



# Work-Related Deaths & Injuries



## 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:** Upper body injuries (1 worker)  
**Core Activity:** Log hauling / Integrated forest management  
**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal BC  
**Date:** 2020-Dec

A worker was assisting the operator of a self-loading log transporter line pulling logs roadside. The worker was struck by the transporter's grapple.

**Injury:** Multiple injuries  
**Core Activity:** Integrated forest management  
**Location:** Interior BC  
**Date:** 2020-Dec

A worker was using a skidder to access another piece of equipment when the skidder left the skid trail and rolled down a slope.

**Injury:** Puncture wound, abrasion (1 worker)  
**Core Activity:** Manual tree falling and bucking  
**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal BC  
**Date:** 2020-Dec

A manual tree faller was cutting second-growth timber in preparation for the construction of a forestry road. They made the falling cuts in a tree (15 inches in diameter), then moved to the side hill as the tree began to fall. As they watched the tree go over, the top portion of a dead tree rooted adjacent to the falling tree broke off and struck the faller. First aid was administered on site, then the worker was transported to hospital in the supervisor's truck.

**Injury:** Bruising and soreness of arm  
**Core Activity:** Logging road construction or maintenance  
**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal BC  
**Date:** 2020-Nov

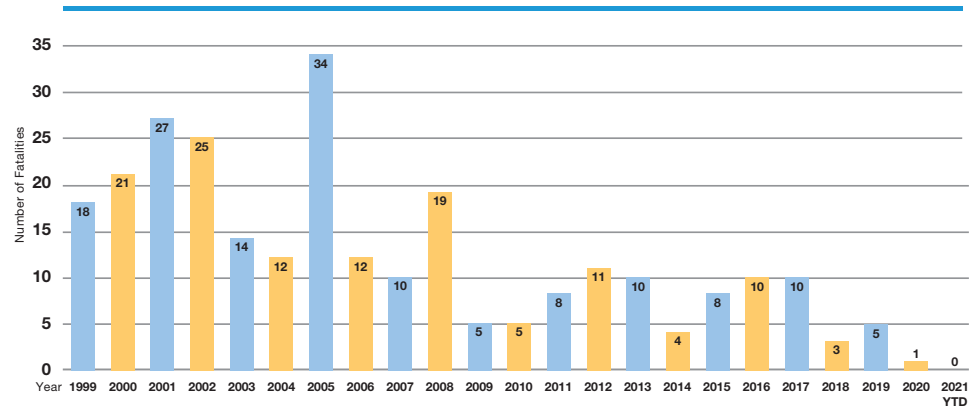
During maintenance work along a resource road, a vehicle being used for transport of explosives drove off the road. The driver was treated by the first aid attendant, then transported to a medical facility.

### MANUFACTURING

**Injury:** Close call  
**Core Activity:** Sawmill  
**Location:** Interior BC  
**Date:** 2021-Jan

A fire occurred at a sawmill when an arbor bearing in a saw-box of a 20ft planer seized during operation. The fire detection and

### WSBC Accepted Harvesting Work-related Death Claims



This information represents the number of work-related deaths by year in BC, up until January, 2021.

suppression system functioned as designed and the fire in the planer was extinguished by the automated system. A secondary fire, which occurred in a partition wall adjacent to the planer, was put out by workers on site. The local fire department responded to overhaul and secure the fire.

**Injury:** Close call  
**Core Activity:** Wood pellet manufacture  
**Location:** Northern BC  
**Date:** 2020-Dec

A deflagration event occurred in one of the pelleters (wood pellet maker). No fire damage or injuries occurred.

**Injury:** Burns (3 workers)  
**Core Activity:** Pressed wood product manufacture  
**Location:** Northern BC  
**Date:** 2020-Nov

An explosion event at a wood pellet plant caused significant damage and injured three workers (one of them a young worker). The local fire department extinguished the fires.

**Injury:** Close call  
**Core Activity:** Sawmill  
**Location:** Interior BC  
**Date:** 2020-Nov

A fire started in the shavings bin in the fuel storage area of a sawmill. The local fire department attended the scene.

**Injury:** Injuries to fingers  
**Core Activity:** Planing mill  
**Location:** Lower Mainland  
**Date:** 2020-Nov

A worker's hand contacted the rotating head of a planer when the worker tried to clear a piece of wood.

**Injury:** Injuries to leg  
**Core Activity:** Planing mill  
**Location:** Lower Mainland  
**Date:** 2020-Nov

A new worker was trying to remove a piece of lumber that had fallen off a lateral infeed machine when the worker's pant leg was caught in a rotating sprocket.

**Injury:** Lacerated arm  
**Injury:** Close call  
**Core Activity:** Wood pellet manufacture  
**Location:** Interior BC  
**Date:** 2020-Nov

A fire started inside the closed pellet fibre conveyance system, resulting in deflagration and a dryer fire. Fire suppression systems were successfully activated. The fire department attended and released the scene.

**Injury:** Undetermined injuries  
**Core Activity:** Veneer or plywood manufacture  
**Location:** Interior BC  
**Date:** 2020-Nov

A worker was injured when the forklift they were operating failed to navigate a right-hand turn and ran into a structural support of the building.

### TRANSPORTATION

**Injury:** Undetermined injuries  
**Core Activity:** Log hauling / Integrated forest management  
**Location:** Lower Mainland  
**Date:** 2020-Dec

A worker was driving a loaded logging truck down an 18% grade when the truck went out of control. The worker jumped from the truck and was found about 15ft behind the truck, which was abruptly stopped by a rocky outcrop.

**Injury:** Fatal  
**Core Activity:** Barge, tug, or other water transport of goods / Integrated forest management  
**Location:** Northern BC  
**Date:** 2020-Nov

A worker was operating a tugboat in a remote marine forestry operation. The tug was reported to local authorities as being adrift and unoccupied. A water and air search was immediately initiated by the Coast Guard and police. The worker is missing and presumed drowned. 🚢