

## **FATALITIES RESULTING FROM WORKERS BEING STRUCK BY OBJECTS**

Nine percent of the fatally injured workers were struck by various objects, such as falling trees, machinery or vehicles that had slipped into gear, and various building materials. Fatalities resulting from being struck by falling objects were at their highest level since the fatality census began in 1992. An increase in the number of workers killed by falling trees and tree limbs in 1996 was partly responsible for the higher level that year.

Examples of such events include workers being struck by a tree being cut down, a crane swinging around, or a running chain saw that slips out of a worker's hand. While this category does not include transportation incidents, it includes instances where a vehicle coasts, rolls, slips into gear, or falls off a jack.

Over three-fifths of the "struck by" fatalities resulted from the worker being struck by a falling object, such as a tree being cut down, a cinder block falling from a construction scaffold, or a vehicle falling off a jack during repair. One-tenth of the "struck by" fatalities resulted from flying objects, such as when an object becomes dislodged or is discharged from a machine. Examples of these types of incidents include a bullet accidentally discharging from a gun while being cleaned or a metal fragment dislodging from a lathe. Nearly one-tenth of the "struck by" fatalities occurred when the worker was struck by a rolling object on the floor or ground level, such as a tractor that is being jump-started slipping into gear.

Trees and tree branches accounted for about one-fourth of the objects which fatally struck workers, more than any other single source. Machines and vehicles together accounted for another one-fourth of the objects, and building materials, such as lumber, bricks, and pipes, accounted for about one-tenth.

Almost a third of the fatalities occurred to workers in various manufacturing industries, half of which were in logging. Agriculture, forestry, and fishing and construction each accounted for almost one-fifth of the struck by fatalities.

## STRUCK BY OBJECT

Job-related fatalities of workers struck by objects, by selected characteristics, 1996

	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Total .....	579	100	Total .....	579	100
Employee status			Occupation		
Wage and salary workers .....	445	77	Managerial and professional specialty occupations .....	26	4
Self-employed .....	134	23	Executive, administrative, and managerial jobs .....	21	4
			Technical, sales, and administrative support jobs .....	18	3
Gender			Service occupations .....	9	2
Men .....	565	98	Farming, forestry, and fishing occupations .....	191	33
Women .....	14	2	Farm operators and managers .....	55	9
			Farmers, except horticultural .....	44	8
Age			Managers, farms, except horticultural .....	10	2
Under 16 years .....	3	1	Other agricultural and related occupations .....	35	6
16 to 19 years .....	22	4	Farm workers .....	13	2
20 to 24 years .....	40	7	Groundskeepers and gardeners, except farm .....	18	3
25 to 34 years .....	117	20	Forestry and logging occupations .....	99	17
35 to 44 years .....	144	25	Timber cutting and logging occupations .....	90	16
45 to 54 years .....	110	19	Precision production, craft, and repair occupations .....	118	20
55 to 64 years .....	88	15	Mechanics and repairers .....	41	7
65 years and over .....	54	9	Mechanics and repairers, except supervisors .....	40	7
			Vehicle/mobile equip. mechanics and repairers .....	28	5
Race and Hispanic origin			Construction trades .....	47	8
White .....	494	85	Carpenters and apprentices .....	13	2
Black .....	56	10	Extractive occupations .....	19	3
Asian and Pacific Islander .....	7	1	Precision production occupations .....	11	2
Other .....	11	2	Operators, fabricators, and laborers .....	208	36
Unspecified .....	11	2	Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors .....	43	7
Hispanic .....	58	10	Welders and cutters .....	13	2
			Transportation and material moving occupations .....	84	15
Event			Truck drivers .....	44	8
Struck by falling object .....	402	69	Material moving equipment operators .....	39	7
Struck by flying object .....	58	10	Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators .....	13	2
Struck by dislodged flying object, particle .....	28	5	Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers .....	81	14
Struck by discharged object or substance .....	24	4	Construction laborers .....	40	7
Struck by swinging or slipping object .....	36	6	Laborers, except construction .....	29	5
Struck by slipping handheld object .....	12	2	Military .....	6	1
Struck by rolling, sliding objects on floor or ground level .....	54	9	Other or unspecified .....	3	1
Other or unspecified .....	29	5			
			Industry		
Primary source <sup>1</sup>			Private industry .....	552	95
Containers .....	44	8	Agriculture, forestry, and fishing .....	102	18
Bundles, bales .....	17	3	Agricultural production, crops .....	45	8
Machinery .....	77	13	General farms, primarily crop .....	28	5
Agricultural and garden machinery .....	13	2	Agricultural production, livestock .....	10	2
Construction, logging, and mining machinery .....	22	4	Agricultural services .....	32	6
Material handling machinery .....	31	5	Landscape and horticultural services .....	29	5
Cranes .....	11	2	Ornamental shrub and tree services .....	25	4
Elevators .....	10	2	Mining .....	27	5
Parts and materials .....	127	22	Coal mining .....	11	2
Building materials--solid elements .....	72	12	Oil and gas extraction .....	12	2
Pipes, ducts, tubing .....	22	4	Construction .....	110	19
Structural metal materials .....	29	5	General building contractors .....	17	3
Wood, lumber .....	10	2	Heavy construction, except building .....	26	4
Machine, tool, and electric parts .....	21	4	Heavy construction, except highway .....	23	4
Vehicle and mobile equipment parts .....	16	3	Special trade contractors .....	67	12
Persons, plants, animals, and minerals .....	181	31	Miscellaneous special trade contractors .....	38	7
Trees, logs .....	167	29	Excavation work .....	12	2
Structures and surfaces .....	26	4	Manufacturing .....	186	32
Tools, instruments, and equipment .....	23	4	Lumber and wood products .....	116	20
Vehicles .....	78	13	Logging .....	104	18
Truck .....	36	6	Stone, clay, and glass products .....	10	2
Tractor .....	12	2	Fabricated metal products .....	17	3
Other sources .....	23	3	Transportation and public utilities .....	48	8
Bullets .....	12	2	Trucking and warehousing .....	29	5
			Trucking and courier services, except air .....	26	4
			Wholesale trade .....	23	4
			Retail trade .....	17	3
			Finance, insurance, and real estate .....	4	1
			Services .....	31	5
			Other or unspecified .....	4	1
			Government	27	5
			Federal .....	11	2
			Local .....	11	2

<sup>1</sup> Identifies an object, vehicle, or equipment that was involved in a fatal work injury producing event.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 1996

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.