

Occupational Disease Fatalities Accepted by the Workers' Compensation Board

Year to date, numbers as of December 31, 2015

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	2015 Number of Fatalities (Year-to-date)	2014 Number of Fatalities (Year-to-date)
Agriculture and Forestry	0	0
Business, Personal and Professional Services	2	2
Construction and Construction Trades	26	39
Federal Government	0	0
Manufacturing and Processing	17	14
Mining and Petroleum Development	3	5
Public Administration, Education and Health Services	14	16
Transportation, Communication and Utilities	3	4
Wholesale and Retail Trade	2	1
TOTAL	67	81
Delayed Fatalities ¹		

Date of Acceptance	Description
Business, Personal and Professional Services	
July 2015	An 80-year-old retired pipefitter died from respiratory failure, caused by 21 years of exposure to asbestos.
December 2015	An 89-year-old dry cleaning worker died from asbestosis as a result of work place exposure to asbestos from the laundering of industrial and commercial coveralls.
Construction and Construction Trades	
January 2015	An 84-year-old former refinery worker died from lung cancer as a result of 32 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
January 2015	An 82-year-old former electrician died from lung cancer as a result of 20 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
January 2015	A 79-year-old former pipefitter/plumber died from asbestosis as a result of 29 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
February 2015	A 60-year-old insulator died from mesothelioma as a result of three years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
March 2015	A 78-year-old electrician died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace dating back to 1958.
April 2015	A 72-year-old former insulator died of respiratory failure related to asbestosis as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace dating back to 1975.

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
April 2015	A 71-year-old former insulator died of lung cancer as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace dating back to 1964.
May 2015	A 68-year-old worker died of mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace dating back to 1977.
May 2015	A 69-year-old former boilermaker died of lung cancer as a result of 31 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
May 2015	A 78-year-old former iron worker died from asbestosis as a result of 42 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
June 2015	An 80-year-old retired glazier and flooring installer died from mesothelioma from workplace exposure to asbestos dating back to 1961.
June 2015	A 71-year-old tile setter died from mesothelioma as a result of seven years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
June 2015	A 65-year-old bridge and road construction worker died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
July 2015	A 66-year-old owner operator of a property maintenance business suffered a fatal cardiac arrest due to over exertion.
July 2015	An 83-year-old retired insulator died from mesothelioma as a result of 13 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
July 2015	A 75-year-old floor covering installer died from respiratory failure related to COPD caused by 38 years of work-related exposure.
July 2015	A 61-year-old welder developed metastatic lung cancer and silicosis as a result of workplace exposure to abrasive materials.
August 2015	A 68-year-old retired construction worker died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
August 2015	A 71-year-old retired carpenter died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
August 2015	A 75-year-old retired drywall installer died from respiratory failure with asbestosis and COPD.
August 2015	A 68-year-old construction worker developed asbestosis due to his occupation as an insulator for 35 years and died due to respiratory failure.
August 2015	A 53-year-old steel worker died from esophageal cancer as a result of 30 years of exposure to hazardous substances and airborne carcinogens in the workplace.
November 2015	A 70-year-old retired boilermaker died from medical complications related to mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
November 2015	A 70-year-old bricklayer died from medical complications related to mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
December 2015	A 74-year-old plumber/gasfitter died of mesothelioma as a result of 11 years of occupational exposure to asbestos.

Date of Acceptance	Description
December 2015	A 66-year-old plumber died from lung cancer caused by prior years of exposure to asbestos in the work environment.
Manufacturing and Processing	
January 2015	A 78-year-old former lumber yard worker died from lung cancer as a result of 11 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
January 2015	A 61-year-old former pipefitter died from pneumoconiosis as a result of exposure to welding gas, smoke, and dust for over 20 years in the workplace.
February 2015	A 71-year-old pipeline production employee died from myelodysplasia/leukemia as a result of 18 years of exposure to solvents including gasoline derivatives containing benzene in the workplace.
February 2015	A 75-year-old former welder died of mesothelioma as a result of 32 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
February 2015	A 69-year-old sandblaster died of silicosis and COPD as a result of eight years of exposure to silica in the workplace.
March 2015	A 74-year-old millwright died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace dating back to 1975.
March 2015	A 71-year-old retired municipal employee died from respiratory failure as a result of medical complications related to asthma caused by workplace exposure.
April 2015	A 55-year-old worker died of complications related to a compensable respiratory condition which was acquired from dust, fumes and hay mold in several occupations.
May 2015	An 87-year-old former tinsmith/sheet metal worker died from respiratory failure as a result of 33 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
June 2015	An 85-year-old former pulp mill worker died from respiratory failure cause by work-related exposure to asbestos and a chlorine inhalation injury 43 years prior.
June 2015	An 81 year-old welder and maintenance worker died of mesothelioma as a result of 38 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
September 2015	A 72-year-old worker died from asbestosis as a result of 40 years of exposure to asbestos while operating and maintaining boilers and electrical generators/air compressors.
October 2015	A 72-year-old welder/laborer died from medical complications related to silicosis as a result of work related exposure to silica over a 30 year period.
October 2015	An 80-year-old worker died from medical complications related to mesothelioma due to asbestos exposure as a pulp mill worker and coal miner over a 32 year period.

Date of Acceptance	Description
November 2015	A 60-year-old screen printer died from metastatic lung cancer as a result of exposure to benzene in the workplace.
December 2015	A 79-year-old labourer died from medical complications caused by 20 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
December 2015	An 87-year-old former steelworker died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
Mining and Petroleum Development	
January 2015	A 67-year-old former mineral plant worker died from COPD as a result of exposure to silica and gypsum dust in the workplace.
February 2015	A 69-year-old former oil rig worker died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
December 2015	A 74-year-old labourer died from mesothelioma as a result of 12 years of occupational exposure to asbestos.
Public Administration, Education and Health Services	
February 2015	An 87-year-old former firefighter, who was regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 34 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 condition was caused by employment.
March 2015	An 86-year-old former firefighter, who was regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 34 years, died from COPD. A fatality claim was accepted by WCB on the basis of s. 24.1 of the Workers' Compensation Act, which presumes that the condition was caused by employment.
March 2015	A 55-year-old custodian died from mesothelioma as a result of 23 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
March 2015	A 76-year-old former firefighter, who was regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 33 years, died from non-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 condition was caused by employment.
June 2015	A 72-year-old former firefighter, who was regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 24 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 condition was caused by employment.
June 2015	A 75-year-old former firefighter who was exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 24 years, died from COPD.
June 2015	A 65-year-old former firefighter, who was regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 30 years, died from primary colorectal cancer. A fatality claim was accepted by WCB on the basis of s. 24.1 of the Workers' Compensation Act, which presumes that the condition was caused by

Date of Acceptance	Description
	employment.
June 2015	A 72-year-old former firefighter, who was regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 34 years, died from colorectal cancer. A fatality claim was accepted by WCB on the basis of s. 24.1 of the Workers' Compensation Act, which presumes that the condition was caused by employment.
June 2015	A 55-year-old former volunteer firefighter, who was regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 23 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 condition was caused by employment.
June 2015	A 48-year-old former volunteer firefighter, who was regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 21 years, died from skin cancer. A fatality claim was accepted by WCB on the basis of s. 24.1 of the Workers' Compensation Act, which presumes that the condition was caused by employment.
August 2015	An 82-year-old former administrative worker died from respiratory failure related to asbestosis as a result of 20 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
August 2015	A 78-year-old former power engineer died from malignant mesothelioma as a result of 14 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
August 2015	A 63-year-old former firefighter, who was regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 28 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 condition was caused by employment.
October 2015	A 61-year-old former firefighter, who was regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene for over 32 years, died from breast cancer. A fatality claim was accepted by WCB on the basis of s. 24.1 of the Workers' Compensation Act, which presumes that the condition was caused by employment.
Transportation, Communication and Utilities	
February 2015	An 87-year-old railway worker died from asbestosis as a result of 14 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
May 2015	A 70-year-old worker died of complications related to a compensable respiratory condition.
September 2015	A 94-year-old retired self-employed truck driver died from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease as a result of 38 years of exposure to diesel fumes, paint and welding fumes.

Date of Acceptance	Description
Wholesale and Retail Trade	
April 2015	A 77-year-old auto body mechanic died from asbestosis as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace dating back to 1962.
December 2015	A 72-year-old warehouse worker died from asbestosis as a result of exposure to asbestos from the late 1960s to mid-1970.