



Crane-Related Occupational Fatalities

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Crane safety has been in the forefront of the news due to the recent crane accidents in Houston, New York City, Miami, and Las Vegas.

The most recent data are for 2006; in that year, there were 72 crane-related fatal occupational injuries, down from an average of 78 fatalities per year from 2003 to 2005. These include all fatalities where the source of the injury was a crane, the secondary source of the injury was a crane, or where the worker activity was operating a crane¹.

In 2006 there were no multiple fatality incidents involving cranes; however 6 fatalities in 2005 and 8 fatalities in 2004 were the result of multiple fatality incidents involving cranes.

In 2006, 30 crane-related fatalities were caused by being struck by falling objects. Only 9 of these fatalities were due to the crane striking them. The other workers were killed when an object the crane was transporting fell from the crane onto them.

Of the cranes that were specified in the fatality, mobile, truck, and rail mounted cranes, and overhead cranes represented the type of crane involved for the majority of fatalities. Overhead cranes typically have a hook-and-line mechanism on a horizontal beam that runs along two widely separated rails, whereas mobile cranes are usually cranes that are mounted and travel on top of mobile devices such as trucks or rail cars². In 2006, 26 fatalities involved mobile, truck or rail mounted cranes. Nineteen involved overhead cranes.

In 2006, workers employed as construction laborers (10 fatalities); electricians (8); and welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers (6) were the most likely to be killed in crane-related incidents. Crane and tower operators accounted for only 3 fatalities.

Twenty-six workers were killed in crane-related incidents while working in the private construction industry in 2006. Most notably, 6 died working in highway, street, and bridge construction. Manufacturing (17 fatalities) and mining (7) had the next largest number of fatalities in the private sector. Three workers employed by a government entity were killed in crane-related incidents in 2006.

From 2003 to 2006, the most fatal occupational injuries involving cranes occurred in Texas (42). Florida (27), California (25), and Louisiana (17) also had large numbers of crane-related occupational fatalities.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), July 30, 2008. Fatality data are from the 2006 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries. This Census is designed to count worker fatalities; therefore, all of the statistics in this fact sheet refer to on-the-job fatalities and do not include other persons who may have

¹ The source of injury or illness identifies the object, substance, bodily motion, or exposure which directly produced or inflicted the injury. The secondary source of injury identifies the object, substance, or person that generated the source of injury or that contributed to the event or exposure. The source and secondary source are based on the Occupational Injury and Illness Classification (OIICS) manual. More information on OIICS can be found here: <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshoiics.htm>. The worker activity describes what the worker was doing at the time of the fatal injury or exposure. Worker activity is an internal codes used by the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program.

² Definitions from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Overhead_crane

been killed in crane-related incidents. Fatal injury data for 2007 will be available in the upcoming release scheduled for August 2008.

More information is available from <http://www.bls.gov/iif> or by calling 202-691-6170.

Crane-related fatal occupational injuries¹, 1997-2006										
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Crane-related fatalities	97	93	80	90	72	80	62	87	85	72

¹ Includes fatalities where the source of injury was a crane, where the secondary source of the injury was a crane, or where the worker activity was operating a crane.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State, New York City, District of Columbia, and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

