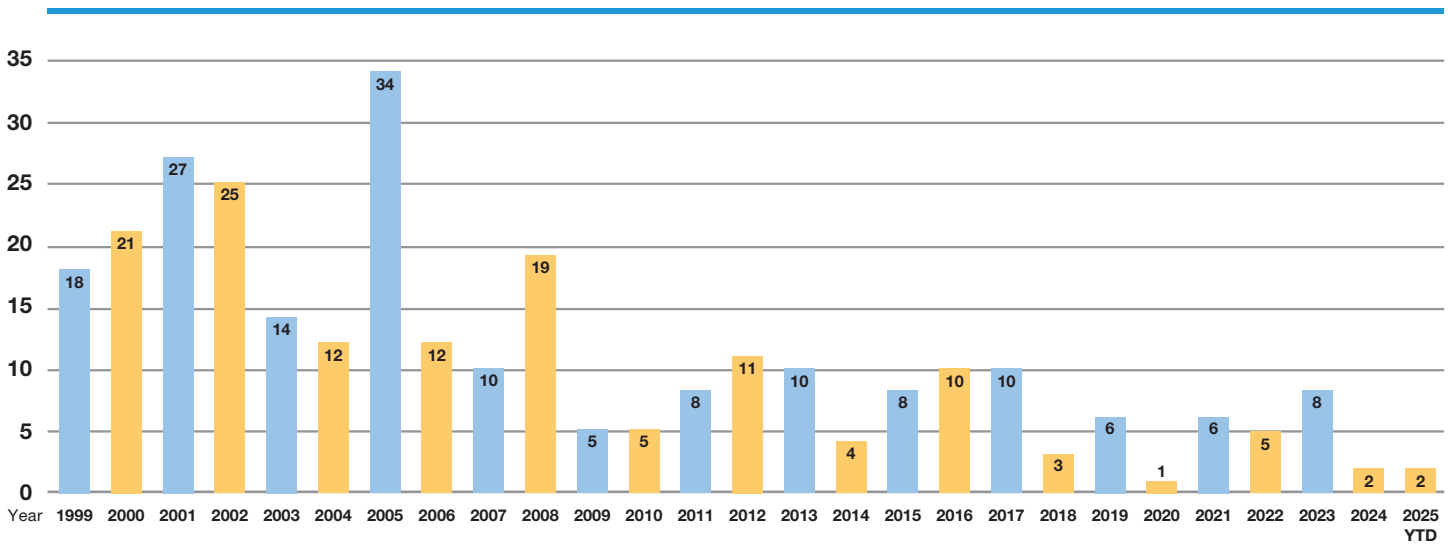




Work-Related Deaths & Injuries



WSBC Accepted Harvesting Work-related Death Claims



This information represents the number of work-related deaths by year in BC, up until April 2025.

Since our last publication, there has been three work-related deaths in the BC forestry industry. We extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of the deceased and our sympathies to all those affected by these tragic incidents

FATALITIES

Injury: Fatal
Core Activity: Forestry
Location: Interior BC
Date of Incident: Jan 2025

On January 17th, a contracted worker was fatally injured while conducting maintenance work at a mill located in Quesnel, BC. WorkSafeBC and the Coroners Service are currently investigating this incident.

Read the BCFSC Fatality Alert

Injury: Fatal
Core Activity: Forestry
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC
Date of Incident: Feb 2025

During construction of a new deck, two workers were taking measurements when one of them fell about 10 feet and landed on rocks below the deck. On February 24th, the worker succumbed to the injuries in hospital.

Read the BCFSC Fatality Alert

Injury: Fatal
Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking
Location: Interior BC
Date of Incident: April 2025

On April 15th, 2025, a manual tree faller was fatally injured while working at a site south of Kitimat, BC. WorkSafeBC and the Coroners Service are currently investigating this incident.

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: Lacerations
Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC
Date of Incident: Dec 2024

A worker was cleaning out the undercut in a large-diameter dead red cedar tree when their chainsaw kicked back, striking them.

Injury: Laceration, back injury
Core Activity: Integrated forest management
Location: Interior BC
Date of Incident: Jan 2025

A worker was operating a skidder on a 45% slope when the machine became unstable and rolled over two and a half times. It came to rest about 30 metres downslope, resting partly on its roof and side.

Injury: Injuries to head
Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking / Integrated forest management
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC
Date of Incident: Feb 2025

A faller was falling a class 3 danger tree. The danger tree brushed a green tree, resulting in a branch (3 by 30 inches) from the danger tree snapping back and striking the faller.

Injury: Close call
Core Activity: Integrated forest management
Location: Interior BC
Date of Incident: March 2025

A worker was operating a winch-assisted feller buncher machine on a steep slope. As the feller buncher was travelling down the slope, the tether winch line failed, resulting in the feller buncher rolling three times downhill. It came to rest on its cab side. The operator was able to climb out of the roof hatch.

Injury: Injury to foot
Core Activity: Helicopter logging
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: March 2025

A faller was falling a dangerous tree (pine) that was naturally hung up in a designated reserve tree (Douglas fir). The faller used a "fence-posting" technique to remove the dead pine from the limbs of the Douglas fir. When the pine broke loose, the cut end at the base suddenly swung toward the faller, striking them as they moved along their escape route.

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Work-Related Deaths & Injuries

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MANUFACTURING

Injury: Laceration, pain in upper body

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: Jan 2025

A worker had secured a log bundle against a gear float using a boom boat. The worker stepped from the boat onto the log bundle to cut the boom lines and lost their balance. They fell backward, striking their head on the boat and landing in the water.

Injury: Pain in upper body

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Interior BC

Date of Incident: Feb 2025

A worker was standing on a concrete pillar, using a pike pole to clear a jam on a waste wood transfer belt. The worker fell, striking a beam and the concrete floor.

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Interior BC

Date of Incident: Feb 2025

Sparks from friction entered a dust extraction system in a sawmill. The first spark detection system in the duct detected the sparks and triggered the deluge system, which failed to activate as designed. The second spark detection system, about 40 feet downstream from the first, detected the sparks in the system and triggered the abort gate, which also failed to activate as designed. The resulting fire, in the debarker baghouse, was extinguished by the fire department.

Injury: Injury to head

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: Feb 2025

A young worker was walking across the lumberyard when they slipped on snow and ice and fell backward.

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Pressed wood product manufacture

Location: Northern BC

Date of Incident: Feb 2025

A fire started in a pelletizer. The equipment shut off automatically. The fire was limited to the pelletizer and did not spread.

TRANSPORTATION

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Integrated forest management / Log hauling

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date of Incident: Feb 2025

A worker was securing a load of logs on an off-highway log transporter when the truck began sliding down the 17% grade. It continued sliding for about 30 feet, then left the low side of the road and rolled over onto the driver's side, losing its load, and coming to rest about 40 feet from the road edge. The worker was not injured.

Injury: Injury to head

Core Activity: Integrated forest management / log hauling

Location: Interior BC

Date of Incident: Feb 2025

A worker was installing wrappers on a loaded log hauler when a log (over 15 feet long, 8 inches in diameter) dislodged and struck the worker's safety headgear.

Injury: Multiple injuries

Core Activity: Log hauling / Dry land sort

Location: Northern BC

Date of Incident: March 2025

As worker was backing up a loaded logging truck, the rear wheels of the logging trailer went over the shoulder of the road. The load and truck tipped over, slid onto a frozen lake, and broke through the ice.

Injury: Injury to head

Core Activity: Water taxi or crew transport

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date of Incident: Feb 2025

A worker was exiting a ferry that had docked when one of their feet became entangled. The worker fell through a doorway and struck their head on the concrete dock.

DAY OF MOURNING

On April 28, 2025, workers, employers, families and communities gathered at Day of Mourning ceremonies around BC to pay tribute to workers injured or killed on the job.

In 2024, there were 146 workers in BC who lost their lives to workplace injury or disease. There were 68 fatalities due to traumatic injury and 78 fatalities due to occupational disease, with two of those fatalities in the forestry sector. By honouring those we've lost, we are reminded that we all must do what we can to help get everyone home safe, every day. 🌲