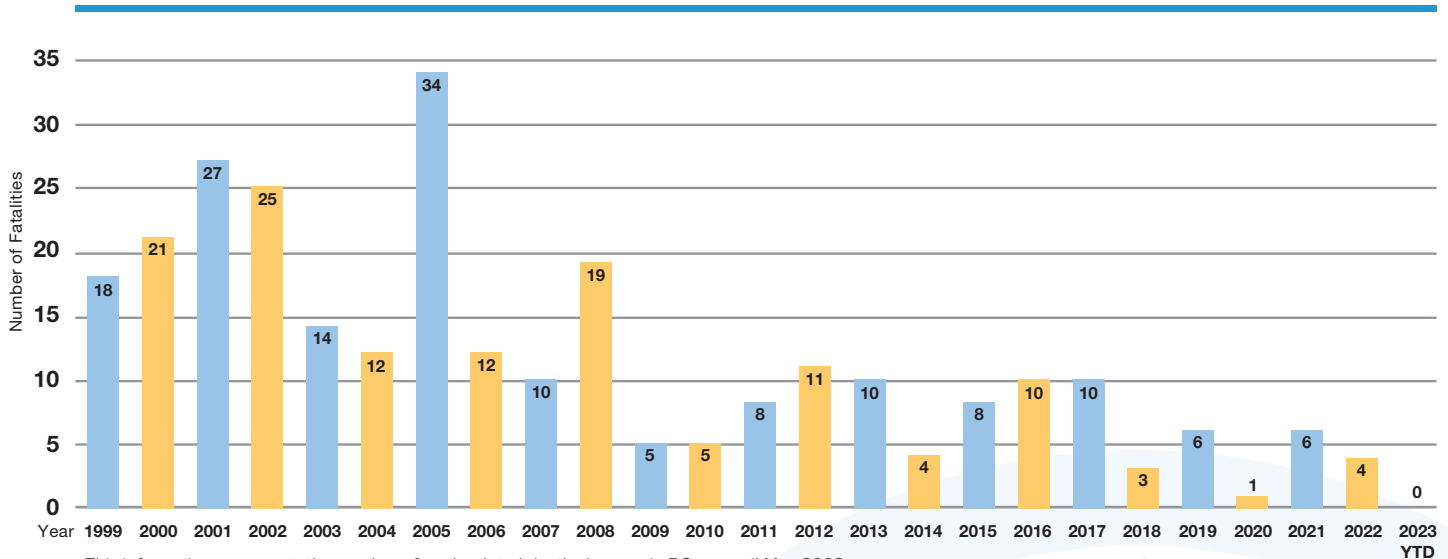




For 2023 year-to-date, there have been no work-related deaths in the BC forestry industry.

WSBC Accepted Harvesting Work-related Death Claims



This information represents the number of work-related deaths by year in BC, up until May 2023.

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: Lacerated arm
Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking / Integrated forest management / Helicopter logging
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC
Date of Incident: 2023-Apr
 A faller was falling trees in a heli-logging setting. While cutting underbrush along a steep, slippery slope, the faller lost their footing and fell, contacting the saw chain. First aid was provided at the incident scene before the faller was transported to hospital by helicopter.

Injury: Close call
Core Activity: Cable or hi-lead logging
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC
Date of Incident: 2023-Mar
 As a grapple yarder was being repositioned on a lowbed, the boom and gantry assembly crashed to the ground. None of the nearby workers were injured.

Injury: Close call
Core Activity: Integrated forest management
Location: Northern BC
Date of Incident: 2023-Mar
 The roof of a large, six-bay garage collapsed. The garage was being used as a service and repair shop by a log transport firm. It is suspected that the structural failure was caused by excessive buildup of snow and ice. No workers were in the building at the time of the incident.

Injury: Concussion (1 worker)
Core Activity: Cable or hi-lead logging / Integrated forest management
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC
Date of Incident: 2023-Mar
 On a cutblock cable yarding operation, a hooktender choked a few logs by the top, cleared the area, and radioed the yarder

operator to “go ahead easy.” The logs being lifted crossed at the end, pinching a small-diameter log that was not secured. This log was lifted with the choked logs, then swung loose, striking the hooktender.

Injury: Multiple fractures (1 worker)
Core Activity: Integrated forest management / Excavation work
Location: Interior BC
Date of Incident: 2023-Feb
 On a radio-controlled resource road, a pickup truck and a lowbed hauling an excavator were approaching each other. It is reported that the pickup truck was on the wrong radio channel and the pickup driver (a worker) was unaware that the lowbed was approaching until both vehicles were in sight of each other. The pickup and the lowbed collided. The driver of the pickup was freed from the wreckage by emergency services.

Injury: Close call
Core Activity: Vegetation management / Integrated forest management / Electric utilities
Location: Interior BC
Date of Incident: 2023-Feb
 Selective tree removal was being conducted

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Work-Related Deaths & Injuries

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HARVESTING CON'T

adjacent to a highway and power line. A track-mounted feller buncher (a forestry machine that cuts trees and lays them down) slipped down a 20-foot sloped bank adjacent to a public roadway and came to rest on its side, in the ditch. There were no injuries to workers.

Injury: Close call

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

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: 2023-Jan

A road grader backed into a pullout on the low side of a forest service road to allow a flatbed truck and trailer to pass. When the operator tried to move the grader forward, the engine stalled and the conventional brakes did not work. The grader rolled backward, and its rear tires slipped over the edge of the bank before the operator was able to engage the emergency brakes. The equipment slid backwards down a steep timbered slope and came to rest about 60 metres down the bank. The equipment remained upright, and the operator was not injured.

MANUFACTURING

Injury: Injuries to fingers

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date of Incident: 2023-Apr

A worker was feeding an edger when one hand was caught between a running roller and a sprocket.

Injury: Exposure to carbon monoxide (3 workers)

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Northern BC

Date of Incident: 2023-Mar

Two workers were installing a fresh-air vent in a motor control centre room for two natural-gas-powered wood-drying kilns. The two workers were exposed to carbon monoxide. A third worker, who assisted in the rescue of these workers, was also exposed to carbon monoxide.

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Northern BC

Date of Incident: 2023-Feb

A fire occurred around the large saw box area of a sawmill. The fire was extinguished with the assistance of the fire department and the mill's fire suppression system. No injuries were reported; the employer is investigating the cause of the fire.

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Interior BC

Date of Incident: 2023-Jan

A half-ton chain hoist failed while workers were hoisting a replacement band saw blade for the 10-inch canter. The below-the-hook lifting attachment (cradle) supporting the blade fell about 10 feet into the canter enclosure and onto the saw equipment below. No workers were in proximity to the saw cradle during the lift, and no injuries were reported.

Injury: Possible smoke inhalation (1 worker)

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Northern BC

Date of Incident: 2022-Dec

A young worker observed smoke coming from a band saw where no one was working. The saw caught fire and workers attempted to extinguish the fire with fire extinguishers but were unable to. The fire department attended and put out the fire. The young worker experienced symptoms of smoke inhalation.

TRANSPORTATION

Injury: Multiple fractures

Core Activity: Integrated forest management

Location: Northern BC

Date of Incident: 2023-Mar

A mechanic was underneath the front end of a semi-truck, lowering it down with a bottle jack. The ground was oily and dirty, and the bottle jack and a jack stand that was in place both slipped out. The vehicle chassis contacted the worker.

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Chip hauling

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: 2023-Feb

A semi-truck with empty chip trailers entered a private road belonging to a railroad company. It became stuck when the trailer wheels entered the slope of a ditch, leaving the truck and trailers stopped on the rail lines. The driver exited the truck to install tire chains, then saw a train coming down the tracks and stood away from the vehicle. The train pushed the truck and trailers about 100 feet down the tracks. 🚚