway 97 near Falkland, BC. The vehicle failed to negotiate a curve, left the highway and the worker was fatally injured.

Our deepest condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of the deceased and our sympathies to all those affected by this event.

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 Type: Abrasions to arms

Core Activity: Log hauling

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date of Incident: August 2019

A driver of a loaded log transporter lost control of the vehicle on a highway, and it rolled onto its side. The load and the cab guard were torn off, and the driver escaped through the front window.

Injury Type: Injury to back

Core Activity: Integrated forest management

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: July 2019

A worker on a yarding crew set a choker, then slipped and fell while exiting the bite. The worker was unable to move. Due to the steep terrain, a helicopter and search and rescue were called to evacuate the worker. The worker was taken to hospital by air ambulance.

Injury Type: Bruises, abrasions

Core Activity: Log hauling

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: July 2019

A loaded log transporter was travelling at about 25 kms per hour on a forest service road. The soft shoulder of the road gave away and the truck and trailer rolled over onto the driver's side.

Injury Type: Multiple injuries

Core Activity: Log hauling

Location: Northern BC

Date of Incident: July 2019

A driver operating a loaded log transporter on a provincial highway experienced a medical event. As a result, the transporter left the highway and crashed. The driver was extricated and treated by first aid, then transported to hospital.

Injury Type: Multiple injuries to upper body

Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking/ Integrated forest management

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date of Incident: July 2019

A hand faller had just cleared to a safe location after falling a cedar tree (24 inches in diameter). The faller waited several seconds, then took a step forward, lost his balance, and fell about 42 feet off a rock face, landing on the ground below. The injured faller was treated by first aid on site, walked out of the cut block, transported to the barge camp in a company vehicle, and then transported to hospital by helicopter.

Injury Type: Close call

Core Activity: Logging road construction or maintenance/Integrated forest management

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date of Incident: July 2019

An excavator was preparing a section of new logging road for blasting. A landslide (15 m wide by 130 m long) started and the excavator was carried downslope about 130 m, where it came to rest at the bottom of the hill. The operator was not injured and was able to exit the machine and walk out to a safe location.

Injury Type: Close call

Core Activity: Excavator operation / Integrated forest management

Location: Interior BC

Date of Incident: July 2019

An excavator on a construction site contacted a buried 12 kV main feed electrical line with its bucket.

Injury Type: Injuries to the head, bruising

Core Activity: Cable or hi-lead logging

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date of Incident: July 2019

A worker was operating and walking a grapple yarder down a 21% grade when the machine abruptly turned hard to the right, steering the machine over a steep bank (slope of 75%). The grapple yarder came to rest 60 feet below the road. The worker exited out the back door of the machine, climbed to the road, and was treated by first aid, then transported to hospital in a company vehicle.

Injury Type: Bruises, scrapes (1 worker)

Core Activity: Cable or hi-lead logging

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: June 2019

Two workers drove a company pickup truck after hours to an area about 20 kms north of a remote logging camp (accessible by water only). On the return drive to camp, the truck failed to negotiate a corner in the road and rolled onto the driver's side. The driver was pinned between the cab of the truck and the road until extricated by responders. The worker was transported to hospital by helicopter.

MANUFACTURING

Injury Type: Close call

Core Activity: Wood pellet manufacture

Location: Northern BC

Date of Incident: August 2019

A spark was generated in the burner unit of a belt-type dryer at a wood pellet facility. The fire suppression system was initiated and extinguished the fire within 7 minutes. The fire department attended and extinguished hot spots.

Injury Type: Lacerations to head and arms

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: August 2019

A worker was changing the band saw on a 9-foot-tall head rig. As the band saw was raised out of the saw pit by an overhead monorail crane hoist, the saw detached from the hoist and fell to the ground, striking the worker.

Injury Type: Crush injuries to arm

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Interior BC

Date of Incident: August 2019

As a worker was clearing a board from a planer, the worker's arm was drawn into the planer outfeed rolls.

Injury Type: Suspected concussion

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: August 2019

A worker on a sawmill cleanup crew, working in a restricted area, fell about 6 feet through a floor opening and landed on the conveyor belt below.

Injury Type: Close call

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Northern BC

Date of Incident: July 2019

At a sawmill, a fire started in an outdoor planer shavings truck bin. The fire then spread to two other truck bins. Workers from the sawmill and the local volunteer fire department responded and the fire was extinguished.

Injury Type: Lacerated fingers

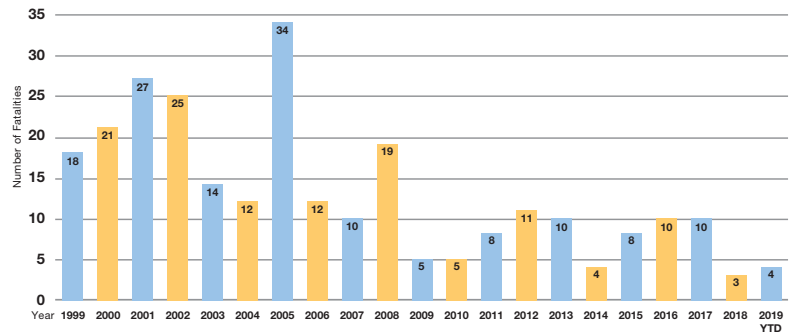
Core Activity: Shake or shingle mill

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date of Incident: July 2019

A young worker was operating a clipper saw, trimming shingles. The worker was cutting a "fit" shingle, which required the worker to reach over the running saw blade to support the shingle. The worker's hand contacted the running saw blade. 🚫

WSBC Accepted Harvesting Work-related Death Claims



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