



The First Quarter of 2020 Ends with No Work-related Deaths in the BC Forest Industry

Recent work-related incidents reported to WorkSafeBC

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

HARVESTING

Injury: Multiple injuries

Core Activity: Mechanized tree falling / Integrated forest management

Location: Northern B.C.

Date of Incident: 2019-Dec

An equipment operator was servicing a feller buncher in a turnaround at the end of a spur road. A dead spruce tree fell from the standing timber and struck the worker. The employer's emergency transport vehicle (ETV) transported the injured worker from the logging block to first aid at the local sawmill. The worker was then transferred to an ambulance and taken to hospital.

Injury: Fractures and lacerations (1 worker)

Core Activity: Log hauling

Location: Interior B.C.

Date of Incident: 2020-Jan

An empty log hauler was travelling on a forest service road to a logging operation. The log hauler failed to negotiate a corner and rolled over an embankment, injuring the driver. The prime contractor for the logging operation transported the driver to hospital.

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Integrated forest management

Location: Interior B.C.

Date of Incident: 2020-Jan

As mobile logging equipment was being walked down a forest service road, the machine contacted the neutral line of a high-voltage power system and broke a power pole. Snow loading may have caused the power lines to sag.

Injury: Multiple fractures

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

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.

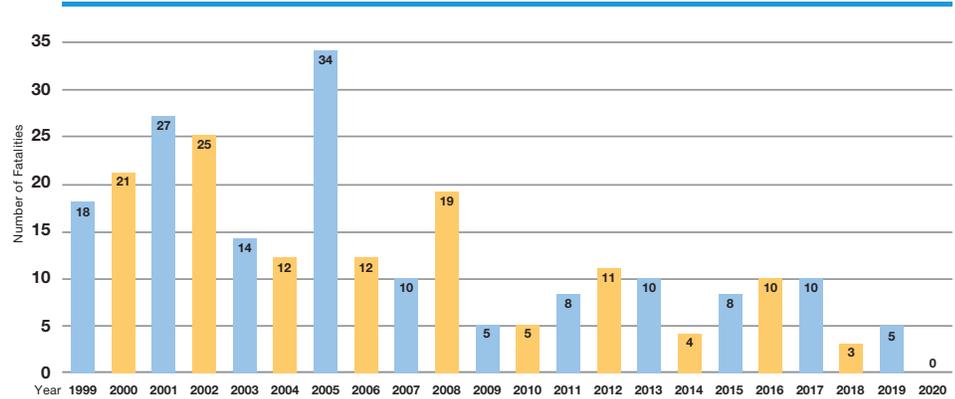
Date of Incident: 2020-Apr

A faller who had felled a hemlock tree (14" in diameter) was struck and injured by the top of a dangerous tree that was limb-tied to another adjacent standing tree. The faller was treated on site by Level 3 first aid and then transported to hospital by helicopter.

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Integrated forest management / Tugboat service

WSBC Accepted Harvesting Work-related Death Claims



This information represents the number of work-related deaths by year in BC, up until April, 2020.

Location: Interior B.C.

Date of Incident: 2020-Mar

Two workers on a 30', 4 tonnes tugboat were positioning a floating raft of logs. The tugboat became unstable and sank. The two workers were not injured and were rescued by co-workers.

Injury: Injuries to head and arm

Core Activity: Integrated forest management

Location: Northern B.C.

Date of Incident: 2020-Mar

A heel boom log loader was on a steep slope hoe-forwarding full-length felled trees to the road edge. The log loader slid 30 to 40 feet down the slope, lost stability, and flipped over, coming to rest onto the boom side. The operator, who had been wearing the seat belt, escaped through the main access door. The operator was treated by the first aid attendant at the work site, then transported to hospital.

Injury: Fractured arm

Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.

Date of Incident: 2020-Mar

A faller was removing dangerous trees in a silviculture block before scheduled thinning activities began. The faller had completed the falling cuts on a dangerous tree and was travelling down the escape trail when a limb struck his upper body. The faller received first aid on site, and was then transported to hospital by ETV (emergency transport vehicle).

Injury: Multiple fractures

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

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.

Date of Incident: 2020-Mar

A hand faller was trying to overcome a falling difficulty when a previously cut-up tree (a hemlock, 12 inches in diameter) fell in an unintended direction and struck the faller. The faller was treated by first aid on site, then transported to hospital by helicopter.

Injury: Burns

Core Activity: Integrated forest management

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: 2020-Mar

A worker in a logging camp had returned to the employer-provided accommodation (a fifth-wheel RV) after the work day. The worker was inside the RV when an explosion and fire occurred, injuring the worker. The worker was transported by boat to a town, transferred to a waiting ambulance, and taken to hospital.

MANUFACTURING

Injury: Concussion

Core Activity: Chip hauling

Location: B.C.

Date of Incident: 2020-Feb

A wood chip truck driver was struck by the top swing door while unloading wood chips from the trailer. The driver, who temporarily lost consciousness, received first aid on site before being transported to hospital by ambulance.

Injury: Injury to head

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: 2020-Mar

A sawmill worker was discovered collapsed at a work station moments after being observed standing at the station. The worker was transported to hospital by ambulance.

Injury: Smoke inhalation (3 workers)

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: 2020-Mar

A fire started in a compressor room. Workers evacuated the building and the fire department extinguished the fire. Three workers experienced smoke inhalation.

Injury: Crush injury to finger

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Interior B.C.

Date of Incident: 2020-Mar

A worker was changing a saw blade when a piece of the equipment moved, pinching the worker's finger. 🚫