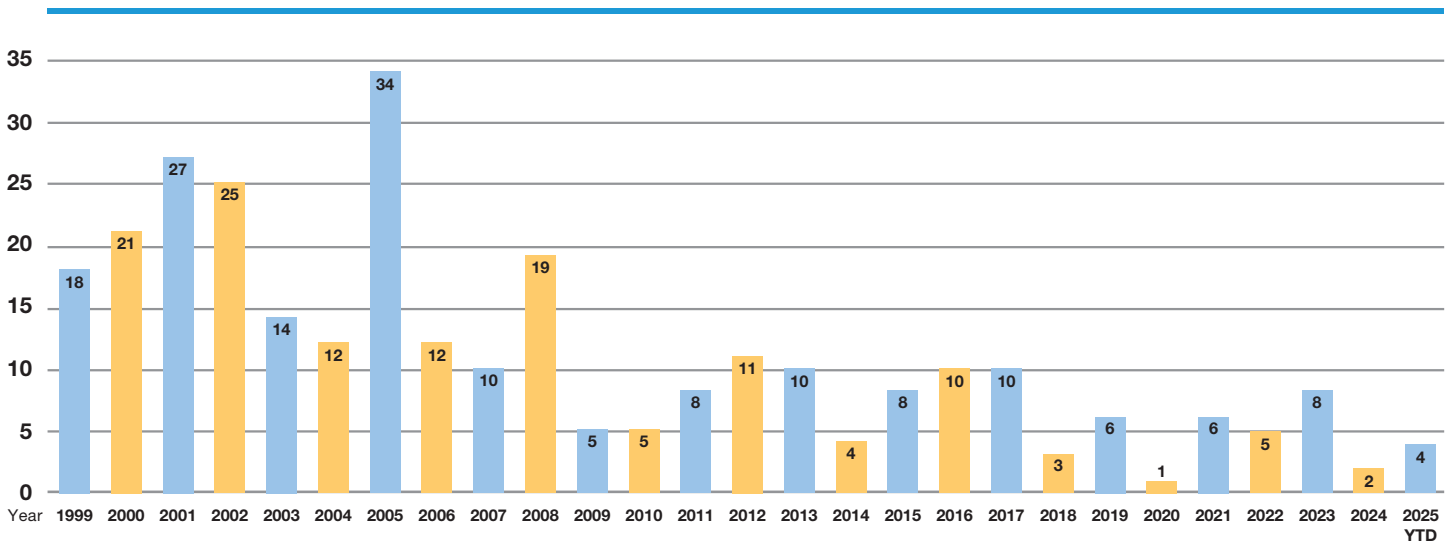




Work-Related Deaths & Injuries



WSBC Accepted Harvesting Work-related Death Claims



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

Since our last publication, tragically three more work-related deaths have occurred in the BC forestry industry, bringing the total to six lives lost in 2025. 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: Cable or hi-lead logging

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date of Incident: July 2025

In an area near Powell River, BC, a worker was standing on a deck of logs, speaking to a log loader operator, when four of the logs rolled, striking and pinning the worker to the track of the log loader. The worker sustained fatal injuries.

[Read the BCFSC Fatality Alert](#)

Injury: Fatal

Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date of Incident: June 2025

On June 19th, a worker was fatally injured while topping a tree using rope access when they fell about 20 metres to the ground. The incident occurred in the Woods Lagoon area on the Central Coast.

[Read the BCFSC Fatality Alert](#)

Injury: Fatal

Core Activity: Pulp and paper mill

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date of Incident: June 2025

On June 4th, while unloading a chip scow (barge), an articulating front-end loader fell into the ocean and sunk to the bottom (about 16 feet). The operator was trapped inside the cab and drowned. The incident occurred at a pulp mill on Vancouver Island.

[Read the BCFSC Fatality Alert](#)

Recent work-related incidents reported to WorkSafeBC

The following is the list of work-related incidents recently reported to WorkSafeBC. We share these in the hope they may help prevent similar incidents from occurring in your workplace.

HARVESTING

Injury: Multiple Injuries

Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking / Helicopter logging

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date of Incident: July 2025

A worker was preparing to buck a log when another log, which had previously been assessed, rolled from above and struck them.

Injury: Injuries to head

Core Activity: Integrated forest management

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date of Incident: June 2025

A worker was changing a bushing on a leaf spring of a service truck. The worker used a

chisel to keep the eyelet of the leaf spring open. The chisel ejected from the spring and struck the worker, breaking their safety glasses.

Injury: Fracture (1 worker)

Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date of Incident: May 2025

A worker assisting their falling partner, who was dealing with a 36-inch-diameter cedar tree. The first worker was about 20 feet back from the stump when they were struck by a 6-foot section of a slab that broke off from the cedar tree during the falling process.

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Log processing / Integrated forest management

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date of Incident: May 2025

A log processor was retrieving a log from the low side of the road when the operator heard a "pop." The operator looked out the back window and saw a fire on the deck and motor compartment of their machine. The operator was able to climb down from the machine and get help. Three water trucks were brought to the site, and crews extinguished the fire with water and foam.

Injury: Multiple injuries

Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking

Location: Northern BC

Date of Incident: April 2025

A faller was falling a large old-growth hemlock tree. As the faller began retreating to a safe location, they were struck by a 10-foot-long dead top of a yellow cedar.

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Work-Related Deaths & Injuries

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MANUFACTURING

Injury: Injury to leg (1 worker)

Core Activity: Wooden component manufacture

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: June 2025

Two workers were working at a lumber assembly station. One worker was using a pneumatic nailing tool to piece together 2x10s, and the second worker was pulling additional 2x10s off an adjacent storage rack. The workers bumped into each other, causing the pneumatic nailing tool to be actuated and a nail to be discharged into the second worker's leg.

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Veneer or plywood manufacture

Location: Interior BC

Date of Incident: June 2025

At the infeed to a cut-off saw, a telescoping log loader was handling several logs that were not feeding properly. The log loader became detached from its base and fell toward the infeed. No one was injured.

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Interior BC

Date of Incident: April 2025

A worker was completing hot work adjacent to a system of conveyor belts between a sawmill and a cogeneration plant. A fire started in a conveyor transfer tower between two of the conveyor belts. On-site fire crews initiated fire suppression until the fire department arrived. There were no injuries.

Injury: Injuries to hand (1 worker)

Core Activity: Veneer or plywood manufacture

Location: Interior BC

Date of Incident: April 2025

Two workers in an elevating work platform were conducting blow-down dust removal from the upper levels of the facility. While repositioning the basket, one of the workers moved it in the opposite direction intended, and the top rail of the basket contacted part of the structure. The second worker had their hand on the top rail and sustained injuries.

Injury: Injuries to hand

Core Activity: Veneer or plywood manufacture

Location: Interior BC

Date of Incident: April 2025

A worker was operating a strapper machine when a piece of dunnage became jammed in the bottom dunnage magazine. The worker was injured as they tried to dislodge the jammed dunnage.

Injury: Fractures

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Northern BC

Date of Incident: April 2025

A worker was standing on top of a load of lumber, using a piece of dunnage board as a pry to straighten skewed boards in an adjacent load. The worker fell.

Injury: Injuries to hand

Core Activity: Veneer or plywood manufacture

Location: Interior BC

Date of Incident: April 2025

A worker was troubleshooting a noise coming from a veneer dryer stacker when one of their hands was caught between rollers.

Injury: Laceration, fractures

Core Activity: Veneer or plywood manufacture

Location: Interior BC

Date of Incident: March 2025

A worker was setting up to fix an upset condition in a lathe step feeder. They were using an overhead hoist lifting device outfitted with tongs at the infeed of the lathe step feeder. The tongs caught an edge and released, striking the worker.

Injury: Injuries to hand (1 worker)

Core Activity: Veneer or plywood manufacture

Location: Interior BC

Date of Incident: March 2025

Two workers completed repairs on a tongue-and-groove machine, then restarted the machine and watched to ensure it was running properly. When a jam occurred, one of the workers tried to push the plywood with their hand. Their hand became caught in the machinery.

TRANSPORTATION

Injury: Contusions

Core Activity: Integrated forest management / Log hauling

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date of Incident: April 2025

The operator of a log transporter had just completed the self-loading of a log transporter on a 15% road grade. As the worker raised the transporter stabilizers from the controls on top of the log transporter, it started to roll down the road. The worker climbed partly down the ladder and jumped about 3 metres to the ground. The loaded log transporter travelled about 50 metres down the road, entered a ditch, and rolled another 25 metres before coming to a stop.

Injury: Minor injuries

Core Activity: Dump truck operation / Electric utilities

Location: Northern BC

Date of Incident: April 2025

While dumping a load of wood chips, a truck and trailer combination (B-train configuration) rolled onto its side. The operator was standing on the rear deck of the truck and was thrown to the ground.

FORESTRY SERVICES

Injury: Multiple injuries (1 worker)

Core Activity: Wildfire suppression

Location: Interior BC

Date of Incident: June 2025

A group of workers were conducting basic chainsaw training at a field site when a suspected dangerous tree (65cm in diameter, 27m tall), previously assessed as a safe tree for the work activity, unexpectedly fell. The tree struck a young worker about 30ft from the tree's base. 🌲