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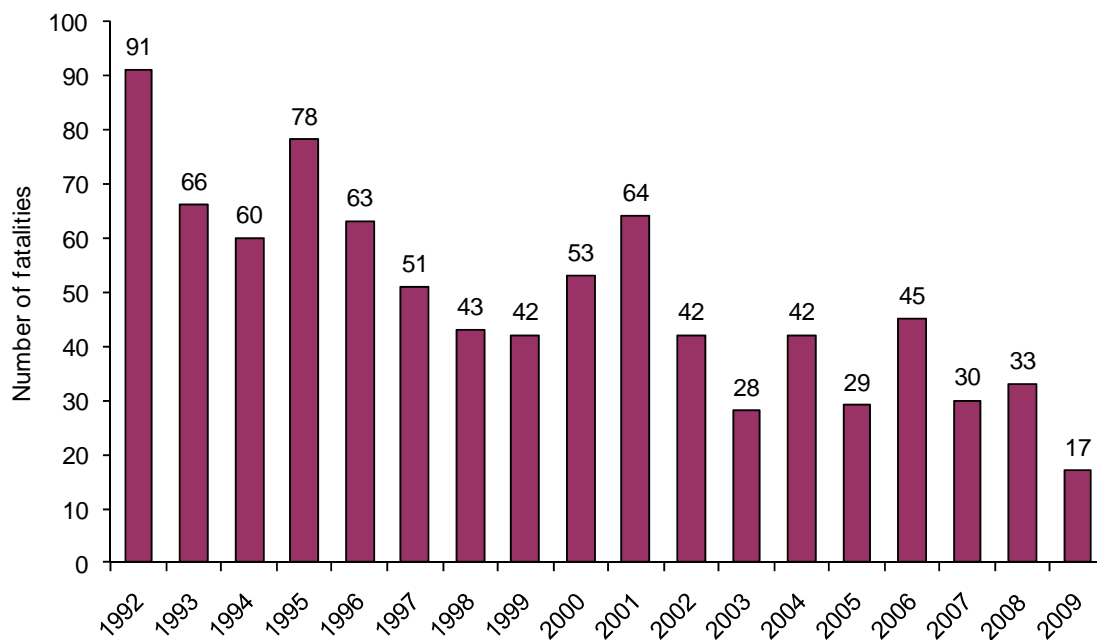
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WORKPLACE FATALITIES IN ALASKA - 2009

Fatal work injuries in Alaska totaled 17 in 2009, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that while these results are preliminary, the 2009 figure represents the smallest annual total since the program was first conducted in 1992. (See chart 1.) Final 2009 national and State results will be released in April 2011.

Chart 1. Total workplace fatalities in Alaska 1992-2009



Note: Totals for 2009 are preliminary

The most frequent events leading to workplace fatalities in Alaska in 2009 were water vehicle incidents (6) and being caught in or compressed by equipment or objects (3). (See table A.) Combined, these two events¹ accounted for over half of all work-related fatalities in the State.

¹ Fatal events are categorized into several major groupings including transportation incidents, assaults and violent acts, and falls, among others. These major groups are further broken down into more detailed groups. See the Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS) Manual at www.bls.gov/iif/osh/oic.htm for detailed information on the categories of fatalities used in the census.

Water vehicle incidents was the most prevalent type of on-the-job fatality in Alaska in 2009. The number of fatal injuries from this event in the State was lower from the 14 recorded in the previous year. Work-related deaths due to water vehicle incidents accounted for 35 percent of the State’s workplace fatalities in 2009; nationally, this event accounted for nearly 2 percent of work-related deaths. (See tables A and B.)

Occupational fatalities in Alaska from being caught in or compressed by equipment or objects accounted for 3 deaths in 2009, unchanged from the previous year. Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects represented 5 percent of all workplace fatalities nationwide.

Table A. Fatal occupational injuries in Alaska by selected event, 1992-2009

Year	Total Fatalities	Water vehicle incidents		Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	91	39	43	-	-
1993	66	21	32	-	-
1994	60	14	23	-	-
1995	78	22	28	-	-
1996	63	29	46	-	-
1997	51	8	16	-	-
1998	43	14	33	-	-
1999	42	16	38	-	-
2000	53	12	23	-	-
2001	64	25	39	-	-
2002	42	18	43	-	-
2003	28	6	21	-	-
2004	42	8	19	-	-
2005	29	19	66	-	-
2006	45	13	29	3	7
2007	30	6	20	-	-
2008	33	14	42	3	9
2009	17	6	35	3	18

¹ Totals for 2009 are preliminary.

Key characteristics of fatal work injuries in Alaska

- Men accounted for 94 percent (16) of the work-related fatalities in Alaska in 2009. Transportation incidents, which include highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle, accounted for 56 percent of deaths among male workers. Contact with objects and equipment made up 25 percent of male work-related fatalities. (See table 2.)
- Seventy-one percent of those who died from a workplace injury in Alaska were white, non-Hispanic (25). (Some worker fatalities were not identified by race or ethnic origin.) Transportation incidents were the most frequent type of fatality for white, non-Hispanic workers. (See table 2.)
- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—made up 56 percent or 11 of the State’s work-related fatalities in 2009. (See table 2.)
- Eighty-eight percent of workers killed on the job worked for wages and salaries (15). The leading cause of death for wage and salary workers was transportation incidents (7). (See table 2.)

- Two industry sectors accounted for nearly two-thirds of the workplace fatalities in the State – agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (7), and transportation and warehousing (4). (See table 3.)
- From an occupational perspective, farming, fishing, and forestry jobs had the highest number of workplace fatalities (7), followed by transportation and material moving occupations (6). Combined, these two occupational groups accounted for 76 percent of the fatal work injuries in Alaska. (See table 4.)

U.S. Workplace Fatalities

Nationwide, a total of 4,340 fatal work injuries were reported in 2009, a decrease of 17 percent from the revised total of 5,214 recorded in 2008. This preliminary figure represents the smallest annual total since the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program was first conducted in 1992. (See table B.) Economic factors played a major role in the national fatal work injury decrease as total hours worked declined during the year. Similarly, some industries that historically have accounted for a significant share of fatal work injuries, such as construction, experienced even larger declines in employment or hours worked.

Highway incidents in 2009 continued to lead all other events in the frequency of on-the-job fatalities, a position held since the program's inception in 1992. Still, the 2009 count of 882 fatal injuries from highway incidents was down 27 percent from the 2008 count of 1,215 fatal injuries.

Workplace homicides (521) declined 1 percent in 2009. Falls to a lower level decreased 13 percent (from 593 in 2008 to 518 in 2009). Around half of all fatal falls to a lower level occur in construction, so the decline in construction employment may account for the lower number of fatal work injuries due to falls to a lower level.

Workplace suicides (237) were down 10 percent nationwide in 2009 from the series high of 263 in 2008. However, the 2009 preliminary count of workplace suicides is the second highest annual total reported by the fatality census.

Thirty-seven states reported lower numbers of fatal work injuries in 2009 than in 2008, while 13 states and the District of Columbia reported higher numbers.

Table B. Fatal occupational injuries in the United States by selected event, 1992-2009

Year	Total Fatalities	Highway incidents		Homicides		Falls to a lower level		Struck by object or equipment	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	6,217	1,158	19	1,044	17	507	8	557	9
1993	6,331	1,242	20	1,074	17	534	8	565	9
1994	6,632	1,343	20	1,080	16	580	9	591	9
1995	6,275	1,346	21	1,036	17	578	9	547	9
1996	6,202	1,346	22	927	15	610	10	582	9
1997	6,238	1,393	22	860	14	653	10	579	9
1998	6,055	1,442	24	714	12	625	10	520	9
1999	6,054	1,496	25	651	11	634	10	585	10
2000	5,920	1,365	23	677	11	659	11	571	10
2001 ¹	5,915	1,409	24	643	11	700	12	553	9
2002	5,534	1,373	25	609	11	638	12	505	9
2003	5,575	1,353	24	632	11	604	11	531	10
2004	5,764	1,398	24	559	10	738	13	602	10
2005	5,734	1,437	25	567	10	664	12	607	11
2006	5,840	1,356	23	540	9	738	13	589	10
2007	5,657	1,414	25	628	11	746	13	504	9
2008 ²	5,214	1,215	23	526	10	593	11	520	10
2009 ³	4,340	882	20	521	12	518	12	414	10

¹ Totals for 2001 exclude fatalities due to September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

² Totals for 2008 are revised and final. The BLS national news release issued August 20, 2009, reported a total of 5,071 fatal work injuries for calendar year 2008. Since then, an additional 143 job-related fatalities were identified bringing the total job-related fatality count for 2008 to 5,214.

³ Data for 2009 are preliminary. Revised and final 2009 data are scheduled to be released April 2011.

Additional Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data are available on the BLS Website at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch9.pdf. Selected current and historical information is available in PDF format. Detailed data may be accessed from the query system at data.bls.gov/PDQ/outside.jsp?survey=fi or via an extensive collection of flat text files. For further information on the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, contact the West Information Office at 415-625-2270 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (PT).

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, federal, and independent data sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries. This assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible.

For technical information about the CFOI program, please go to the BLS Handbook of Methods on the BLS web site at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch9.pdf. The technical information and definitions for the CFOI Program are in Chapter 9, Part III of the BLS Handbook of Methods.

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.

Acknowledgments

BLS thanks the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development for their efforts in collecting accurate, comprehensive, and useful data on fatal work injuries. BLS also appreciates the efforts of all federal, State, local, and private sector entities 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 Federal Railroad Administration; 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.

Detailed statistics on fatal occupational injuries in Alaska can be obtained from tables at <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/tgs/2009/iiffi02.htm>.

TABLE 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure for all fatalities and major private industry ¹ sector, Alaska, 2009

Event or exposure ²	Total fatalities (number)	Goods producing				Service providing							
		Total goods producing	Natural resources and mining ³	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.....	17	8	8	--	--	8	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Contact with objects and equipment.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation accidents.....	9	5	5	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Water vehicle accident.....	6	5	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fall from ship, boat, n.e.c.....	5	5	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

¹ Industry data from 2003 to 2008 are classified using the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Industry data after 2008 are classified using the 2007 NAICS.

² Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

³ Includes fatalities at all establishments categorized as Mining (Sector 21) in the North American Industry Classification System, 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." CFOI fatality counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event. Data for 2009 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, Alaska, 2009

Worker characteristics	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure ¹					
		Transportation incidents ²	Assaults and violent acts ³	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total.....	17	9	--	4	--	--	--
Employee Status							
Wage and Salary Workers ⁴	15	7	--	4	--	--	--
Self-employed ⁵	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Gender							
Men.....	16	9	--	4	--	--	--
Women.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Age							
Under 16 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
16 to 17 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
18 to 19 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
20 to 24 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
25 to 34 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
35 to 44 years.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
45 to 54 years.....	7	--	--	--	--	--	--
55 to 64 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
65 years and over.....	3	3	--	--	--	--	--
Race or Ethnic Origin⁶							
White, non-Hispanic.....	12	5	--	4	--	--	--
Black, non-Hispanic.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hispanic or Latino.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
American Indian or Alaska Native.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Asian.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

¹ Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

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

³ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

⁴ May include volunteers and workers receiving other types of compensation.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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. CFOI fatality counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event. Data for 2009 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, Alaska, 2009

Industry ¹	NAICS code ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure ²					
			Transportation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total		17	9	--	4	--	--	--
Private Industry		16	8	--	4	--	--	--
Goods Producing		8	5	--	--	--	--	--
Natural Resources and Mining		8	5	--	--	--	--	--
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	11	7	5	--	--	--	--	--
Fishing, Hunting and Trapping.....	114	6	5	--	--	--	--	--
Fishing.....	1141	6	5	--	--	--	--	--
Fishing.....	11411	6	5	--	--	--	--	--
Finfish Fishing.....	114111	4	3	--	--	--	--	--
Service providing		8	3	--	--	--	--	--
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities		5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation and Warehousing	48-49	4	--	--	--	--	--	--

¹ Industry data from 2003 to 2008 are classified using the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Industry data after 2008 are classified using the 2007 NAICS.

² Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

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

⁴ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

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

⁶ 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. CFOI fatality counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event. Data for 2009 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, Alaska, 2009

Occupation ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure ²					
		Transportation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total.....	17	9	--	4	--	--	--
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.....	7	5	--	--	--	--	--
Fishing and hunting workers.....	6	5	--	--	--	--	--
Fishers and related fishing workers.....	6	5	--	--	--	--	--
Fishers and related fishing workers.....	6	5	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	6	--	--	--	--	--	--

¹ Based on the Standard Occupational Classification System.

² Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

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

⁴ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

⁵ Military specific occupations include fatalities to persons identified as resident armed forces regardless of individual occupation listed.

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

Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. CFOI fatality counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event. Data for 2009 are preliminary.

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