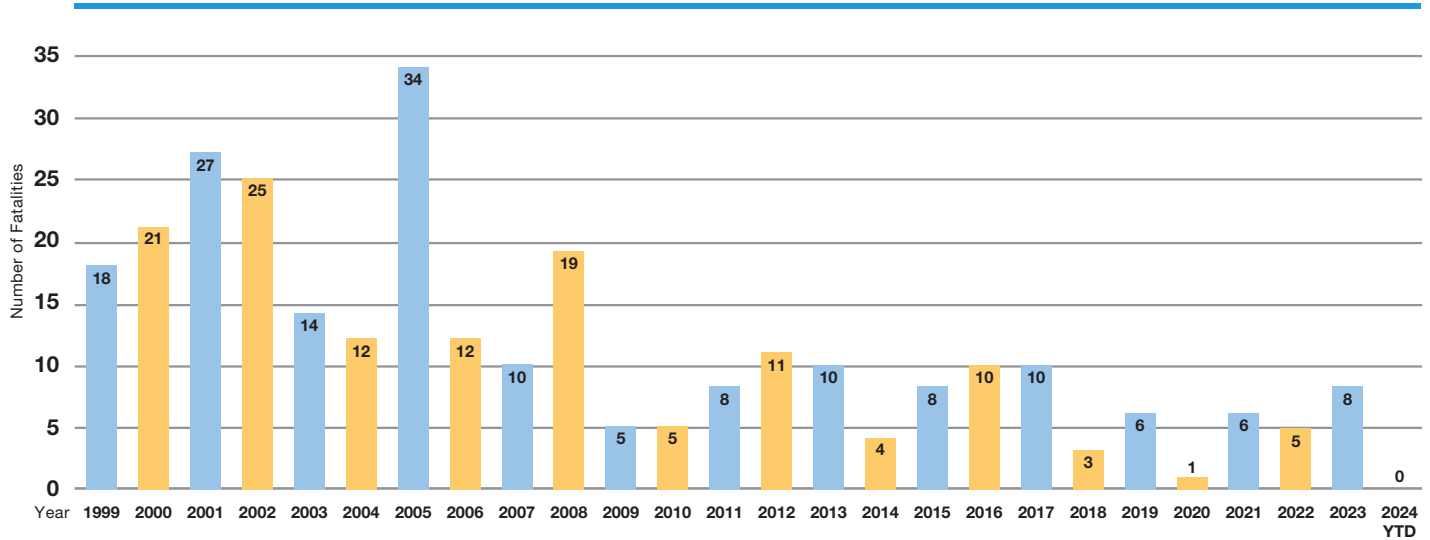




Work-Related Deaths & Injuries



WSBC Accepted Harvesting Work-related Death Claims



This information represents the number of work-related deaths by year in BC, up until September 2024.

For 2024 year-to-date, there have been no work-related deaths in the BC forestry industry.

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: Injury to head, fracture

Core Activity: Manual tree falling

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: June 2024

A worker was manually falling a tree (26m tall). As the tree fell, it struck a stump, causing the butt of the falling tree to kick upward and backward. The tree struck the worker, who then fell down a small hill.

Injury: Injuries to head and upper body
Core Activity: Integrated forest management

Location: Interior BC

Date of Incident: May 2024

A worker was conducting logging activities on a steep slope (measured at 52%) when the machine they were

operating lost traction and tipped over. Co-workers extricated the worker from the machine via the roof hatch

Injury: Fractures

Core Activity: Helicopter logging / Manual tree falling and bucking

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

Date of Incident: May 2024

A worker was completing a bucking cut on partially suspended hemlock log when the log pivoted. It struck the worker as they retreated along their designated escape route.

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Log processing

Location: Interior BC

Date of Incident: April 2024

A worker in a feller buncher was cutting trees near power lines and within the limits of approach. A tree limb inadvertently contacted a 14.4 kV line. The worker was able to walk the machine away from the line, and the utility owner subsequently repaired and re-energized the line.

Injury: Fractures, contusions

Core Activity: Integrated forest management

Location: Interior BC

Date of Incident: April 2024

The operator of a grapple skidder lost control of the machine on a slope (approx. 30%) while grappling logs. The grapple skidder rolled over several times and came to rest against standing trees at the edge of the cutblock, about 30m downslope from where control was lost.

MANUFACTURING

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Wooden component manufacture

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: July 2024

A forklift picked a load, then reversed and struck an adjacent worker.

Injury: Fractures

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Interior BC

Date of Incident: June 2024

A worker was on a log deck, using a power saw to cut wood planking to reconstruct the deck. The worker fell through the deck to the ground, about 16ft below.

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Injury: Electric shock, injuries to fingers (2 workers)

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Interior BC

Date of Incident: June 2024

After a wheel grind, two workers were trying to re-install a local disconnect box on the fixed portion of the re-saw hood when they experienced an electric shock.

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Pressed wood product manufacture

Location: Interior BC

Date of Incident: June 2024

At a pellet manufacturing facility, a fire broke out inside a belt drier. The deluge system activated automatically and extinguished the flames. No workers were injured, and no emergency services were called.

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Wooden component manufacture

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: June 2024

After hours, a fire broke out in a cyclone hopper at a truck loading area. The fire engulfed the hopper and a transport truck, both containing wood shavings and coarse sawdust. The fire department responded and extinguished the fire.

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Pressed wood product manufacture

Location: Interior BC

Date of Incident: May 2024

A worker observed a fire in the wood dust on the exterior of a triple-pass rotary dryer. Workers contacted the fire department and followed the employer's emergency evacuation procedures. The fire department extinguished the fire.

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Pressed wood product manufacture

Location: Interior BC

Date of Incident: April 2024

A fire started on the flatbed dryer of an operating pellet mill. The heat detection sensor engaged, the deluge system in the mill was activated, and the fire department responded. No workers were injured.

Injury: Close call

Core Activity: Pressed wood product manufacture

Location: Interior BC

Date of Incident: April 2024

Workers were operating a wood pellet manufacturing facility when the heat sensors detected a fire. The plant was immediately shut down and the #1 pallet mill was flooded with water. A fire patrol was initiated for two hours, and no hot spots were identified by thermal camera. No workers were injured, and only minor equipment damage was reported.

Injury: Injuries to fingers

Core Activity: Wooden component manufacture

Location: Interior B.C.

Date of Incident: April 2024

A worker was dislodging a trim block when one of their hands contacted a rotating saw blade.

TRANSPORTATION

Injury: Injuries to the head

Core Activity: Cable or hi-lead logging

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: May 2024

An off-highway log hauler (fat truck) was descending a section of a forestry service road where the incline grade was 30%. As it descended, the truck left the main travel surface of the road and collided with the high-side bank. It came to rest about 15m beyond where it initially contacted the bank.

Injury: Multiple injuries

Core Activity: Wooden component manufacture

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: Feb 2024

A worker was on a ladder tarping down the load on a tractor-trailer unit when they fell to the ground.

INCIDENT FINDINGS

The summary of findings from a [2021 incident investigation](#) into a 2021 fatality involving a service contractor at a wood products manufacturing facility has now been posted on WorkSafeBC's website.

The summary of findings from a [2021 incident investigation](#) into an incident involving a firefighter being seriously injured during controlled burnoff has now been posted on WorkSafeBC's website. 🚒