

Occupational Disease Fatalities Accepted by the Workers' Compensation Board

Year to date, numbers as of December 31, 2017

Occupational diseases are usually gradual in onset and result from exposure to work-related conditions that cause disease resulting in the workers' death. The fatalities listed represent disease claims that have been accepted by the Workers' Compensation Board as recorded by the month accepted.

Occupational disease fatalities consist mostly of recognized occupational disease, meaning disease known to be primarily or exclusively work-related e.g. asbestosis, black lung disease. Occupational diseases are frequently diagnosed many years after the initial or crucial exposure to the toxic substance, and it can often be very difficult to determine when the fatal exposure occurred. *The occupational disease category should not be interpreted to reflect present work site hazardous conditions or exposures.* Occupational disease also includes heart attacks suffered on the job. The most frequent occupational disease fatalities accepted by the Workers' Compensation Board in recent years concern exposure to asbestos fibres.

Industry Descriptions

Industry Sector	Description
Agriculture and Forestry	Includes greenhouses and market gardens, feed lots, timber management, logging and related woodlands operations including the trucking of logs.
Business, Personal and Professional Services	Includes building and grounds maintenance, financial services, restaurants, hotels and recreation facilities, security services, and professional services such as engineering.
Construction and Construction Trades	Includes the construction of houses, apartments, industrial plants, roads, bridges and pipelines, and specialized construction trades (e.g. plumbing, painting, roofing, and bricklaying).
Manufacturing and Processing	Involves manufacturing beyond the raw product: includes saw mills, pulp mills, food and beverages, metal fabrication, petrochemicals, and oil refineries.
Mining and Petroleum Development	Includes underground and open pit mining, oil sands mining and processing, operation of oil and gas wells, drilling and servicing of wells, and related services in the oil fields.
Public Administration, Education and Health Services	Includes the provincial government, all forms of local government, universities, colleges, business schools, libraries, hospitals and long term care facilities.
Transportation, Communication and Utilities	Includes public transportation (air, rail, bus), trucking, radio, television, live theatre, electricity, natural gas and garbage collection.
Wholesale And Retail Trade	Includes food and beverage stores, department stores, home improvement centers, and sale and service of automobiles and equipment.

Industry Sector	2017 Number of Fatalities (Year-to-date)	2016 Number of Fatalities (Year-to-date)
Agriculture and Forestry	0	0
Business, Personal and Professional Services	1	3
Construction and Construction Trades	37	32
Federal Government	0	0
Manufacturing and Processing	20	17
Mining and Petroleum Development	2	4
Public Administration, Education and Health Services	19	11
Transportation, Communication and Utilities	3	8
Wholesale and Retail Trade	4	2
TOTAL	86	77
Delayed Fatalities ¹		

Date of Acceptance	Description
Business, Personal and Professional Services	
January 2017	An 85 year old former hotel manager died from mesothelioma as a result of workplace exposure to asbestos in the 1950s while servicing the hotel boiler.
Construction and Construction Trade Services	
January 2017	A 64 year old insulator was exposed to airborne asbestos for two years and developed fatal lung cancer as a result of this workplace exposure.
January 2017	An 83 year old insulator died from lung cancer and asbestos related pleural disease due to workplace exposure to airborne asbestos.
January 2017	A 75 year old retired pipe line died from respiratory failure and lung disease resulting from workplace exposure to asbestos.
February 2017	An 84 year old retired plumber exposed to airborne asbestos for 30 years and died from lung cancer as a result of this workplace exposure.
February 2017	A 73 year old retired gasfitter died from mesothelioma due to workplace exposure to airborne asbestos.
March 2017	An 81 year old construction worker for 40 years developed mesothelioma due to workplace exposure to asbestos.
March 2017	A 70 year old retired plumber died from mesothelioma caused by workplace exposure to asbestos.

¹ Delayed or latent occupational disease fatalities include workers who that did not become a fatality until a much later date, often years later. From 2007, these incidents are to be categorized under the original incident. Delayed fatalities have not been included in the year-to-date total as they do not reflect present hazards or exposures.

Date of Acceptance	Description
March 2017	A 79 year old retired laborer/insulator developed lung disease as a result of 45 years of workplace exposure to airborne asbestos died of cardiac condition.
March 2017	A 71 year old retired plumber died of respiratory failure due asbestosis caused by workplace exposure to airborne asbestos.
April 2017	An 86 year old retired welder died from asbestosis as a result of workplace exposure to airborne asbestos dating back to the 1970s.
April 2017	A 75 year old retired pipe layer exposed to workplace airborne asbestos for 11 years died from mesothelioma and respiratory failure.
April 2017	An 81 year old retired steamfitter died from asbestos related lung disease and COPD due to workplace exposure to airborne asbestos.
April 2017	A 79 year old retired insulator was exposed to airborne asbestos in the 1950s developed fatal lung cancer as a result.
April 2017	A 72 year old retired pipefitter died from mesothelioma due to workplace exposure to airborne asbestos.
April 2017	An 80 year old retired brickmaker exposed to airborne asbestos in the 1960s developed mesothelioma as a result of workplace exposure.
May 2017	A 70 year old retired pipe layer died from asbestosis as a result of 13 years of workplace exposure to air borne asbestos.
May 2017	A 76 year old retired pipefitter exposed to airborne asbestos in the workplace for 28 years died from lung cancer.
July 2017	A 73 year old industrial construction worker died from respiratory failure related to mesothelioma caused by workplace exposure to airborne asbestos.
August 2017	A 76 year old retired carpenter was exposed to asbestos in the workplace causing lung disease and respiratory failure.
September 2017	An 82 year old retired sheet metal worker died from respiratory complications related to asbestosis due to workplace exposure to airborne asbestos dating back to 1950s.
September 2017	An 85 year old retired welding instructor died from respiratory failure due to workplace exposure to asbestos for 18 years.
September 2017	An 89 year old retired pipefitter suffered from pneumonia and respiratory failure due to workplace exposure to asbestos for 47 years.
October 2017	A 77 year old retired iron worker died from respiratory complications related to airborne asbestos exposure in the workplace dating back to the 1970s.
October 2017	An 80 year old retired brick and stone mason died from mesothelioma related respiratory failure caused by workplace exposure to asbestos dating back to the 1980s.
November 2017	An 86 year old retired plumber died from multiple health complications due to workplace exposure to airborne asbestos dating back to the 1970s.

Date of Acceptance	Description
November 2017	An 86 year old retired sewer pipe layer developed asbestos lung disease and respiratory failure due to workplace exposure to airborne asbestos for 20 years.
November 2017	An 88 year old retired power plant operator was exposed to asbestos in the workplace in the late 1950s resulting in asbestosis, pneumonia and respiratory failure.
November 2017	An 83 year old retired concrete/stucco applicator died from pulmonary embolism and lung disease due to workplace exposure to asbestos in the 1960's.
November 2017	A 61 year old pipefitter was exposed to asbestos over his 44 year career and developed work related mesothelioma causing his death.
November 2017	A 74 year old retired sheet metal worker developed lung disease and died from respiratory failure due to workplace exposure to asbestos in the 1960s.
November 2017	A 77 year old retired drywall installer developed malignant mesothelioma due to workplace exposure to asbestos and died from medical complications.
December 2017	An 83 year old retired welder died from pulmonary fibrosis due to workplace exposure to dust and fume over 16 years.
December 2017	A 78 year old retired electrician developed asbestosis and lung cancer and died from respiratory failure due to workplace exposure to asbestos over 38 years.
December 2017	An 81 year old retired drywall installer died from asbestos related lung disease caused by workplace exposure to asbestos.
December 2017	An 84 year old retired concrete worker died from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asbestos lung disease caused by exposure to asbestos and concrete dust.
December 2017	An 82 year old retired sandblaster developed silicosis and died from respiratory failure as a result of workplace exposure to airborne silica over 11 years.
December 2017	A 74 year old retired carpenter died from asbestos related lung disease caused by workplace exposure to asbestos over 30 years.

Manufacturing and Processing

March 2017	A 75 year old retired instrument mechanic developed lung cancer as a result of exposure to workplace asbestos while performing installation and maintenance of air-conditioning systems.
April 2017	A 58 year old labourer who worked in demolition was exposed to asbestos in the workplace causing fatal lung disease.
April 2017	A 69 year old drywall production worker was exposed to asbestos in the course of employment and died from mesothelioma.
April 2017	A 68 year old retired carpenter was exposed to airborne asbestos in the workplace causing mesothelioma and respiratory failure.

Date of Acceptance	Description
May 2017	A 60 year old utility labourer died from mesothelioma due to workplace exposure to airborne asbestos since 1984.
May 2017	A 73 year old welder exposed to asbestos in the course of employment died from lung cancer.
July 2017	A 62 year old industrial plant operator died from cardiac failure related to mesothelioma caused by workplace exposure to airborne asbestos.
July 2017	An 89 year old former iron worker died from respiratory failure related to mesothelioma caused by workplace exposure to air borne asbestos.
August 2017	A 77 year old retired control operator died from mesothelioma as a result of workplace exposure to asbestos related to demolition work in a chemical plant.
August 2017	An 83 year old lumber mill worker died from lung cancer as a result of workplace exposure to asbestos.
August 2017	An 84 year old retired packing operator developed work-related Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and died from respiratory failure caused by workplace exposure to airborne dust and vapors in a chemical plant.
August 2017	A 58 year old sheet metal worker was exposed to workplace airborne asbestos for 5 years and died from mesothelioma.
September 2017	A 60 year old welder died from respiratory failure related to lung cancer caused by workplace exposure to welding fumes over his 40 year career.
September 2017	An 83 year old industrial painter died from lung disease as a result of workplace exposure to paints, silica and chemicals over a 30 year period.
September 2017	An 82 year old retired wood mill worker died from respiratory failure lung disease caused by workplace exposure to dust, fumes, vapors and asbestos during his 25 year career.
September 2017	An 83 year old retired sheet metal worker died from respiratory failure related to asbestosis caused by workplace exposure to asbestos during his 39 year career.
October 2017	A 78 year old year old welder died from respiratory failure related to the workplace exposure to welding fumes and gases over his 28 year career.
October 2017	A 78 year old pipefitter died from mesothelioma as a result of workplace exposure to asbestos over a 35 year period.
November 2017	A 91 year old retired iron foundry worker exposed to airborne asbestos in the workplace back in the 1960s, developed asbestos lung disease and died from respiratory failure.
December 2017	A 51 year old production manager died from malignant mesothelioma caused by workplace exposure to asbestos at an insulation manufacturing plant.

Mining and Petroleum Development

August 2017	An 80 year old retired boilermaker developed lung disease and died from respiratory failure due to work-related exposure to asbestos.
October 2017	A 72 year old oilfield worker died from mesothelioma due to workplace exposure to asbestos over his 40 year career.

Public Administration, Education and Health Services

January 2017	An 88 year old mechanical inspector died from respiratory failure due to asbestosis as a result of workplace exposure to airborne asbestos.
January 2017	A 74 year old firefighter, exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 30 years, died from lung cancer.
March 2017	An 87 year old former firefighter, who was employed as a firefighter and regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 28 years, died from lung cancer. A fatality claim was accepted by WCB on the basis of s. 24.1 of the Workers' Compensation Act, which presumes that the cancer was caused by employment.
March 2017	An 80 year old retired plumber died from heart failure related asbestosis caused by exposure to asbestos over his 44 year work history
March 2017	A 77 year old retired school secretary died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos during building renovations.
April 2017	A 79 year old retired glazier exposed to airborne asbestos developed mesothelioma as a result of workplace exposure.
April 2017	An 81 year old retired electrician worked died from asbestosis and asbestos related pleural disease due to workplace exposure to airborne asbestos.
April 2017	An 81 year old retired engineer developed asbestosis and died from respiratory failure caused by workplace exposure to airborne asbestos dating back to the 1960s.
May 2017	A 74 year old former firefighter, who was employed as a firefighter and regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 32 years, died from prostate cancer. A fatality claim was accepted by WCB on the basis of s. 24.1 of the Workers' Compensation Act, which presumes that the cancer was caused by employment.
May 2017	A 79 year old former firefighter, who was employed as a firefighter and regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 29 years, died from prostate cancer. A fatality claim was accepted by WCB on the basis of s. 24.1 of the Workers' Compensation Act, which presumes that the cancer was caused by employment.
June 2017	A 68 year old former firefighter, who was employed as a firefighter and regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 34 years, died from renal cancer. A fatality claim was accepted by WCB on the basis of s. 24.1 of the Workers' Compensation Act, which presumes that the cancer was caused by employment.

June 2017	An 81year old custodian died from mesothelioma caused by workplace exposure to airborne asbestos following abatement in the buildings he was working in.
July 2017	A 68 year old former firefighter, died from leukemia as a result of 30 years of regular exposure to the hazards of a fire scene. A fatality claim was accepted by WCB on the basis of s. 24.1 of the Workers' Compensation Act, which presumes that the cancer was caused by employment.
July 2017	A 60 year old former firefighter, died from lung cancer as a result of 19 years of regular exposure to the hazards of a fire scene. A fatality claim was accepted by WCB on the basis of s. 24.1 of the Workers' Compensation Act, which presumes that the cancer was caused by employment.
September 2017	A 65 year old former firefighter, who was employed as a firefighter and regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for 30 years, died from esophageal cancer. A fatality claim was accepted by WCB on the basis of s. 24.1 of the Workers' Compensation Act, which presumes that the cancer was caused by employment.
September 2017	A 67 year old administrative assistant died from multi-organ failure due to malignant mesothelioma caused by exposure to airborne asbestos during workplace renovations and construction in the mid-1970s.
October 2017	A 77 year old former firefighter exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for 32 years died from bladder cancer. A fatality claim was accepted by under the firefighter presumptive legislation s. 24.1 of the Workers' Compensation Act, which presumes that the cancer was caused by employment.
December 2017	An 80 year old retired maintenance worker developed asbestos related pleural plaque and lung cancer as a result of workplace exposure to airborne asbestos.
December 2017	A 70 year old retired firefighter died from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease due to exposure to smoke and toxins while fighting fires.

Transportation, Communication and Utilities

February 2017	An 81 year old retired railway worker was exposed to workplace asbestos over the course of his career causing fatal lung disease.
August 2017	A 67 year old maintenance worker died of lung disease due to many years of workplace exposure to asbestos.
November 2017	A 78 year old retired truck driver developed mesothelioma as a result of workplace exposure to airborne asbestos while servicing his vehicles.

Retail and Wholesale Trade

April 2017	An 83 year old retired construction worker was exposed to airborne asbestos from 1962-1991 and developed asbestosis as a result of this workplace exposure.
April 2017	A 76 year old retired transportation maintenance worker died from asbestosis and lung cancer due to workplace exposure to airborne asbestos.
July 2017	An 82 year old former heavy equipment mechanic died from mesothelioma caused by workplace exposure to airborne asbestos.

October 2017	An 88 year old retired auto body worker died from respiratory complications related to workplace exposure to paint, fumes and silica dust dating back to the 1970s.
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