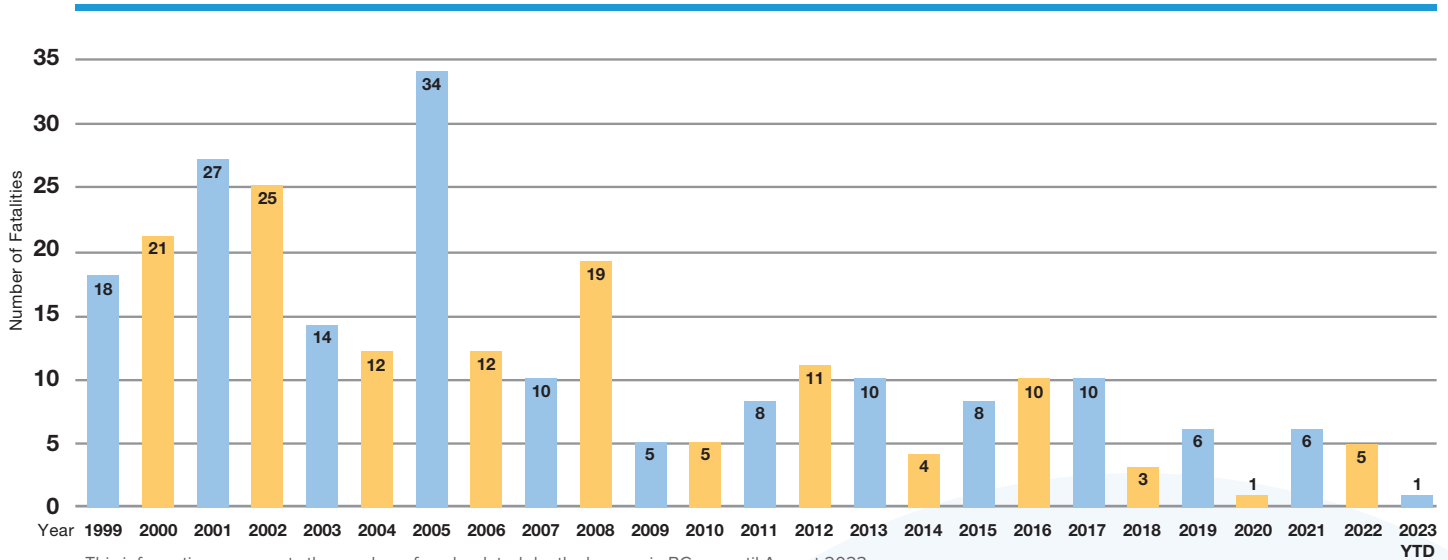




## For 2023 year-to-date, there has been one work-related death in the BC forestry industry.

### WSBC Accepted Harvesting Work-related Death Claims



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

For 2023 year-to-date, there has been one work-related death 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  
**Location:** Northern BC  
**Date of Incident:** 2023-Jul  
On July 28th, 2023, a wildland firefighter was fatally injured while working on a wildfire north of Fort St. John. Media reports indicate the Utility Task Vehicle (UTV) the worker was riding on rolled over a sharp embankment on a gravel road.  
[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:** Multiple injuries  
**Core Activity:** Tree planting or cone picking  
**Location:** Northern BC  
**Date of Incident:** 2023-Jul  
While planting trees at a remote cutblock, a young worker was attacked by a bear. The worker was transported to the hospital by helicopter.

**Injury:** Multiple injuries  
**Core Activity:** Manual tree falling and bucking  
**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal BC  
**Date of Incident:** 2023-Jun  
A faller was removing a dangerous tree at a wildfire site, using several pusher trees. The faller was using the final pusher tree when the dangerous tree fell back and struck them.

**Injury:** Fracture in lower body  
**Core Activity:** Ground skidding or log loading / Integrated forest management  
**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal BC  
**Date of Incident:** 2023-Jun  
A worker was walking on a log deck when a log shifted. The worker lost their balance and fell on top of the log. A second log then rolled onto the worker, pinning them. Another worker found the injured worker and called for assistance on the radio.

**Injury:** Multiple fractures, possible injury to head  
**Core Activity:** Integrated forest management  
**Location:** Interior B.C.  
**Date of Incident:** 2023-May  
A worker was performing maintenance on a self-loading logging truck at a remote shop location when they fell from the ladder used to access the operator station for the self-loader. The worker fell from a height of about 6 feet.

**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.

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# Work-Related Deaths & Injuries

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## MANUFACTURING

**Injury:** Close call

**Core Activity:** Sawmill

**Location:** Northern BC

**Date of Incident:** 2023-May

A sawmill worker reported smoke coming from the shavings bins. This was followed by two deflagration events that occurred simultaneously inside the shavings bins. The fire department attended the site and extinguished the fire.

**Injury:** Exposure to carbon monoxide (3 workers)

**Injury:** Close call

**Core Activity:** Sawmill

**Location:** Northern BC

**Date of Incident:** 2023-Apr

A power generation unit was shut down for an oil leak in the convection section. The immediate area was then evacuated. During the cool-down, an expansion joint deteriorated, and a fire was discovered within the ducting. The fire department attended and extinguished the fire. No injuries were reported.

**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.

## TRANSPORTATION

**Injury:** Fractures (Two workers)

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

**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

**Date of Incident:** 2023-Jul

A crew cab and an empty off-highway log transporter (fat truck) collided head on while travelling on a resource road. The driver of the log transporter was not injured. The two workers in the crew cab were both injured.

**Injury:** Injuries to leg

**Core Activity:** Log towing

**Location:** BC

**Date of Incident:** 2023-Jul

As a young worker was securing a log tow to an anchoring buoy, they slipped and fell into the water. One of their legs was caught between the boom stick and the bundle of logs being pushed by the tug.

**Injury:** Multiple fractures

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

**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

**Date of Incident:** 2023-Jun

A log transporter was dumping a load of logs at a dryland sort yard. When the stakes were tripped, the rear stake on the trailer did not release. A worker at the sort yard tried to release the stake. When they pulled the securing pin on the trailer, the load shifted, pinning the worker between loader fork and the trailer wheel.

**Injury:** Fatal (3 non-workers); Undetermined injuries (1 worker, 2 non-workers)

**Core Activity:** Log hauling

**Location:** Interior BC

**Date of Incident:** 2023-Jun

A logging truck was travelling on a highway when it experienced a mechanical failure. It crossed the centre line and collided with an oncoming passenger vehicle. Another passenger vehicle went into a ditch when it swerved to avoid the collision.

## FORESTRY GENERAL

**Injury:** Fatal (1 worker); Burns (2 workers)

**Core Activity:** Wildfire suppression

**Location:** Interior BC

**Date of Incident:** 2023-Jul

A firefighter (young worker) was struck and fatally injured by a burning tree that fell unexpectedly during initial attack operations for a small spot-fire caused by lightning. Two other workers sustained burns in their efforts to free the worker from beneath the tree.

**Injury:** Undetermined

**Core Activity:** Wildfire suppression

**Location:** Northern BC

**Date of Incident:** 2023-May

A new worker was participating in their employer's fitness training session, a 6-kilometre morning run. During the run, the worker collapsed. The worker was transported to hospital by ambulance.

**Injury:** Smoke inhalation (2 workers)

**Core Activity:** Wildfire suppression

**Location:** Interior BC

**Date of Incident:** 2023-Apr

A crew of 16 forest firefighters was working to suppress a grass fire in a rural area when a number of structures became involved and consumed by the fire. During the fire, propane tanks were observed to have exploded and workers were exposed to smoke from the burning structure and surrounding debris. Two workers (both young workers) subsequently reported to first aid and were transported to medical aid. 🚑