

Workplace Incident Fatalities

Workplace incident fatalities are cases where a worker dies at a work site, or as a result of injuries sustained at a work site. This is the type of fatality that Employment and Immigration (E&I) Occupational Health and Safety typically investigates.

The numbers reflected in this report detail the workplace incidents accepted by the Workers Compensation Board – Alberta in 2009 and not incidents investigated by E&I.

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 Trade Services	Includes the construction of houses, apartments, industrial plants, roads, bridges and pipelines, and specialized construction trades (e.g., plumbing, painting, roofing, and bricklaying).
Manufacturing, Processing and Packaging	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 centres, and sale and service of automobiles and equipments.

Industry Sector	Year-to-date 2009	Year-to-date 2008
Agriculture and Forestry	1	1
Business, Personal and Professional Services	0	0
Construction and Construction Trades	11	17
Manufacturing and Processing	2	2
Mining and Petroleum Development	7	6
Public Administration, Education and Health Services	4	8
Transportation, Communication and Utilities	3	7
Wholesale and Retail Trade	3	3
Federal Government	0	0
TOTAL	31	44
Delayed Fatalities ¹	10	8

Date of Acceptance	Description
Agriculture and Forestry	
August 2009	A 49 year-old worker was assaulted and died from his injuries.
Business, Personal and Professional Services	
Construction and Construction Trade Services	
April 2009	A 51 year-old worker fell 10 feet from the back of a truck landing on his right side, resulting in fatal injuries.
May 2009	A 27 year-old worker was moving forms on a roof deck using a lower crane. One sling slipped towards the centre of the load causing the forms to fall out of the rigging. The worker was standing under the load at the time, and was fatally injured.
June 2009	A 39 year-old pipe layer stopped a loader to speak to the operator at a location where another loader was moving excavated materials. The second loader backed into the stopped loader. At that point the worker was crushed between the two loaders. Worker was pronounced dead on scene.

¹ Delayed or latent workplace incident fatalities include workers involved in a workplace incident or exposure 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. Previously, these workers have been classified and recorded as occupational disease fatalities. Delayed fatalities have not been included in the year-to-date total as they do not reflect present worksite hazards or exposures.

Date of Acceptance	Description
June 2009	A 23 year-old concrete cutter had finished the last cut on an opening for a doorway measuring approximately 130 cm X 221 cm X 15 cm through a concrete pre-cast wall. A worker was at the rear of the truck when the slab of concrete came lose and pinned him against the rear of the truck. The injured worker was rescued from underneath the slab of concrete and administered emergency first-aid. Emergency medical services arrived and transported the injured worker to the hospital who later passed away.
July 2009	A 34 year-old landscaping worker was struck by a fallen tree on the head, causing a fatal injury.
July 2009	An 18 year-old contracted landscaper was struck by a vehicle causing death.
July 2009	A 37 year-old worker was on top of a 5 meter construction wall without any fall protection in place. The worker lost his balance and fell on a re-bar impaling himself and fatally injuring him.
August 2009	A 45 year-old worker was repairing a tire from a heavy hauler. He was in the process of inflating the tire, when the steel components came detached from the tire, striking the worker. The components pinned the worker against the service truck. The worker later passed away.
October 2009	A 60 year-old worker met with co-workers at the shop. Co- workers were waiting for him who had gone to the washroom. When he did not return, co-workers went to investigate and found him collapsed on the floor. Death was due to medical causes'.
October 2009	A 22 year-old vacuum truck operator was operating controls for the vacuum tank after cleaning out the tank. The swamper's head was then caught and crushed in the closing rear door of the tank.
November 2009	A 26 year-old worker was struck in the head by the pumpjack counterweight when workers were insulating piping and conduit alongside the pumpjack base.
Manufacturing, Processing and Packaging	
January 2009	A 30 year-old millwright apprentice was crushed when a scissor lift loaded with plywood veneer descended on him as he was attempting to service the scissor lift.
June 2009	A 35 year-old metal fabrication worker was grinding on a piece of equipment using an unguarded angle grinder. The grinding wheel blew up striking the worker in the head.
Mining and Petroleum Development	
January 2009	A 48 year-old process technician was attempting to remove the ice castle from the steam tracing supply valves. The ice castle toppled over on the process technician, resulting in fatal injuries.
January 2009	A 32 year-old well testing supervisor and his assistant were electrocuted when they were raising a flare stack, which contacted a 14,000-volt power line.

Date of Acceptance	Description
January 2009	A 27 year-old well testing assistant and his supervisor were electrocuted when they were raising a flare stack, which contacted a 14,000-volt power line.
March 2009	A 26 year-old floor-hand worker was struck by the drill line and he died as a result of his injuries.
May 2009	A 36 year-old worker was hit and crushed by a rotating counterweight of an operating oil well pump jack.
August 2009	A 36 year-old worker was crushed by auger.
October 2009	A 25 year-old worker was rolled on when fixing work truck.
Public Administration, Education and Health Services	
January 2009	A 25 year-old worker slipped as she stepped off the bus onto a steel plate floor, falling onto her side and suffering a sprained ankle and bruising to her side. During the evening of October 19, 2008 the worker was at home and started to suffer from chest pains. The worker's father drove her to hospital, and she was pronounced dead on arrival.
April 2009	A 45 year-old worker was shot by assailant during robbery.
November 2009	A 29 year-old worker was found crushed under lawnmower in shop.
December 2009	A 54 year-old worker was called out to replace a sump pump. He dropped two fittings into the sump and attempted to retrieve them. Worker was found deceased, face down in the water with his body in the sump.
Transport, Communication and Utilities	
May 2009	A 65 year-old worker was cardiac arrested caused by over exertion due to installing tire chains on truck.
December 2009	A 61 year-old worker was rolled into when stuck between vehicles.
December 2009	A 52 year-old worker fell off lift while de-icing plane.
Wholesale and Retail Trade	
January 2009	A 45 year-old driver was strapping supplies to the back of his truck in the Midfield Supply yard. A transport driver for Leduc Truck Services came into the yard and went between the worker's truck and a barrier and crushed the worker with the trailer. The worker was fatally injured.
May 2009	A 26 year-old worker was attempting to repair a hydraulic leak for the boom. Worker was positioned between two sections of the boom, when a hydraulic failure occurred resulting in a section of the boom collapsing and pinning the worker between the boom sections. The worker was brought to the hospital May 21, 2009 and later passed away May 27, 2009.

Date of Acceptance	Description
August 2009	A 61 year-old worker was loading cement blocks onto a flat bed trailer. He was in front of the forklift which was running, but parked on a slight incline with the emergency brake not engaged. The forklift rolled forward killing the worker.
Delayed Fatalities	
February 2009	Delayed Fatality – A 50 year old worker died as a result of medical complications related to the effects of quadriplegia as a result of a work related accident in 2007.
March 2009	Delayed Fatality – A 62 year old worker died from medical complications related to a work related accident in 1977.
May 2009	Delayed Fatality – A 75 year old carpenter passed away from cardiac arrest related to medical complications from a severe fall injury sustained in 1997.
May 2009	Delayed Fatality – A 53 year old cashier died as a result of medical complications related to a prior injury sustained in 2005.
June 2009	Delayed Fatality – A 55 year old worker died from complications related to quadriplegia arising from a spinal injury in 1997.
August 2009	Delayed Fatality – A 50 year old worker died from medical complications related to quadriplegia arising from a work related spinal cord injury in 1979.
September 2009	Delayed Fatality – A 72 year old worker died following elective knee surgery related to initial trauma to knee (twisted knee while at work) in 2004.
September 2009	Delayed Fatality – A 51 year old worker died from sequelae related to extensive surgery and antibiotics as a result of work related minor leg contusion in 2006.
November 2009	Delayed Fatality – A 52 year old worker died from pneumonia due to qudraplegia due to blunt cervical trauma arising from being struck at work where was an explosion causing the wind cap to blow off in 1997.
December 2009	Delayed Fatality - 48 year old roofer died from medical complications related to a work related fall injury in 1999.