

Occupational Disease Fatalities Accepted by the Workers' Compensation Board

Year to date, numbers as of December 31, 2012

Occupational disease fatalities 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	2012 Number of Fatalities (Year-to-date)	2011 Number of Fatalities (Year-to-date)
Agriculture and Forestry	0	0
Business, Personal and Professional Services	0	0
Construction and Construction Trades	22	22
Federal Government	0	0
Manufacturing and Processing	7	12
Mining and Petroleum Development	7	6
Public Administration, Education and Health Services	17	9
Transportation, Communication and Utilities	4	2
Wholesale and Retail Trade	1	1
TOTAL	58	52
Delayed Fatalities ¹		

Date of Acceptance	Description
Construction and Construction Trades	
January 2012	A 78-year-old retired carpenter died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
January 2012	A 58-year-old former laborer/stuccoer died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace in the 1970s.
February 2012	A 75-year-old retired pipefitter died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
March 2012	A 73-year-old retired plumber/pipefitter died from asbestosis as a result of over 20 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
March 2012	A 76-year-old retired sheet metal worker died from complications related to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) as a result of approximately 26 years of exposure to asbestos and dust in the workplace.
March 2012	An 86-year-old former caretaker, floor-layer, maintenance man died from asbestosis as a result of over 25 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
April 2012	A 79-year-old retired plumber died from complications related to asbestosis as a result of long-term exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
April 2012	A 57-year-old former electrician died from mesothelioma as a result of approximately five years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
June 2012	A 75-year-old retired drywaller died from asbestosis as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.

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
July 2012	A 75-year-old retired insulator died from mesothelioma as a result of over 20 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
July 2012	A 62-year-old former oil and gas plant labourer died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace approximately 30 years earlier.
August 2012	A 79-year-old former steel worker died from pulmonary diseases including COPD and asbestosis as a result of approximately 30 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
September 2012	An 87-year-old former oil field worker and elevator mechanic died from pulmonary fibrosis and emphysema as a result of exposure to PCB's, asbestos, carbon tetrachloride, solvents, and other chemicals in the workplace.
October 2012	An 83-year-old former labourer died from mesothelioma as a result of long-term exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
October 2012	A 78-year-old former construction labourer died from asbestosis as a result of long-term exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
November 2012	A 66-year-old former carpenter died from mesothelioma as a result of over 35 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
November 2012	A 76-year-old former electrician died from asbestosis as a result of long-term exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
November 2012	An 89-year-old former iron worker and boilermaker died of asbestos pleural disease as a result of over 35 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
November 2012	A 51-year-old construction/demolition worker died from lung and brain cancer related to asbestos as a result of approximately 30 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
December 2012	An 89-year-old retired sheet metal worker died from asbestosis as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace from 1945 to 1988.
December 2012	A 76-year-old retired insulator died from asbestosis as a result of approximately 30 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
December 2012	An 82-year-old retired plumber died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace from 1961 to 1990.
Manufacturing and Processing	
February 2012	A 32-year-old former oil and gas field service technician died from leukemia as a result of exposure to toxic chemicals in the workplace.
June 2012	A 77-year-old former miner and mechanic died from asbestosis as a result of long-term exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
July 2012	An 85-year-old packing plant worker died from mesothelioma as a result of over 35 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
August 2012	A 67-year-old former welder and pipeline inspector died from bronchogenic carcinoma as a result of exposure to fumes, gases and asbestos in the workplace.

Date of Acceptance	Description
October 2012	An 82-year-old former machinist died from COPD and asbestosis as a result of over 35 years of exposure to asbestos and toxic fumes in the workplace.
December 2012	A 76-year-old former welder died from multiple respiratory conditions as a result of 28 years of exposure to asbestos and toxic fumes in the workplace.
December 2012	A 74-year-old former insulator died from asbestos-related lung cancer as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace from 1959 to 1978.
Mining and Petroleum Development	
March 2012	A 76-year-old retired coal miner died from surgical complications related to pneumoconiosis, acquired as a result of long-term exposure to coal dust.
April 2012	A 76-year-old retired refinery operator died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
April 2012	An 83-year-old former cement plant worker died from mesothelioma as a result of long-term exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
November 2012	A 75-year-old former power engineer died from mesothelioma as a result of approximately 10 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
November 2012	A 76-year-old former pipeline operator died from mesothelioma as a result of over 25 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
December 2012	A 78-year-old former oilfield worker died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace from 1957 to 1988.
December 2012	An 86-year-old former underground coal miner died from silicosis as a result of exposure in the workplace.
Public Administration, Education and Health Services	
January 2012	A 53-year-old former firefighter, who was employed as a firefighter and regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 20 years, died from rectum 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.
February 2012	A 57-year-old former firefighter, who was employed as a firefighter and regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 20 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.
March 2012	A 73-year-old retired firefighter, who was employed as a firefighter and regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 30 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.

Date of Acceptance	Description
March 2012	A 64-year-old retired firefighter, who was employed as a firefighter and regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 30 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.
April 2012	A 70-year-old retired firefighter, who was employed as a firefighter and regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 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.
April 2012	A 66-year-old retired firefighter, who was employed as a firefighter and regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 30 years, died from brain 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 2012	An 81-year-old retired firefighter, who was employed as a firefighter and regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 20 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 2012	A 61-year-old retired firefighter, who was employed as a firefighter and regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 25 years, died from brain 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 2012	A 65-year-old retired firefighter, who was employed as a firefighter and regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 20 years, died from kidney 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 2012	A 54-year-old former firefighter, who was employed as a firefighter and regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 30 years, died from colon 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 2012	A 64-year-old retired firefighter, who was employed as a firefighter and regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 30 years, died from Hodgkin's lymphoma. 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 2012	A 54-year-old former firefighter, who was employed as a firefighter and regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 15 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

Date of Acceptance	Description
	by employment.
September 2012	A 66-year-old firefighter, who was employed as a firefighter and regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 30 years, died from colon 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.
October 2012	A 75-year-old retired engineer and construction manager died from mesothelioma as a result of long-term exposure to asbestos in the work place.
November 2012	A 79-year-old former cabinet maker and handyman died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace approximately 30 years earlier.
December 2012	A 72-year-old firefighter, who was employed as a firefighter and regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 30 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.
December 2012	A 78-year-old retired painter died from lung cancer as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace from 1973 to 1994.
Transportation and Utilities	
January 2012	A 69-year-old retired municipal utility worker died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
June 2012	A 76-year-old retired truck driver died from asbestosis as a result of exposure to asbestos while hauling oilfield and demolition materials.
June 2012	An 81-year-old retired powerhouse mechanic died from asbestosis as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
September 2012	A 78-year-old former railway labourer and oilfield worker died from asbestos-related lung cancer as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
Wholesale and Retail Trade	
June 2012	A 59-year-old former painter died from acute myeloid leukemia due to over 35 years of benzene exposure in the workplace.