



# Work-Related Deaths & Injuries

## Update: There have been four direct harvesting fatalities in 2019 and one in air transportation, year to date.

On September 25, 2019 Ed Wilcock, the president and owner of E&B Helicopters was fatally injured when his helicopter crashed into a building in Campbell River, B.C.

Our deepest condolences to Ed's family, friends and colleagues and our sympathies to those affected by this event. Recognized in 2017 with the Cary White Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award, his commitment to the safety and evacuation of those working for coastal forestry companies will never be forgotten.

### Recent work-related incidents reported to WorkSafeBC

The following sample of work-related incidents recently reported to WorkSafeBC may help you prevent similar incidents in your workplace.

#### HARVESTING

**Injury:** Fractured leg

**Core Activity:** Manual tree falling and bucking

**Location:** Interior B.C.

**Date of Incident:** 2019-Oct

As a worker was bucking logs with a chainsaw, the worker's leg was pinned between two logs. The worker was given first aid on site and then transported to local hospital by emergency transport vehicle (ETV).

**Injury:** Amputation injury to fingers

**Core Activity:** Cable or hi-lead logging

**Location:** Lower Mainland

**Date of Incident:** 2019-Oct

A rigging slinger (worker on a cable yarder) was preparing to change the location of the running lines of the yarder. The worker was within arm's reach of the haulback line when the line unexpectedly started moving. The worker's hand contacted the moving haulback line and was pulled into the haulback block (pulley). The worker received first aid onsite, and was then transported by employer's vehicle on a resource road to meet emergency services, who transported the worker to hospital.

**Injury:** Close call

**Core Activity:** Integrated forest management

**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.

**Date of Incident:** 2019-Oct

During a grapple yarding operation, a guy line extension (1¼ inch diameter) failed in the middle of the eye. The grapple yarder toppled over onto the left side while remaining on the landing. The operator escaped through the rooftop secondary exit.

**Injury:** Fractured ankle, injuries to upper body

**Core Activity:** Integrated forest management

**Location:** Interior B.C.

**Date of Incident:** 2019-Sep

During a downhill yarding operation, a worker was struck by a log. The worker was transported to hospital by emergency transport vehicle (ETV).

**Injury:** Concussion, soft tissue injury to legs

**Core Activity:** Integrated forest management

**Location:** Lower Mainland

**Date of Incident:** 2019-Sep

A worker was operating a tracked log loader to hoe chuck logs on a 42% slope. The loader lost traction and slid 8-10 m down the slope, flipped over backward, and came to rest on its cab. The worker, who was using a seat belt, was able to escape from the cab and was transported to hospital in the employer's vehicle.

**Injury:** Close call

**Core Activity:** Ground skidding, horse logging, or log loading

**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.

**Date of Incident:** 2019-Sep

The operator of a hoe forwarder was forwarding logs on a steep slope (greater than 40%) when a landslide occurred. The landslide carried the machine downslope about 92 m; it came to rest on its tracks up against a stump. The landslide continued downslope about another 92 m. The operator, who was not injured, exited the cab via the escape hatch and was able to walk out to the road above.

**Injury:** Close call

**Core Activity:** Logging road construction or maintenance / Integrated forest management

**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.

**Date of Incident:** 2019-Sep

An excavator was being used to prepare a section of new logging road for blasting. A landslide (about 15 m wide by 30 m long) started and carried the excavator downslope about 30 m. The excavator came to rest on its side next to a lake. Two fallers assisted the operator, who was not injured, to exit the cab.

**Injury:** Concussion, fractured ribs

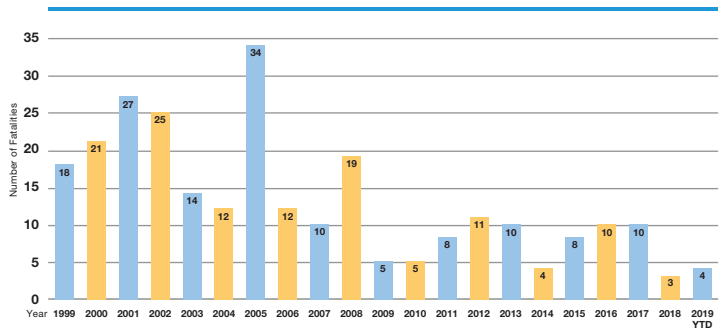
**Core Activity:** Manual tree falling and bucking

**Location:** Interior B.C.

**Date of Incident:** 2019-Sep

A worker was operating an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) on a forestry access road. The ATV struck a cross-ditch, which resulted in the worker applying the throttle and losing control of the ATV. The worker was thrown from the ATV.

WSBC Accepted Harvesting Work-related Death Claims



This information represents the number of work-related deaths by year in BC, up until November, 2019

**Injury:** Multiple injuries

**Core Activity:** Cable or hi-lead logging

**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.

**Date of Incident:** 2019-Aug

A worker (rigging slinger) was standing on a stump during a cable yarding operation. The worker slipped off of the stump, fell about 2.4 m, and landed on a broken branch sticking out of a log on the ground. The worker was transported to hospital by ambulance.

#### MANUFACTURING

**Injury:** Close call

**Core Activity:** Pressed wood product manufacture

**Location:** Northern B.C.

**Date of Incident:** 2019-Oct

A fire started in the wood fibre belt drying system at a pellet plant. Workers immediately contacted the local fire department, who extinguished the fire. The fire caused extensive damage to the interior of the belt dryer system, blower, and exhaust stack. No workers were injured.

**Injury:** Undetermined injuries

**Core Activity:** Sawmill

**Location:** Lower Mainland

**Date of Incident:** 2019-Sep

A worker was trying to hang a come-along on a ring log debarker when two of the gear sprockets closed together, trapping the worker. The injured worker was freed by co-workers.

**Injury:** Lacerated fingers

**Core Activity:** Shake or shingle mill

**Location:** Lower Mainland

**Date of Incident:** 2019-Sep

A worker was cutting cedar shingles using a shingle saw (head saw). The worker was injured while trying to reposition the cedar block.

**Injury:** Amputation injury to finger

**Core Activity:** Wooden component manufacture

**Location:** Interior B.C.

**Date of Incident:** 2019-Aug

A worker shut down an electrically powered saw to check for broken drive V-belts. After opening the access panel, the worker lost balance and contacted the still-rotating drive pulley. ⚠️