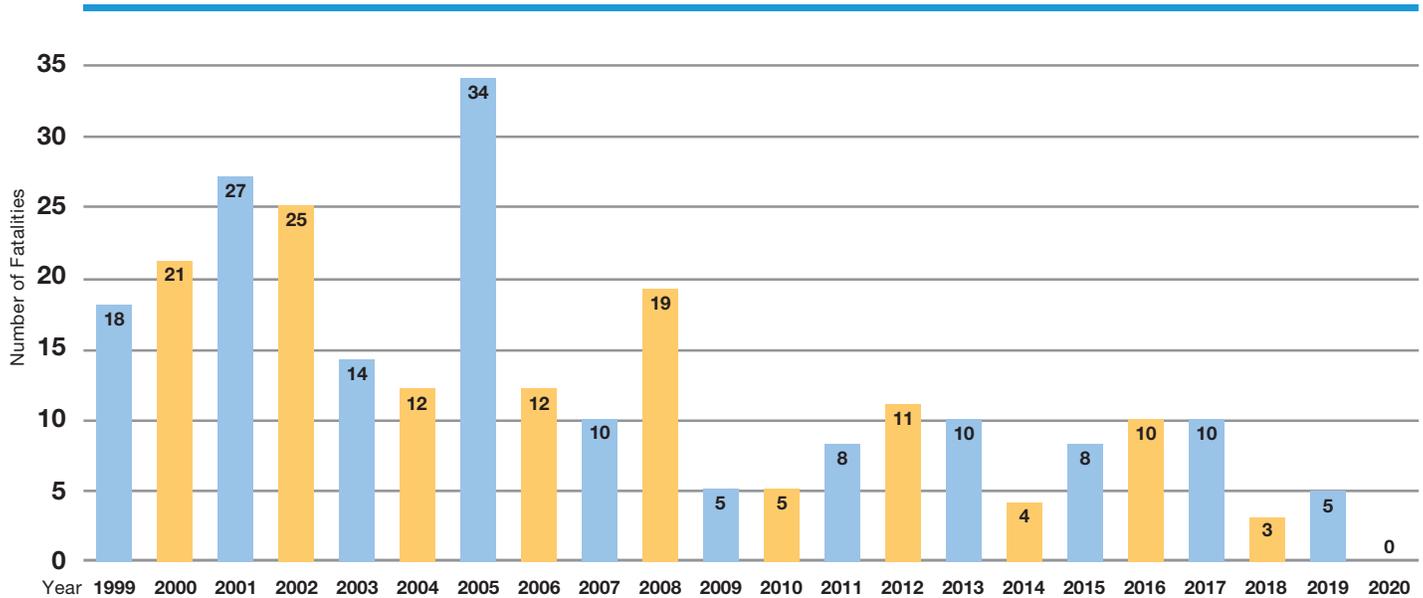




For 2020 year-to-date, there have been no work-related deaths in the BC forestry industry.

WSBC Accepted Harvesting Work-related Death Claims



This information represents the number of work-related deaths by year in BC, up until July, 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: Lacerated arm
Core Activity: Integrated forest management
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC
Date of Incident: 2020-Jul
 A young worker was climbing a small-diameter maple tree to install the rigging line. The worker was at a height of about 35 feet and was starting to clear limbs with a chainsaw when the chainsaw kicked back.

Injury: Lacerations (1 worker); Contusions (1 worker)
Core Activity: Tree services (not directly related to the forestry industry) / Manual tree falling and bucking
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2020-Jun
 Near a remote worksite, two workers were riding on a single-seat all-terrain vehicle (ATV) on a narrow, off-camber trail. The ATV went off the trail and rolled about 30 metres down a steep (80-90%) slope, landing on railway tracks. The workers, who were thrown from the ATV, fell about 10 metres down the bank. Emergency services responded and transported both injured workers to hospital.

Injury: Close call
Core Activity: Logging road construction / Integrated forest management / Field work services
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC
Date of Incident: 2020-Jun
 An excavator was constructing a logging road in a remote forestry operation. The road construction activities caused a landslide estimated to be 30 metres

(100 feet) wide and 60 metres (200 feet) long. The excavator was caught in the landslide. The excavator operator jumped out of the excavator and escaped with no reported injuries.

Injury: Lacerated arm
Core Activity: Integrated forest management
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2020-May
 A worker was clearing out the brush of a cedar tree using a chainsaw. The saw contacted a branch and kicked back, striking the worker. The injured worker was transported by helicopter to the base of the operation, where an ambulance was waiting to transport the worker to hospital.

Injury: Multiple fractures
Core Activity: Helicopter logging / Manual tree falling and bucking / Integrated forest management
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC
Date of Incident: 2020-Apr
 A worker of the hill crew in a remote heli-logging operation was cutting (splitting)

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+ Work-Related Deaths & Injuries

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a large-diameter log into halves for a helicopter to fly. When finishing the cut of the log, the worker lost balance and one of the two halves of the split log struck the worker. The worker was attended to by on-site first aid, flown out by helicopter, and transported to hospital by ambulance.

MANUFACTURING

Injury: Fractured leg
Core Activity: Planing mill
Location: BC
Date of Incident: 2020-Jul
A millwright had finished changing out the blades on a wood-chipper and powered up the machine. An upset condition caused the millwright to turn off the wood-chipper and try to open the access door while the chipper was still rotating. It appears that the access door was struck by the chipper blades and thrown against the millwright.

Injury: Internal injuries
Core Activity: Sawmill
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2020-Jul
A worker was conducting maintenance on a lumber sorting machine. The worker fell about 17 feet landing on the concrete and take-away chain.

Injury: Close call
Core Activity: Pressed wood product manufacture
Location: Northern BC
Date of Incident: 2020-Jun
An undetermined event that began near the hammermill at a pellet plant resulted in a fire. The local fire department responded and extinguished the fire that extended from the fan stacks, bed dryer and conveyor system to the hammermill. Some explosion vents in the conveyor delivery system deployed during this event. The bed dryer and two of four fan stacks were destroyed. No injuries were reported.

Injury: Close call
Core Activity: Sawmill
Location: Interior BC
Date of Incident: 2020-Jun
A fire occurred on the lower section of a utility pole in the outdoor log yard of a sawmill. The local fire department put out the fire, and the utility company disconnected and isolated the electrical energy. The cause of the fire is being investigated.

Injury: Close Call
Core Activity: Sawmill
Location: Interior BC
Date of Incident: 2020-May
A fire occurred in the dust silo that feeds the cogeneration plant. No injuries or property damage were reported.

Injury: Close call
Core Activity: Pressed wood product manufacture
Location: Interior BC
Date of Incident: 2020-May
A fire occurred on a conveyor, causing significant damage to a vent stack. The local fire department responded and extinguished the fire.

Injury: Close call
Core Activity: Sawmill
Location: Interior BC
Date of Incident: 2020-May
A flash fire ignited in a sawmill when an arbor bearing of an eight-inch gang saw catastrophically failed. The fire started when shrapnel from the failed drive components cut a one-inch high-pressure hydraulic oil line and oil sprayed onto an ignition source. Workers were evacuated from the building and no injuries were reported. The heat detectors, alarm and fire suppression system fitted in the edger saw room functioned as designed and the fire was suppressed by the automated system. The local fire department responded and secured the fire scene.

Injury: Burns
Core Activity: Sawmill
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2020-May
A worker was operating a front-end loader when it suddenly caught fire. The worker escaped the loader but sustained burns.

TRANSPORTATION

Injury: Soft tissue injuries to leg
Core Activity: Log hauling / Integrated forest management
Location: Interior BC
Date of Incident: 2020-Jun
A loaded logging truck left the road and rolled over and down a steep embankment. The driver's leg was pinned until workers were able to free the driver from the truck. The driver was treated by the first aid attendant on site, then transported to hospital by ambulance.

Injury Type: Undetermined injuries
Core Activity: Log booming or marine log salvage / Integrated forestry management
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC
Date of Incident: 2020-Jun
During a log-booming operation along a river, a log bundle got hung up on a boomstick. A boom boat (side winder) moved toward the bundle to release it. Reverse current (back-eddy) and river velocity pushed the boom boat against and under the hung-up bundle. The submerged operator was able to grab a cable and pull himself onto the boomstick. A tugboat operator rescued the boom boat operator.

Injury: Close call
Core Activity: Log hauling / Wooden post or pole manufacture
Location: Interior BC
Date of Incident: 2020-Feb
A logging truck driver used a trailer loader (hoist) to load an empty trailer back onto the truck, then pulled away without detaching the hook from the trailer loader. The trailer was pulled off the truck, swung back, and struck the support structure of the trailer loader, causing significant structural damage and shock-loading to the trailer loader.

Injury: Fractures and lacerations (1 worker)
Core Activity: Log hauling
Location: Interior BC
Date of Incident: 2020-Jan
An empty log hauler was travelling on a forest service road to a logging operation. The log hauler failed to negotiate a corner and rolled over an embankment, injuring the driver. The prime contractor for the logging operation transported the driver to hospital.

Injury: Close call
Core Activity: Cable or hi-lead logging
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC
Date of Incident: 2020-Apr
A loaded off-highway low-bed truck carrying a line loader contacted and brought down all three phases of a 138kV power line. A two-pole cross-member structure was severely damaged. 🚫