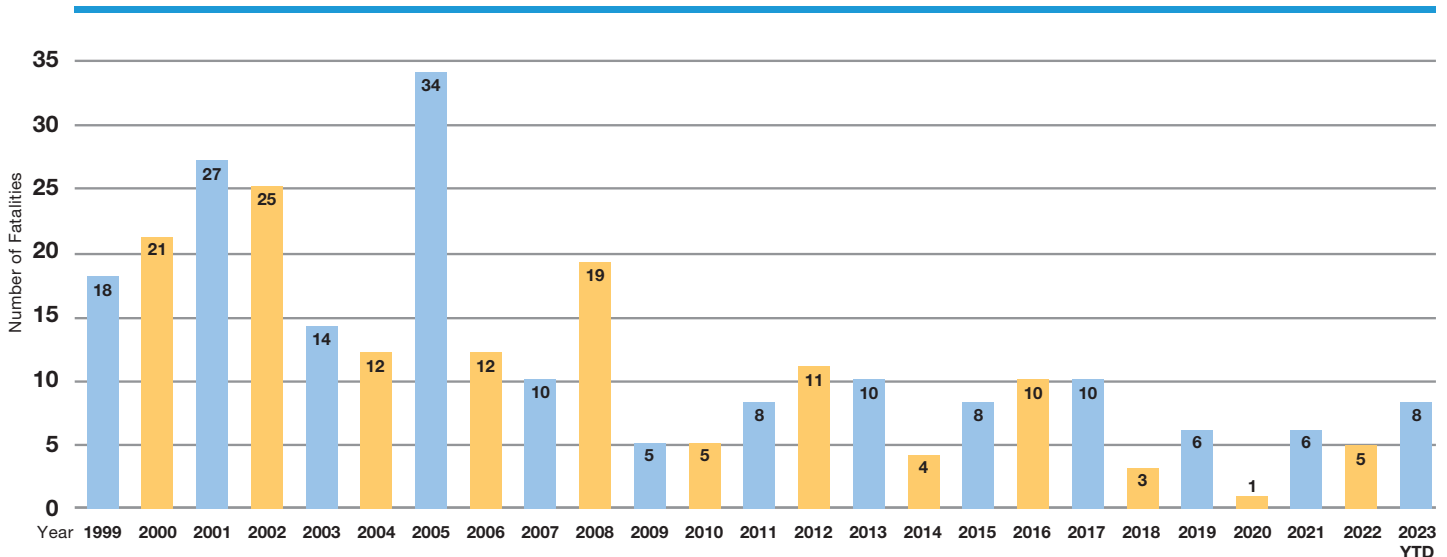




WSBC Accepted Harvesting Work-related Death Claims



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

For 2023 year-to-date, there have been eight 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
Core Activity: Resource Road Bridge Maintenance
Location: Interior BC
Date of Incident: 2023-Sept
On September 29th, a worker was performing bridge replacement work when they were struck by a section of a birch tree that fell from above them. The worker succumbed to their injuries.

[Read the BCFSC Fatality Alert](#)

Injury: Fatal
Core Activity: Air Transportation (Helicopter)
Location: Northern BC
Date of Incident: 2023-Sept
On September 26th, a Bell 206L helicopter was transporting a forestry crew to a remote location and went down near Purden Ski Hill, east of Prince George. The pilot and one passenger were fatally injured in the crash; the other four workers were transported to hospital.

[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: Fractured leg
Core Activity: Integrated Forest Management
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2023-Oct
A worker jumped off of a platform about two feet higher than a paved pedestrian walkway. As the worker landed, they stumbled and fell into a forklift pathway. The worker was struck by the load being moved by a forklift.

Injury: Close Call
Core Activity: Integrated Forest Management
Location: Interior BC
Date of Incident: 2023-Sept
A log dump crane was shock loaded while dumping a load of logs, resulting in four guy lines failing and collapse of the main mast and hoist spar.

Injury: Close Call
Core Activity: Integrated Forest Management
Location: Interior BC
Date of Incident: 2023-Sept
A worker was operating a feller-buncher when the machine flopped over. The worker exited the cab through the escape hatch in the roof. A short time later the buncher caught fire. The fire suppression system was activated but did not extinguish the fire. The operator was not injured.

Injury: Multiple fractures
Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking / Land clearing
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC
Date of Incident: 2023-Sept
A faller was falling a leaning alder tree, about 12 inches in diameter. The tree barberchaired (its trunk split), causing part of the tree to detach and strike the faller.

MANUFACTURING

Injury: Close Call
Core Activity: Wood pellet manufacture
Location: Northern BC
Date of Incident: 2023-Sept
A baghouse abort gate tripped during production, which forced a plant shutdown. While restarting the plant, a worker noticed a fire in a metering bin and extinguished it with a water hose. Smouldering was detected in the associated cooling bin and deluge systems were automatically activated.

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Work-Related Deaths & Injuries

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Injury: Close Call

Core Activity: Pressed wood product manufacture

Location: Northern BC

Date of Incident: 2023-Aug

After a wood pellet production plant dryer had been shut down in preparation for maintenance, a worker reported an orange glow coming from the burner shack/dilution zone. Workers investigated and saw a fire on the roof of the burner shack. They used hoses to extinguish the fire.

Injury: Suspected fracture

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: 2023-Jul

A worker was clearing a jammed cant (partially processed log) when a second, in-feeding cant contacted the first cant. One of the worker's feet was caught between the first cant and the outfeed chain drives.

Injury: Close Call

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date of Incident: 2023-Jul

At a cedar mill, a fire began in a kiln and spread, fully engulfing the structure. The mill was not in operation. Fire departments extinguished the fire.

Injury: Close Call

Core Activity: Pressed wood product manufacture

Location: Northern BC

Date of Incident: 2023-Jul

A fire was detected in the wood pellet cooling bin downstream of a pelleter machine. The fire was extinguished using a fire hose. No injuries were reported.

Injury: Close Call

Core Activity: Pressed wood product manufacture

Location: Northern BC

Date of Incident: 2023-Jun

A worker reported smoke and fire coming from a plenum fed by a hammer mill. The employer's emergency response process was initiated, and the fire was extinguished. After reviewing video footage, the employer determined there had been a deflagration event inside the hammer mill and plenum.

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 including concussion, fractures, strain, and pain (19 workers)

Core Activity: Commercial bus operations / Industrial camp operations

Location: Northern BC

Date of Incident: 2023-Jun

A bus transporting workers to a camp location was travelling on a resource road. Recent rainfall had softened the shoulder of the road. As the bus traversed a corner, it left the road, entered a ditch, and rolled onto the passenger side. Crews from a nearby project responded with emergency transport vehicles (ETVs); ambulances also attended the site. Nineteen workers, including four young workers, were injured.

FORESTRY GENERAL

Injury: Injuries to upper body (1 worker)

Core Activity: Wildfire suppression

Location: Interior BC

Date of Incident: 2023-Aug

A worker was repositioning a truck when the vehicle became stuck on a fire guard. While the worker was trying to free the vehicle, fire activity intensified and crossed the guard. The worker was forced to flee on foot but was not injured.

Injury: Injuries to upper body (1 worker)

Core Activity: Forest fire fighting

Location: Northern BC

Date of Incident: 2023-Aug

Wildland firefighters were travelling in a vehicle along an overgrown forestry road. A young worker was sitting in the rear passenger-side seat with the window down. A tree branch brushed along the side of the vehicle and sprang into the rear passenger section, striking the worker.

Injury: Concussion

Core Activity: Wildfire suppression

Location: Interior BC

Date of Incident: 2023-Jul

A firefighter was hosing a small fire when they were struck by a falling spruce tree. 🚨