



Work-Related Deaths & Injuries



For 2021 year-to-date there have been four work-related deaths in the BC forestry industry. Two were reported in March and most recently, two in May. 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.

Recent work-related deaths reported to WorkSafeBC

Injury: Fatal

Core Activity: Logging road construction or maintenance / Excavator operation

Location: Lower Mainland

Date: 2021-May

A worker had been operating an excavator, conducting road maintenance at a remote forestry workplace. The worker left to purchase parts to repair the excavator. As the worker was returning to the camp on a resource road, the worker's vehicle left the road and rolled down a steep slope.

Read the BCFSC Fatality Alert - May 13

Injury: Fatal

Core Activity: Tree planting or cone picking / Field work services

Location: Northern BC

Date: 2021-May

A worker succumbed to COVID-19.

Read the BCFSC Fatality Alert - May 18

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: Close Call

Core Activity: Integrated forest management

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date: 2021-Jul

A rubber-tired supersnorkel (line loader), accompanied by a pilot car, was travelling on a resource road when the boom of the snorkel contacted and snapped one of three 138 kV power lines. The operator of the supersnorkel and the driver of the pilot car were not injured, but the incident caused a ground fire within the powerline right-of-way. The fire was extinguished the same day by local firefighters and two helicopters.

Injury: Fractured vertebrae

Core Activity: Brushing and weeding or tree thinning or spacing

Location: Northern BC

Date: 2021-Jul

A worker was conducting manual tree-topping activities on a spruce tree about 130 feet tall. The worker had finished topping the tree and was rappelling down when they slipped and fell 35-40 feet to grade.

Injury: Burns

Core Activity: Forest firefighting

Location: Interior BC

Date: 2021-Jul

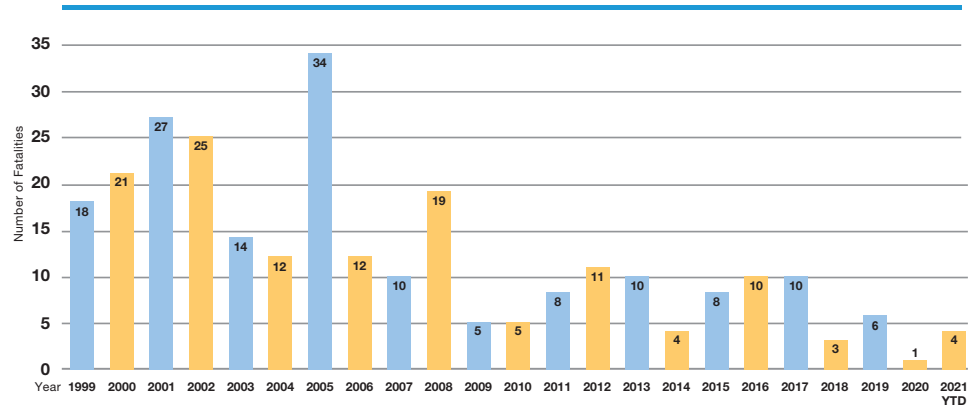
A worker using a handheld drip torch was suddenly engulfed in flames.

Injury: Close Call

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

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

WSBC Accepted Harvesting Work-related Death Claims



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

Date: 2021-Jun

Rock blasting for road construction in a remote forestry operation was being conducted under the direction of a certified blaster. Before the blast, the blaster's helper drove a company truck out of the blasting area but not out of the danger area. When the blast went off, the helper saw incoming fly rock ejected from the blast and took refuge under the truck. The fly rock struck the truck but the worker was not injured.

Injury: Multiple injuries

Core Activity: Tree planting or cone picking

Location: Interior BC

Date: 2021-May

A worker was operating an ATV, delivering boxed seedlings to the field planters. As the ATV crossed a natural gully, it rolled over and the worker was injured.

Injury: Injuries to upper body

Core Activity: Integrated forest management

Location: Northern BC

Date: 2021-May

A manual tree faller was bucking a cedar tree (5 feet in diameter) on a 70% slope. As the cut was being completed, the top portion of the tree pivoted, striking the worker and dragging them up the hill about 15 feet.

MANUFACTURING

Injury: Lacerated hand

Core Activity: Wood product manufacturing

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date: 2021-Jul

As a worker was operating a custom-guarded automated radial arm saw, one of the worker's hands contacted its running blade.

Injury: Heat Exposure

Core Activity: Planing mill

Location: Northern BC

Date: 2021-June

While performing cleanup activities in a planing mill during a heat wave, a young worker lost consciousness.

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Interior BC

Date: 2021-June

A mill was destroyed by fire. Workers who were on site at the time were not injured.

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Northern BC

Date: 2021-May

An early morning fire started in the debarker room of a wood chip plant. A chip truck driver noticed smoke and notified mill supervision. The room sprinkler system activated. Mill staff fought the fire and summoned the

local fire department, and the fire was extinguished. The fire began inside a hydraulic valve bank cabinet that contained electric baseboard heaters. Combustible dust was not involved in the incident.

TRANSPORTATION

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Dry land sort / Log hauling

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date: 2021-Jul

A loaded tridem-drive logging truck with a tri-axle trailer was parked on a weigh scale platform at a dryland sort operation. Once the load was weighed, a log stacker secured the load with its grapple and started to lift it off. The load was raised high enough to clear the stakes and the operator was about to back up when the hoist cable broke, causing the full load to fall back onto the truck and trailer. The truck operator, who was outside of the cab, was not injured but the truck and trailer, as well as the weigh scale, sustained major structural damage.

Injury: Fractured vertebra, lacerations

Core Activity: Integrated forest management

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date: 2021-Jun

A worker was preparing to move a lowbed (truck and trailer). The worker climbed onto the back of the truck with a tire bar to try to get the fifth wheel into position to attach the trailer. When the worker applied the tire bar it slipped, causing the worker to lose their footing and fall off the truck. The worker struck the frame of the truck before landing on the ground about 4 feet below.

Injury: Injuries to upper body

Core Activity: Log hauling

Location: Interior BC

Date: 2021-Jun

A logging truck travelling on a two-lane paved road missed a corner, lost control, and rolled into a ditch.

Injury: Close Call

Core Activity: Cable or hi-lead logging

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date: 2021-May

Travelling on a forest service road, an off-highway truck with low-bed trailer transporting a super-snorkel log loader contacted a single phase of a 138-kV power line.

Injury: Multiple injuries

Core Activity: Log hauling / Integrated forest management

Location: Vancouver Island / Coastal BC

Date: 2021-Apr

As the trailer on a self-loading logging truck was being unloaded, the loading attachment, complete with the seat, broke free of the turret, sending the operator to the ground. 🚧