



Work-Related Deaths & Injuries



SILVICULTURE

Injury: Fatal

Core Activity: Tree planting or cone picking

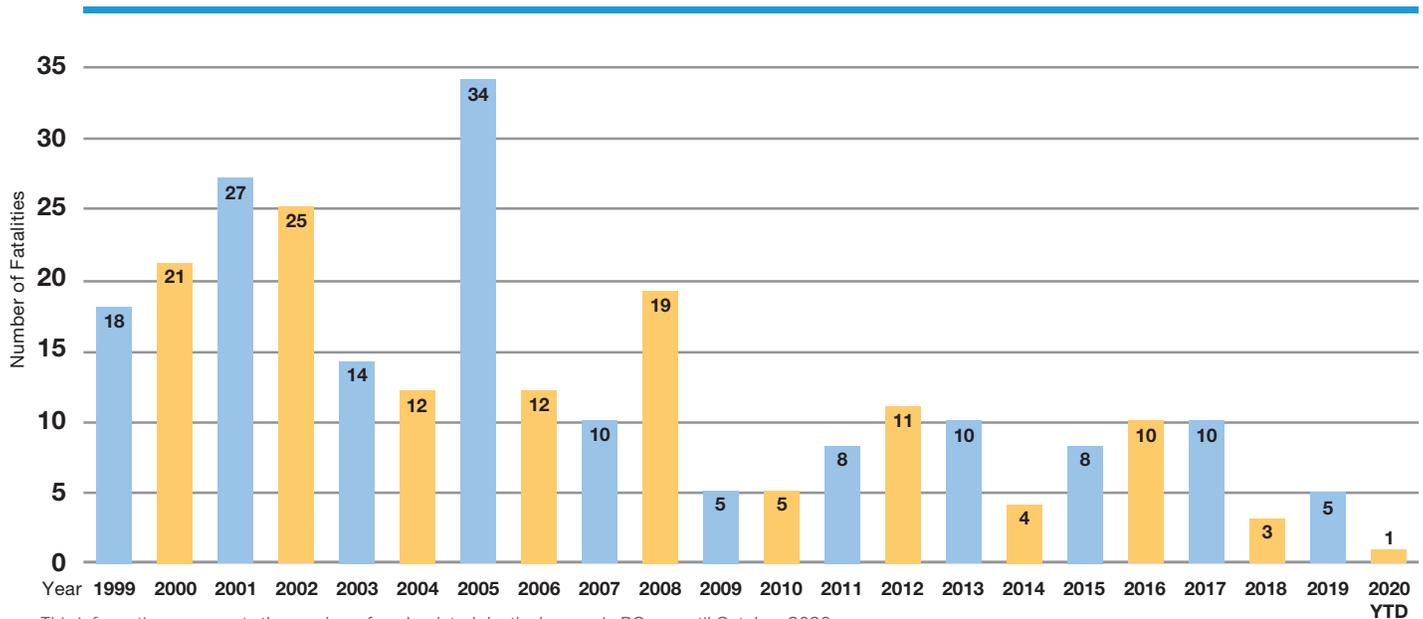
Location: Northern BC

Date of Incident: 2020-Oct

A silviculture worker missed their scheduled check-in. The employer initiated a search and the vehicle was found overturned down an embankment on a resource road. The worker was found deceased.

There was one work-related death on October 3, 2020 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 this incident. This is the first forestry industry fatality of 2020.

WSBC Accepted Harvesting Work-related Death Claims



This information represents the number of work-related deaths by year in BC, up until October, 2020.

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 vertebrae

Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking / Logging road construction or maintenance / Integrated forest management

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date of Incident: 2020-Oct

A hand faller, working on a road reactivation project, had placed falling cuts in a tree (12 inches in diameter). As the tree started to fall, the faller cleared down their escape trail and turned around to watch for hazards. A thinner tree (5 inches in diameter), about 15 metres away,

uprooted and fell uphill, striking the faller. First aid was administered on site before the worker was flown to hospital.

Injury: Contusions and abrasions (1 worker)

Core Activity: Integrated forest management

Location: Interior BC

Date of Incident: 2020-Sep

A yarding crew was repositioning a grapple yarder, with the guylines and haulback line slacked and attached to anchors. As the yarder was moved down the road, the haulback pulled the yarder over, and it toppled off the road and down a steep (74%) embankment. The operator tried to jump off the overturning yarder and landed on the guardrail. The cab of the yarder was undamaged. The injured worker was treated by the employer's first aid attendant and transported to hospital.

Injury: Laceration to head

Core Activity: Dry land sort

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: 2020-Sep

In a log sorting ground, a worker operating a rubber-tired log loader drove into a pothole and hit their head on the windshield of the loader.

The worker was treated on site by a Level 3 first aid attendant, then transported to hospital by ambulance.

Injury: Concussion

Core Activity: Cable or hi-lead logging

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date of Incident: 2020-Sep

The operator of a grapple yarder was casting the grapple to reach logs upslope of the road lines. A hooktender was inadvertently struck by the haulback line (wire rope). The injured worker was treated by on-site first aid, then transported to hospital by helicopter.

Injury: Suspected carbon monoxide exposure (1 worker)

Core Activity: Integrated forest management / Log processing

Location: Northern BC

Date of Incident: 2020-Sep

When a worker failed to attend a pre-job safety meeting at the beginning of the day on a forestry jobsite, another worker was dispatched to the worker's personal camp shack. The

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missing worker was found semi-conscious and disoriented. The worker was transported to hospital by the employer representative.

Injury: Upper body fractures
Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking / Integrated forest management
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC
Date of Incident: 2020-Sep
A hand faller had felled a 30 inch diameter tree in a helicopter logging cutblock. As the faller was bucking the tree (cutting it into log lengths), the butt pivoted, striking and pinning the worker. The worker was transported to hospital by helicopter.

Injury: Fractured leg, contusions (1 worker)
Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking / Integrated forest management
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC
Date of Incident: 2020-Aug
A hand faller felled a heavy, leaning hemlock tree (84 feet tall, 23 inches in diameter). As the tree struck the ground, the butt of the tree recoiled toward the faller, striking and pinning him. The faller called his falling partner, who cut a 4-foot section off the butt of the tree to free the faller. First aid was provided on site. The faller was then transported to camp in a work vehicle, transferred to medical aid, and taken to hospital.

Injury: Internal injuries, fractured rib
Core Activity: Integrated forest management
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC
Date of Incident: 2020-Aug
A hand faller was falling a fir tree (115 feet tall, 26 inches in diameter) that had a dead tree (58 feet long, 10 inches in diameter) resting against it. When the fir tree fell, the dead tree came down and struck the worker.

Injury: Multiple fractures
Core Activity: Integrated forest management
Location: Interior BC
Date of Incident: 2020-Aug
A worker was operating a tracked shovel logger at a steep slope forestry harvesting operation. The machine became unstable and rolled over twice, coming to rest on its tracks.

Injury: Close call
Core Activity: Logging road construction / Integrated forest management
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC
Date of Incident: 2020-Jul
During new logging road construction at a remote logging operation, an excavator triggered a landslide. The excavator was carried about 30 metres down the slope. The slide then continued for an additional 20 metres. The excavator operator was not injured.

Injury: Upper body fracture
Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking
Location: Northern BC
Date of Incident: 2020-Jul
A hand faller was bucking a previously felled tree when a large limb dislodged from an adjacent standing tree and struck the faller. The faller was treated by first aid on site, then transported to hospital in the employer's emergency transport vehicle (ETV).

MANUFACTURING

Injury: Injury to head
Core Activity: Sawmill
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2020-Sep
An 8-foot-long cant (8 by 8 inches) fell through a double arbor outfeed deck and struck a worker underneath.

Injury: Injuries to hand
Core Activity: Sawmill
Location: Northern BC
Date of Incident: 2020-Aug
A worker was injured while conducting maintenance in the planer area of a mill.

Injury: Close call
Core Activity: Sawmill
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2020-Aug
An unoccupied excavator caught fire while positioned on a pile of cedar trim ends. The fire engulfed the machine and mill workers were unable to contain the blaze. The fire department attended and extinguished the fire.

Injury: Crush injuries to foot
Core Activity: Sawmill
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2020-Aug
A worker was performing maintenance on a double cut-off saw/ring debarker. The worker was testing the machine when one of the worker's feet was caught in a log kicker that had inadvertently turned on.

Injury: Soft tissue injuries
Core Activity: Veneer or plywood manufacture
Location: Northern BC
Date of Incident: 2020-Aug
A loader was unloading a single-bunk logging truck in an inner yard area. The loader approached the truck and grabbed a load of logs. The loader operator elevated the load to clear the bunk stakes, then started to back away from the truck. The loader cleared the stakes and the operator began to turn the loader and swivel the grapple while it was elevated. The loader stopped and the back wheels came off the ground. The operator felt the loader starting to tip over and reacted by attempting to lower the grapple to stop it from tipping but was not successful.

Injury: Close call
Core Activity: Sawmill
Location: Interior BC
Date of Incident: 2020-Aug
A fire occurred in the dust collection system of the debarker line at a sawmill. The automatic deluge system and workers using fire suppression equipment doused the fire, and no injuries were reported.

Injury: Smoke inhalation (1 worker)
Core Activity: Sawmill
Location: Interior BC
Date of Incident: 2020-Jul

Several spot fires occurred on the planer line during a run of dry alpine fir. The fires were extinguished by workers on site. The local fire department responded to monitor for hot spots. One worker reported to first aid for smoke inhalation, and a chip conveyor was slightly damaged.

Injury: Amputated fingers
Core Activity: Planing mill
Location: Interior BC
Date of Incident: 2020-Jul
A worker was operating a chop saw to cut dimensional lumber when one hand contacted the saw blade.

Injury: Close call
Core Activity: Sawmill
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2020-Jul
A worker was operating a forklift when the raised load contacted overhead communication lines 20-25 feet below high-voltage power lines. The contact caused a utility pole to list about 45 degrees and the high-voltage lines to droop to about 20 feet from the ground. A power outage occurred but no injuries were reported, and the utility owner responded to repair the damage.

TRANSPORTATION

Injury: Concussion, soft tissue injuries
Core Activity: Log hauling / Integrated forest management
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2020-Aug
A logging truck driver was securing load binders on a loaded log transporter. During this process, a log fell from the load, striking the driver. The injured worker was treated and transported in the employer's emergency transport vehicle (ETV) by on-site first aid. Emergency services responded and met the employer's ETV on the resource access road and transported the worker to hospital.

Injury: Undetermined injuries
Core Activity: Log hauling
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC
Date of Incident: 2020-Jul
A loaded short-log, eight-axle log transporter lost control on a road (greater than 18% grade), gaining speed for about 200 metres. The driver tried to stop the transporter by driving into the ditch, resulting in a rollover event. The driver received first aid on site and was evacuated by the employer to the highway, then transferred to emergency services and taken to hospital. 🚚