



# Work-Related Deaths & Injuries



For 2022 year-to-date, there have been three work-related deaths in the BC forestry industry. We extend our deepest condolences to the families and friends of the deceased and our sympathies to all those affected by these tragic incidents.

## FATALITIES

**Injury:** Fatal | Harvesting

**Core Activity:** Integrated forest management

**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

**Date of Incident:** 2022-Apr

A forestry worker was seriously injured while clearing brush along a road near Woss, BC on April 13th. He was making falling cuts on an alder when it split and struck him. He was transported to hospital for treatment but succumbed to his injuries on April 25th. [Read the BCFSC Fatality Alert](#)

**Injury:** Fatal | Harvesting

**Core Activity:** Manual tree falling and bucking / Road construction

**Location:** Lower Mainland / Sunshine Coast

**Date of Incident:** 2022-Jan

A faller was falling a small-diameter, 86-foot-tall Douglas fir dangerous tree. As the tree fell, it broke about 40 feet up from the base. The top portion of the tree fell back toward the faller and struck them. The faller sustained fatal injuries. [Read the BCFSC Fatality Alert](#)

**Injury:** Fatal | Associated with Harvesting

**Core Activity:** Helicopter logging / Shake block cutting

**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

**Date of Incident:** 2022-Apr

A helicopter involved in flying shake blocks crashed, fatally injuring the pilot. [Read the BCFSC Fatality Alert](#)

**Injury:** Fatal | Manufacturing

**Core Activity:** Sawmill

**Location:** Lower Mainland

**Date of Incident:** 2022-Jan

A sawmill worker was fatally injured after being impacted by a bucket loader at mill log yard. [Read the BCFSC Fatality Alert](#)

## 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:** Soft tissue injuries

**Core Activity:** Integrated forest management

**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

**Date of Incident:** 2022-Apr

A grapple yarder was yarding a hemlock log when one of the two anchor (guy) lines broke, resulting in the yarder being pulled over. The yarding crew assisted the yarder operator to get out of and off the yarder.

**Injury:** Broken leg

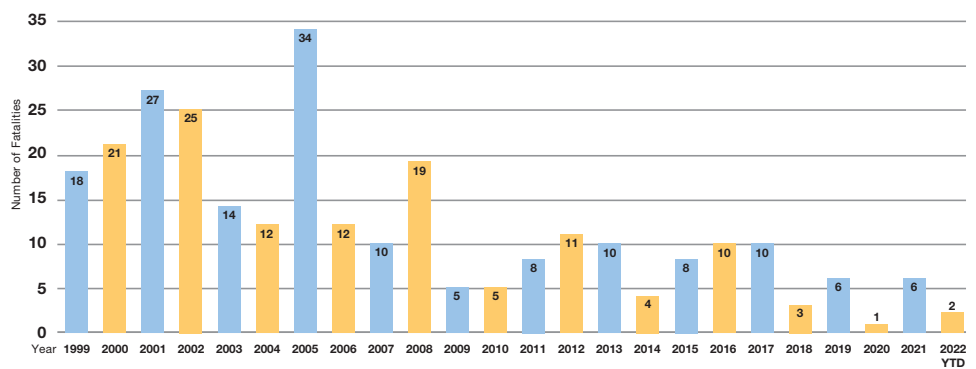
**Core Activity:** Logging road construction or maintenance / Integrated forest management

**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

**Date of Incident:** 2022-Mar

At a logging road construction site, a blast resulted in a worker being struck by a piece of shot rock.

## WSBC Accepted Harvesting Work-related Death Claims



This information represents the number of work-related deaths by year in BC, up until May, 2022.

**Injury:** Injuries to lower body

**Core Activity:** Cable or hi-lead logging

**Location:** Interior BC

**Date of Incident:** 2022-Mar

A worker was trying to release a choker from a yarded log. A tree was felled across the skyline the choker was connected to, resulting in sudden tension on the line. The choker struck and injured the worker.

**Injury:** Injuries to back

**Industry:** Forestry

**Core Activity:** Integrated forest management

**Location:** Interior BC

**Date of Incident:** 2022-Feb

As a worker opened a heavy steel access door to the engine of an A-frame hoist, one of the hinges supporting the door broke. The door struck the worker, knocking them down.

**Injury:** Injury to upper body

**Core Activity:** Manual tree falling and bucking

**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

**Date of Incident:** 2022-Feb

A faller was manually falling a red cedar snag when the top of the snag broke off and struck the faller.

**Injury:** Head injury

**Core Activity:** Dry land sort

**Location:** Lower Mainland

**Date of Incident:** 2022-Jan

A loader operator was found lying on the ground near a parked loader. No one witnessed the operator fall.

**Injury:** Multiple fractures, lacerations

**Core Activity:** Log hauling

**Location:** Interior BC

**Date of Incident:** 2022-Jan

An empty logging truck lost control on an icy curve and left the road, colliding with trees. The driver was transported to hospital by ambulance.

## MANUFACTURING

**Injury:** Close call

**Core Activity:** Sawmill

**Location:** Interior BC

**Date of Incident:** 2022-Mar

A fire occurred in the cyclone of a dust collection system at a planer mill. A spark from the cyclone made its way to the baghouse, causing an explosion that ruptured six explosion panels.

**Injury:** Close call

**Core Activity:** Sawmill

**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

**Date of Incident:** 2022-Feb

A fire broke out near the head saw in a sawmill, resulting in severe damage to the open-walled building and partial collapse of the roof structure. Fire procedures were initiated, and two fire departments attended and extinguished the fire.

**Injury:** Close call

**Core Activity:** Sawmill

**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

**Date of Incident:** 2022-Feb

The mast of a forklift caught overhead communications lines, snapping the utility pole and bringing down high-voltage electrical lines.

**Injury:** Amputated finger

**Core Activity:** Sawmill

**Location:** Lower Mainland

**Date of Incident:** 2022-Jan

A worker was injured while using a 3-foot-long pike pole to clear a jam under an energized conveyor.

**Injury:** Close call

**Core Activity:** Sawmill

**Location:** Interior BC

**Date of Incident:** 2022-Jan

A worker was conducting clean-up activities on a log infeed conveyor line when the line was activated. The worker was pinned between a push bar and the supporting structures of the conveyor line.

**Injury:** Fractured fingers

**Industry:** Manufacturing - All, Manufacturing - Wood & Paper Products

**Core Activity:** Sawmill

**Location:** Lower Mainland

**Date of Incident:** 2022-Jan

As a worker was using an air wand to blow down a debarker, one of the worker's hands was caught between the press rolls.

## TRANSPORTATION

**Injury:** Multiple fractures, lacerations

**Core Activity:** Log hauling

**Location:** Interior BC

**Date of Incident:** 2022-Jan

An empty logging truck lost control on an icy curve and left the road, colliding with trees. The driver was transported to hospital by ambulance.

**Injury:** Fractured leg (1 worker)

**Core Activity:** Log hauling / Integrated forest management

**Location:** Northern BC

**Date of Incident:** 2022-Jan

The driver of a log transporter was adjusting the rear brakes while it was parked and running. A second worker was in the cab, in the driver's seat. The second worker put the truck in gear and moved forward. Wheels of the truck ran over one leg of the worker adjusting the brakes. Another worker driving by stopped and provided first aid to the injured worker, then transported the worker to hospital. 🚚