



Work-Related Deaths & Injuries



There were two work-related deaths in March 2021 in the BC forestry industry. We extend our deepest condolences to the families and friends of the deceased fallers and our sympathies to all those affected by these tragic incidents.

Injury: Fatal

Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking / Helicopter logging / Integrated forestry management

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date: 2021-Mar

A hand faller was conducting road right-of-away falling in old-growth timber. The faller was struck and dragged downslope about 8.5 metres by a previously dead and down tree (no roots attached). The faller succumbed to the injuries.

Read the [BCFSC Fatality Alert March 1](#)

Injury: Fatal

Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking / Helicopter logging / Integrated forestry management

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date: 2021-Mar

A hand faller was cutting timber in a block slated for helicopter harvesting. The faller had completed the falling cuts on a cedar tree (67 inches in diameter). As the tree fell, a 34-foot top portion of an adjacent dangerous tree broke free, fell downhill toward the faller's location, and struck the faller.

Read the [BCFSC Fatality Alert March 15](#)

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: Laceration, soft tissue injury

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

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date: 2021-Mar

A hand faller was falling a tree (32 inches in diameter). As the faller was completing the back-cut, the tree sat back, creating a falling difficulty. The faller felled a smaller tree toward the cut-up tree in an attempt to push the cut-up tree over. During this process, a piece of wood was thrown backward and struck the faller.

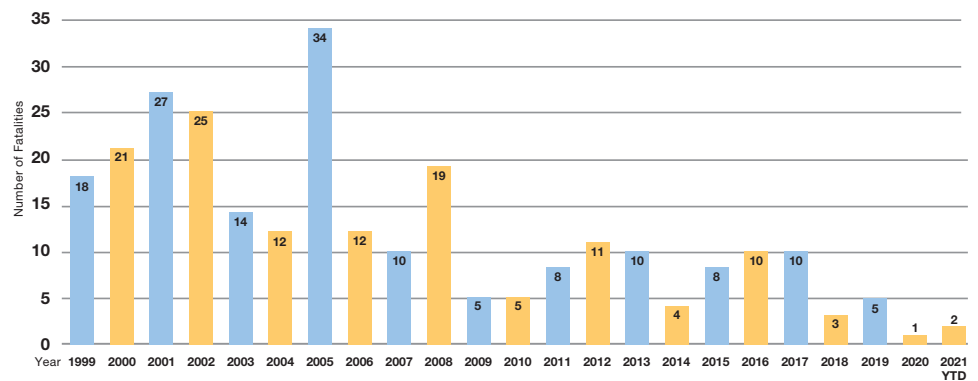
Injury: Fractured finger

Core Activity: Integrated forest management

Location: Interior BC

Date: 2021-Mar

WSBC Accepted Harvesting Work-related Death Claims



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

A worker was repairing the processing head of a feller buncher when the head was inadvertently activated.

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Integrated forest management

Location: Interior BC

Date: 2021-Feb

A below-the-hook lifting device (J-hook) attached to a trailer loader broke while a trailer was about halfway through the cycle of being lifted. The trailer fell to the ground and sustained extensive damage.

Injury: Soft tissue injuries (1 worker)

Core Activity: Integrated forest management / Heavy equipment, machinery, or parts sales, rental, service, or repair (greater than 500 pounds)

Location: Northern BC

Date: 2021-Feb

A forestry processor operator and a mechanic were working on a processor head. The mechanic's service truck was parked on an icy road with a slight slope. As the work was being done, the ambient temperature increased and the ice and snow began to warm up. The truck slid downhill, pinning the operator between the service truck and the processor head. The operator was able to self-extricate from the entrapment. The mechanic was not injured.

Injury: Fractured arm, laceration

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

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date: 2021-Jan

A hand faller was completing the falling of a cedar tree 40 inches in diameter. Due to improper falling cuts, the cedar fell at 90 degrees from the intended direction, into standing timber, where it contacted two dangerous trees. One of the dangerous trees failed, sending debris toward the faller's location. The faller, who was injured by the debris, received first aid on site and was then transported by company crew boat en route to hospital.

MANUFACTURING

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Interior BC

Date: 2021-Feb

A security patrol spotted a fire at a sawmill that was not running at the time. The fire, which started in the chip screen room, spread up some conveyors and into the sawdust, chip, and hog bins, and then to other parts of the mill. The fire department attended and extinguished the fire, which caused extensive damage.

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Interior BC

Date: 2021-Feb

A fire broke out in a biofuel heating unit. A leak had occurred in the thermal tubes containing heat transfer oil; the oil ignited from exposure to the biofuel kiln combustor and spread through the ductwork of the structure. The biofuel heating unit and the building sustained fire damage. The fire department responded, extinguished the fire, and secured the building.

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Interior BC

Date: 2021-Feb

A fire occurred in the debarker at a sawmill. The fire appears to have started in the gear drive of the debarker, and the fire suppression system activated. Workers were evacuated from the building, and the fire department attended and ensured that the fire was contained and extinguished. There were no injuries and the structure was not damaged. The dust collection system was not involved.

TRANSPORTATION

Injury: Minor injuries (2 workers)

Core Activity: Helicopter visual flight rule operation

Location: Lower Mainland

Date: 2021-Mar

Two workers were travelling to a remote work location by helicopter when the helicopter crash-landed in a densely forested area. The workers were transported to hospital by ambulance. The cause of the incident is being investigated by the RCMP and the Transportation Safety Board of Canada. 🚚