



Work-Related Deaths & Injuries



For 2021 year-to-date, there have been six work-related deaths in the BC forestry industry. Two were reported in March, two in May, one in late September and the most recent in October. We extend our deepest condolences to the families and friends of the deceased and our sympathies to all those affected by these tragic incidents.

Recent work-related deaths reported to WorkSafeBC

Injury: Fatal

Core Activity: Integrated forest management

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date: 2021-Oct

A pilot was fatally injured at a heli-logging operation on October 4th. The helicopter he was operating crashed into the ocean near Killam Bay which is north of Sechelt, BC.

[Read the BCFSC Fatality Alert - Oct 4](#)

Injury: Fatal

Core Activity: Integrated forest management

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date: 2021-Sept

A worker was operating an excavator, constructing a backspare trail near the bottom of a cable-yarding cutblock in preparation for harvesting. The worker was placing puncheon (split logs) ahead of the excavator, to make a stable level surface to travel on, when the track on the downslope side of excavator unexpectedly went into a depression just off the trail. The change in centre of gravity caused the machine to fall over toward its cab side. As the machine fell over, the remains of a decaying tree (stump) outside the block boundary penetrated the door, fatally injuring the worker.

[Read the BCFSC Fatality Alert - Sept 28](#)

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: Injuries to upper body

Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking

Location: Northern BC

Date: 2021-Sept

As a faller was falling a deciduous tree, a large branch struck an adjacent dead tree. The dead tree stem then struck the faller.

Injury: Lacerations

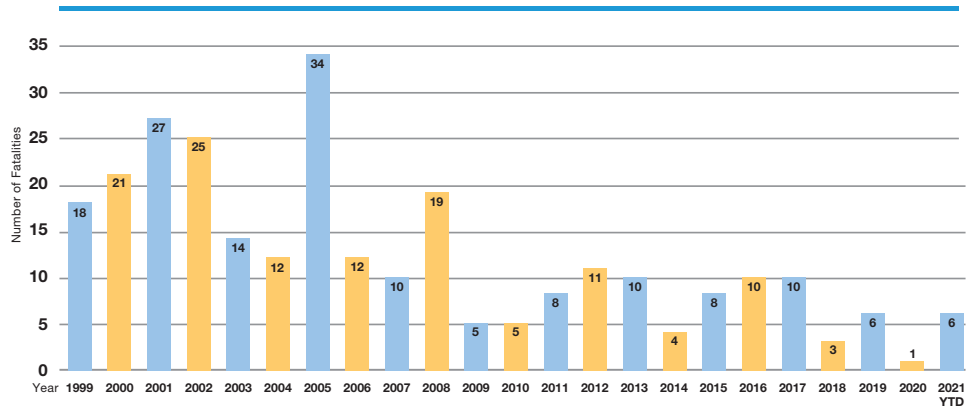
Core Activity: Integrated forest management

Location: Northern BC

Date: 2021-Aug

A worker was hooking a strap to a hydraulic cylinder to lift it out of a service truck when they fell backward and struck their head.

WSBC Accepted Harvesting Work-related Death Claims



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

Injury: Multiple fractures, lacerations

Core Activity: Brushing and weeding or tree thinning or spacing

Location: Lower Mainland

Date: 2021-Aug

A faller was falling dangerous trees that had been burnt during a wildfire. The trees had been identified by an independent utility owner as potentially hazardous to overhead power lines. As a large spruce tree (24 inches in diameter) was bucked, a section of it landed on another downed tree, which in turn struck a standing burnt tree (10 inches in diameter). This last tree uprooted and struck the faller from behind.

Injury: Fractured vertebrae

Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking

Location: Interior BC

Date: 2021-Aug

A faller working on a wildfire incident was struck by one of two trees that unexpectedly fell over.

The fire was eventually contained and allowed to burn out in a controlled manner. No one was injured and no structures were damaged.

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: 2021-Aug

A cedar sawmill was shut down but undergoing maintenance work during the day. During the shutdown, workers were installing a catwalk above the outside green chain. The work involved welding and grinding (hot work). At the end of their day, multiple workers did a walk-through of the hot work area. Hours later a fire started in the green chain area and spread to the sawmill, causing substantial damage. Firefighting efforts were hampered by strong winds and the lack of an adequate on-site water supply. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Injury: Lacerated hand

Core Activity: Wooden product manufacture

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date of Incident: 2021-Jul

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

MANUFACTURING

Injury: Facial injuries, fractured leg

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Interior BC

Date: 2021-Oct

A worker wearing a full-body harness and lanyard, attached to an anchor, was travelling in a boom lift platform. The right rear tire of the boom lift entered a pothole and the worker was catapulted in the air. The worker fell and was injured on descent.

Injury: Amputation injury

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Interior BC

Date: 2021-Sept

As a worker was clearing an obstruction in a lumber moulder machine, one of their hands contacted the rotating cutting head.

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Northern BC

Date of Incident: 2021-Sep

A fire broke out in the log yard of a sawmill. Fire departments responded with air and ground

TRANSPORTATION

Injury: Minor injuries (2 workers)

Core Activity: Helicopter visual flight rule operation

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: 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. 🚚