



General Information: (312) 353-1880

For Immediate Release:

Media Contact: Paul LaPorte

Monday, October 22, 2007

(312) 353-1138

Internet: <http://www.bls.gov/ro5>

## **SOUTH DAKOTA WORKPLACE FATALITIES, 2006**

Fatal work injuries in South Dakota totaled 37 in 2006, an increase of 6 from the previous year, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Jay A. Mousa noted that the fatality count in South Dakota peaked in 1999 with 46 work-related deaths after reaching a low of 23 just two years earlier. (The fatality census has been conducted annually since 1992.) The most frequent types of fatal workplace events in the State in 2006 were highway crashes (11), nonhighway incidents (6), and being struck by objects (5). Taken together, these three events<sup>1</sup> accounted for nearly three-fifths of the workplace fatalities in South Dakota.

Highway incidents (referred to here as highway crashes, but includes non-collision incidents as well) accounted for more on-the-job fatalities than any other event in both South Dakota and the nation. The number of fatal injuries from highway crashes in the State in 2006, which was the same as in 2005, was the highest recorded for this event since the census' inception. A low of 4 fatal work injuries from this event occurred in 1994. (See table A.) Work-related deaths due to highway crashes accounted for 30 percent of the fatalities in South Dakota compared to 23 percent of the national total in 2006.

Nonhighway incidents such as on a farm or industrial premises, was the second leading cause of work-related deaths in the State. The six fatalities accounted for 16 percent of all South Dakota's fatally injured on the job in 2006. Nonhighway incidents accounted for 6 percent of fatalities nationwide.

The five workplace fatalities resulting from being struck by an object accounted for 14 percent of the State's fatality count. Nationwide, this event accounted for 10 percent of the total in 2006.

Other work-related fatalities in South Dakota included caught in or compressed by equipment or objects (4) and assaults by animals (3).

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<sup>1</sup> Fatal events are categorized into several major groupings including transportation incidents, assaults and violent acts, and falls. These major groups are further broken down into more detailed groups. For example, transportation incidents includes highway incidents and aircraft incidents; assaults and violent acts includes homicides and suicides; and falls includes falls to a lower level (as from a roof or ladder) and falls on the same level (as from grease on a floor or ice on a sidewalk).

Table A. Fatal occupational injuries in South Dakota by selected event groups, 1992-2006

Year	Total fatalities	Highway crashes		Nonhighway incidents		Struck by object	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	28	9	32	--	--	5	18
1993	28	5	18	--	--	4	14
1994	31	4	13	4	13	--	--
1995	26	5	19	--	--	--	--
1996	32	9	28	5	16	--	--
1997	23	8	35	--	--	6	26
1998	28	9	32	--	--	3	11
1999	46	9	20	5	11	3	7
2000	35	7	20	6	17	5	14
2001	35	6	17	6	17	--	--
2002	36	5	14	5	14	3	8
2003	28	5	18	4	14	6	21
2004	24	7	29	3	13	--	--
2005	31	11	35	3	10	4	13
2006	37	11	30	6	16	5	14

Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria.

Nationwide, 5,703 fatal work injuries were reported in 2006, down slightly from the revised total of 5,734 fatal work injuries recorded in 2005. The count for 2006 was the third lowest annual total recorded by the fatality census, which has been conducted yearly since 1992. (See table B.) The 2006 count of 1,329 fatal highway crashes was the lowest annual total since 1993. Highway crashes in 2006 accounted for nearly one out of every four fatal work injuries and continued to lead all other events in the frequency of on-the-job fatalities. Fatal work injuries involving falls to a lower level increased 10 percent in 2006 after a sharp decrease in 2005. The 2006 total of 728 fatal falls to a lower level was the second highest since the fatality census began. The number of workers who were fatally injured from being struck by objects was lower in 2006, after increasing for the last three years. The 583 fatalities resulting from being struck by objects in 2006 represented a 4 percent decline from the 2005 total.

Workplace homicides decreased 9 percent to 516 in 2006, the lowest annual total ever reported by the fatality census. Overall, workplace homicides have decreased more than 50 percent from the series high in 1994.

### **Key characteristics of workplace fatalities in South Dakota in 2006:**

- Men accounted for 89 percent of the work-related fatalities in the State with 33 deaths. Transportation incidents, which include highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail, accounted for almost one-half of these fatal injuries and contact with objects and equipment accounted for over one-fourth. (See table 2.)
- In South Dakota, 92 percent of those who died from a workplace injury were white non-Hispanics.

- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—accounted for 49 percent of the State’s work-related fatalities in 2006; 46 percent were 55 years or older. Nationally, those 25 to 54 years accounted for 64 percent of the fatally injured and those 55 years and older, 27 percent.
- Fifty-one percent of workers killed on the job in South Dakota worked for wages and salaries; the rest were self-employed.
- The agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry sector had the largest number of fatalities (17) followed by transportation and warehousing (5), and construction (4). Contact with objects and equipment and transportation incidents were the most frequent types of fatal events in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry. Transportation incidents accounted for all of the fatalities in transportation and warehousing. (See table 3.)
- The occupational group with the highest number of fatalities was management with 15 work-related deaths. Managers of farms and ranches accounted for 14 of the 15 fatally injured. Transportation and material moving occupations had six work-related deaths and construction and extraction jobs, five. Transportation incidents were the most frequent event resulting in death in all three of these occupational groups. (See table 4.)

Table B. Fatal occupational injuries in the United States by selected event groups, 1992-2006

Year	Total fatalities	Highway crashes		Struck by object		Nonhighway incidents	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	6,217	1,158	19	557	9	436	7
1993	6,331	1,242	20	565	9	392	6
1994	6,632	1,343	20	591	9	409	6
1995	6,275	1,346	21	547	9	387	6
1996	6,202	1,346	22	582	9	374	6
1997	6,238	1,393	22	579	9	377	6
1998	6,055	1,442	24	520	9	388	6
1999	6,054	1,496	25	585	10	352	6
2000	5,920	1,365	23	571	10	399	7
2001 <sup>1</sup>	5,915	1,409	24	553	9	326	6
2002	5,534	1,373	25	505	9	323	6
2003	5,575	1,353	24	531	10	347	6
2004	5,764	1,398	24	602	10	338	6
2005 <sup>2</sup>	5,734	1,437	25	607	11	340	6
2006	5,703	1,329	23	583	10	342	6

<sup>1</sup>Totals for 2001 exclude fatalities due to the events of September 11, 2001 which claimed the lives of 2,886 persons in work status.

<sup>2</sup>The BLS news release issued August 10, 2006, reported a total of 5,702 fatal work injuries for calendar year 2005. Since then, an additional 32 job-related fatalities were identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 2005 to 5,734.

### Additional data available

Additional Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data are available from the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm>. Data tables for 2006 are available for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and selected metropolitan areas. Detailed data may be accessed through the online query system located at <http://data.bls.gov/PDO/outside.jsp?survey=fi>. For additional information or assistance, please contact the Midwest Information Office in Chicago at (312) 353-1880, menu option 0.

## TECHNICAL NOTE

### Background of the program

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, part of the BLS occupational safety and health statistics program, compiles a count of all fatal work injuries occurring in the U.S. in each calendar year. The program uses diverse State and Federal data sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries. Information about each workplace fatality (industry, occupation, and other worker characteristics; equipment being used; and circumstances of the event) is obtained by cross-referencing source documents, such as death certificates, workers' compensation records, news accounts, and reports to Federal and State agencies. This method assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible.

### Definitions

For a fatality to be included in the census, the decedent must have been employed (that is working for pay, compensation, or profit) at the time of the event, engaged in a legal work activity, or present at the site of the incident as a requirement of his or her job. Fatalities to volunteer and unpaid family workers who perform the same duties and functions as paid workers are also included in the counts. These criteria are generally broader than those used by Federal and State agencies administering specific laws and regulations. (Fatalities that occur during a person's normal commute to or from work are excluded from the census counts.)

Data presented in this release include deaths occurring in 2006 that resulted from traumatic occupational injuries. An injury is defined as any wound or damage to the body resulting from acute exposure to energy, such as heat, electricity, or impact from a crash or fall, or from the absence of such essentials as heat or oxygen caused by a specific event or incident within a single workday or shift. Included are open wounds, intracranial and internal injuries, heatstroke, hypothermia, asphyxiation, acute poisonings resulting from short-term exposures limited to the worker's shift, suicides and homicides, and work injuries listed as underlying or contributory causes of death.

Information on work-related fatal illnesses is not reported in the BLS census and is excluded from the attached tables because the latency period of many occupational illnesses and the difficulty of linking illnesses to work exposures make identification of a universe problematic.

### Measurement techniques and limitations

Data for the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries are compiled from various Federal, State, and local administrative sources—including death certificates, workers' compensation reports and claims, reports to various regulatory agencies, medical examiner reports, and police reports—as well as news and other non-governmental reports. Diverse sources are used because studies have shown that no single source captures all job-related fatalities. Source documents are matched so that each fatality is counted only once. To ensure that a fatality occurred while the decedent was at work, information is verified from two or more independent source documents or from a source document and a follow-up questionnaire. Approximately 30 data elements are collected, coded, and tabulated, including information about the worker, the fatal incident, and the machinery or equipment involved.

### Federal/State agency coverage

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether the decedent was working in a job covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or other Federal or State agencies or was outside the scope of regulatory coverage. Thus, any comparison between the BLS fatality census counts and those released by other agencies should take into account the different coverage requirements and definitions being used by each agency.

Several Federal and State agencies have jurisdiction over workplace safety and health. OSHA and affiliated agencies in States with approved safety programs cover the largest portion of the nation's workers. However, injuries and illnesses occurring in certain industries or activities, such as coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and highway, water, rail, and air transportation, are excluded from OSHA coverage because they are covered by other Federal agencies, such as the Mine Safety and Health Administration and various agencies within the Department of Transportation.

Fatalities occurring among several other groups of workers are generally not covered by any Federal or State agencies. These groups include self-employed and unpaid family workers, which accounted for about 18 percent of the fatalities; laborers on small farms, accounting for about 1 percent of the fatalities; and State and local government employees in States without OSHA-approved safety programs, which accounted for about 4 percent. (Approximately one-half of the States have approved OSHA safety programs, which cover State and local government employees.)

## Acknowledgments

BLS appreciates the efforts of all Federal, State, local, and private sector agencies that submitted source documents used to identify fatal work injuries. Among these agencies are the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; the National Transportation Safety Board; the U.S. Coast Guard; the Mine Safety and Health Administration; the Employment Standards Administration (Federal Employees' Compensation and Longshore and Harbor Workers' divisions); the Department of Energy; State vital statistics registrars, coroners, and medical examiners; State departments of health, labor and industries and workers' compensation agencies; State and local police departments; and State farm bureaus.

**Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure and major private industry<sup>1</sup> sector, South Dakota, 2006**

Event or exposure <sup>2</sup>	Total fatalities (number)	Goods producing				Service providing							
		Total goods producing	Natural resources and mining <sup>3</sup>	Construction	Manufacturing	Total service providing	Trade, transportation, and utilities	Information	Financial activities	Professional and business services	Education and health services	Leisure and hospitality	Other services
Total.....	37	22	17	4	--	12	8	--	--	--	--	--	--
Contact with objects and equipment.....	10	7	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Struck by object.....	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Struck by rolling, sliding objects on floor or ground level.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects.....	4	4	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation accidents.....	19	8	6	--	--	9	6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Highway accident.....	11	--	--	--	--	7	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Vehicle struck stationary object, equipment on side of road.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Noncollision accident.....	6	--	--	--	--	3	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jack-knifed or overturned--no collision.....	6	--	--	--	--	3	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nonhighway accident, except rail, air, water.....	6	6	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Noncollision accident.....	6	6	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Overturned.....	5	5	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Assaults and violent acts.....	4	4	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Assaults by animals.....	3	3	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Assaults by animals, n.e.c.....	3	3	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

<sup>1</sup> Classified according to the North American Industry Classification System, 2002.

<sup>2</sup> Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

<sup>3</sup> Includes fatalities at all establishments categorized as Mining (Sector 21) in the North American Industry Classification System, 2002, including establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in Oil and Gas Extraction.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Data for 2006 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by worker characteristics and event or exposure, South Dakota, 2006

Worker characteristics	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure <sup>1</sup>					
		Transportation incidents <sup>2</sup>	Assaults and violent acts <sup>3</sup>	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful sub- stances or environ- ments	Fires and explosions
Total.....	37	19	4	10	--	--	--
<b>Employee Status</b>							
Wage and Salary Workers <sup>4</sup> .....	19	12	--	5	--	--	--
Self-employed <sup>5</sup> .....	18	7	3	5	--	--	--
<b>Gender</b>							
Men.....	33	16	4	9	--	--	--
Women.....	4	3	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Age</b>							
Under 16 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
16 to 17 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
18 to 19 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
20 to 24 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
25 to 34 years.....	6	4	--	--	--	--	--
35 to 44 years.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
45 to 54 years.....	9	6	--	--	--	--	--
55 to 64 years.....	10	4	--	4	--	--	--
65 years and over.....	7	3	--	3	--	--	--
<b>Race or Ethnic Origin<sup>6</sup></b>							
White, non-Hispanic.....	34	17	4	9	--	--	--
Black, non-Hispanic.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hispanic or Latino.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
American Indian or Alaska Native.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Asian.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

<sup>1</sup> Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

<sup>2</sup> Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

<sup>3</sup> Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

<sup>4</sup> May include volunteers and workers receiving other types of compensation.

<sup>5</sup> Includes self-employed workers, owners of unincorporated businesses and farms, paid and unpaid family workers, and may include some owners of incorporated businesses or members of partnerships.

<sup>6</sup> Persons identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. The race

categories shown exclude data for Hispanics and Latinos.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. Data for 2006 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries



Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry and event or exposure, South Dakota, 2006

Industry <sup>1</sup>	NAICS code <sup>1</sup>	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure <sup>2</sup>					
			Transportation incidents <sup>3</sup>	Assaults and violent acts <sup>4</sup>	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
<b>Total</b> .....		37	19	4	10	--	--	--
<b>Private Industry</b> .....		34	17	4	9	--	--	--
<b>Goods Producing</b> .....		22	8	4	7	--	--	--
<b>Natural Resources and Mining</b> .....		17	6	4	5	--	--	--
<b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting</b> .....	11	17	6	4	5	--	--	--
Crop Production.....	111	6	--	--	3	--	--	--
Animal Production.....	112	9	4	3	--	--	--	--
Cattle Ranching and Farming.....	1121	5	3	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Construction</b> .....		4	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Construction</b> .....	23	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Specialty Trade Contractors.....	238	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Service providing</b> .....		12	9	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Trade, Transportation, and Utilities</b> .....		8	6	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Transportation and Warehousing</b> .....	48-49	5	5	--	--	--	--	--
Truck Transportation.....	484	3	3	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Government<sup>5</sup></b> .....		3	--	--	--	--	--	--

<sup>1</sup> Classified according to the North American Industry Classification System, 2002.

<sup>2</sup> Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

<sup>3</sup> Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

<sup>4</sup> Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

<sup>5</sup> Includes fatalities at all establishments categorized as Mining (Sector 21) in the North American Industry Classification System, 2002, including establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in Oil and Gas Extraction.

<sup>6</sup> Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. Data for 2006 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation and event or exposure, South Dakota, 2006

Occupation <sup>1</sup>	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure <sup>2</sup>					
		Transportation incidents <sup>3</sup>	Assaults and violent acts <sup>4</sup>	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful sub- stances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total.....	37	19	4	10	--	--	--
Management occupations.....	15	6	--	5	--	--	--
Other management occupations.....	15	6	--	5	--	--	--
Agricultural managers.....	14	5	--	5	--	--	--
Farmers and ranchers.....	14	5	--	5	--	--	--
Construction and extraction occupations.....	5	3	--	--	--	--	--
Construction trades workers.....	5	3	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	6	6	--	--	--	--	--
Motor vehicle operators.....	6	6	--	--	--	--	--
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers.....	6	6	--	--	--	--	--
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer.....	5	5	--	--	--	--	--

<sup>1</sup> Based on the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification System.

<sup>2</sup> Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

<sup>3</sup> Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

<sup>4</sup> Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately.

Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. Data for 2006 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries