

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 AEII Workplace Health and Safety typically investigates.

The numbers reflected in this report detail the workplace incidents accepted by the Workers Compensation Board – Alberta in 2007 and not incidents investigated by AEII.

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 equipment.

Industry Sector	Year-to-date 2007	Year-to-date 2006
Agriculture and Forestry	4	3
Business, Personal and Professional Services	1	2
Construction and Construction Trades	17	8
Manufacturing and Processing	4	5
Mining and Petroleum Development	2	4
Public Administration, Education and Health Services	2	0
Transportation, Communication and Utilities	6	2
Wholesale and Retail Trade	4	3
Federal Government	0	0
TOTAL	40	27
Delayed Fatalities ¹	7	NA

Date of Acceptance	Description
Agriculture and Forestry	
January 2007	A 68-year old male worker, employed as a logger, was crushed between a feller buncher and a transport trailer as the buncher was being unloaded from the trailer.
January 2007	A 35-year old male worker, employed as a logger, was operating a grapple skidder when a dead log came through the cab, striking the worker in the head.
January 2007	A 55-year old male worker, employed as a logger, had finished loading his log truck and was found by a co-worker unconscious on the ground close to the truck's grapple. The worker later died as a result of injuries
April 2007	A 64-year old worker was fatally injured when the worker's clothing got caught on a sprocket of an unguarded roller of a conveyor for a compost machine. The worker was pulled into the conveyor.
Business, Personal and Professional Services	
May 2007	A 54-year old restaurant worker tripped over a case on the floor while carrying several trays. The worker sustained a fractured leg and died subsequently in hospital due to complications brought on by a serious post-operative wound infection.

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
Construction and Construction Trade Services	
January 2007	A 31-year old male worker, employed as an electrician, was relocating electrical outlets and switches at an office remodeling work site. He contacted 347 volt livewires on an electrical switch and was electrocuted.
January 2007	A 23-year old male worker, employed as a swamper and a vacuum truck operator was cleaning out shale from inside a vacuum truck. While the operator manipulated the hydraulic controls for the rear door, the swamper arrived and went to the rear of the truck. The swamper was struck by the moving rear door and received fatal head injuries.
February 2007	A 20 year-old apprentice plumber collapsed and slid down a trench. He was found facedown in the mud and had died from asphyxia/drowning.
February 2007	A 55 year-old worker was raking gravel when he complained of chest pain and collapsed
March 2007	A 55 year-old worker had cardiac failure. Cold working conditions were a contributing factor.
March 2007	A 39 year-old rigger was crushed while assembling a rig with other workers. The crane operator lifted the grasshopper arm, and workers attached it to the doghouse. After unhooking the rigging sling, the crane operator started to move the sling and it caught on the grasshopper arm. The grasshopper arm dislodged from the doghouse and fell on the worker.
April 2007	A 39 year-old worker collapsed from a stress induced cardiac arrest after climbing scaffold.
May 2007	A 27-year old scaffolder was fatally injured when workers were putting the roof on a large oil storage tank when it came down on the workers.
May 2007	A 22-year old labourer was fatally injured after becoming entangled in the tail pulley of a gravel crusher. The worker was attempting to perform routine maintenance on the conveyor belt running over the tail pulley.
June 2007	A 33-year old scaffolder was fatally injured when workers were putting the roof on a large oil storage tank when it came down on the workers.
August 2007	A 53-year old worker was fatally injured. The worker was directing the pressure testing operation at an abandoned well site using a coiled tubing rig and a packer. They had completed several pressure tests using compressed air. The oilfield consultant was standing next to an elbow, reading a pressure gauge, when the elbow exploded. Several pieces of the elbow struck the oilfield consultant. He died at the site as a result of his injuries.
September 2007	A 52-year old electrician was fatally injured. The worker was servicing and maintaining analyzing equipment when they fell down a set of stairs. The worker suffered a head trauma and laceration to the neck and was transported to hospital for surgery.

Date of Acceptance	Description
October 2007	A 49-year old black paper and wire installer was fatally injured. Two workers were installing tube and clamp scaffolding to complete external work on a new house under construction. One worker was trying to climb to a different level when he fell, struck a cross bar below and landed on the ground. He was transported to hospital where he died.
October 2007	A 31-year old scraper operator was fatally injured. Two scraper operators were leveling soil. The site supervisor met with the two operators away from their machines. One operator indicated they needed to go to the washroom. The other operator returned to his machine, and proceeded to load the bowl of his machine and move the dirt from one location to another. He dumped the one load in the designated location. On the second load he observed that his co-worker was not in her machine, which was still parked. As he circled the drop off site to dump the second load he noticed something in the soil which turned out to be the body of the other operator.
October 2007	A 47-year old pipework insulator was fatally injured. The insulator was last seen by other workers walking on a catwalk 10.6 meters above floor level in a large industrial building. The insulator fell a short time after he was last seen. The catwalk and the scaffolding were fitted with handrails. It is not known why the worker fell or where he fell from.
December 2007	A 31-year old crane operator was fatally injured. He was travelling to a work site with a 60 tonne crane and it went off the road and rolled; fatally injuring the operator.
December 2007	A 43-year old worker was fatally injured. A worker was repairing a truck. The truck, which was hoisted, fell on him resulting in fatal injuries.
Manufacturing, Processing and Packaging	
January 2007	A 47-year old worker, employed as a plant operator, was assisting a truck driver hook up a trailer. He was run over by the tractor unit.
July 2007	A 69-year old self-employed flyer delivery person was fatally injured. The worker reportedly fell while delivering flyers and was hospitalized. The worker later died in hospital.
August 3	A 42-year old welder was fatally injured. Workers were using an overhead crane to rotate an 8,600 kg vessel onto its legs. The vessel was set on the floor. The worker moved towards the vessel to readjust the slings for repositioning. The crane hook was then to be lowered; although it moved to the side. The vessel was pulled across the floor pinning the worker between two vessels. The worker died as a result of blunt force trauma.
December 2007	A 42-year old electrician was fatally injured. Two electricians were replacing a contactor unit in a 4160 volt circuit breaker panel. The contactor unit contacted the 4160 volt live supply section due to a broken weld. One of the electricians contacted the live contactor and was electrocuted. He was transported to hospital where he died of his injuries.

Date of Acceptance	Description
Mining and Petroleum Development	
February 2007	A 27-year-old well test supervisor was assisting co-workers to retrieve wire line tools stuck in a pipe joint. As they were ramming the tools inside the joint, unexpected pressure released, expelling the tools from the pipe joint and striking the worker in the abdomen area.
September 2007	An 80-year old shop hand was fatally injured. The worker (working by himself) was wiring a light box from a ladder, when he fell and struck his head on the concrete floor. He was found by his foreman and taken to hospital with serious head injuries.
Public Administration, Education and Health Services	
March 2007	A 31-year old medic was guiding a truck driver reversing a tank truck with an attached pup when he was pinned between the pup and another piece of equipment.
July 2007	A 51-year old labourer was fatally injured. The worker was struck by the rear wheels of a logging truck trailer that exited from a business onto a public roadway.
Transport, Communication and Utilities	
March 2007	A 57-year old worker suffered cardia arrythmia induced by work activity.
March 2007	A 26-year old worker was run over by gin pole truck.
March 2007	A 41-year old journeyman power lineman received a fatal electrical shock. A "digger derrick" was raised and came into contact with a live 8000 volt overhead power line. The power line burned, severed, and fell onto the un-insulated digger truck and trailer. The worker on the ground came into contact with the truck and received a fatal electrical shock.
July 2007	A 34-year old worker caught their foot in railway track and was run over by a train.
August 2007	A 66-year old worker was walking across the plant when they slipped and fell.
September 2007	A 21-year old worker was fatally injured. While loading a truck the worker was crushed between the truck bed and the load that shifted.
Wholesale and Retail Trade	
January 2007	A 54-year old male worker aggravated a pre-existing cardiac condition due to over exertion from unloading a truck.
March 2007	A 67 year-old driver was securing load straps when one of the straps became trapped and stuck on top of the load. The worker climbed onto the load. He was found later by another worker on the ground beside the vehicle unconscious.

Date of Acceptance	Description
November 2007	A 41-year old Pump Tech was fatally injured. The worker's overalls got caught in a progressive cavity pump test bench shaft, severing his arm. The worker subsequently died of his injuries.
November 2007	A 47-year old worker was in the process of priming a carburettor for a gasoline powered truck. The truck backfired and the worker's clothes caught fire. The worker was in intensive care since the incident. He died on later as the result of his injuries.
Delayed Fatalities	
February 2007	Delayed Fatality – A 62 year-old worker, in the Wholesale and Retail sector, died from medical complications related to the effects of his quadriplegia as a consequence of his compensable spinal cord injury of 1989.
April 2007	Delayed Fatality – 50 year old worker, in the Construction and Construction Trade Services sector, was injured in a fall in 1989 and died from complications related to his compensable injury.
April 2007	Delayed Fatality – 71-year old worker, in the Agriculture and Forestry sector, died from bronchopneumonia as a result of complications related to the effects of his paraplegia caused by a spinal cord injury in 1987.
May 2007	Delayed Fatality – A 51-year old truck driver suffered burns over almost his entire body when a propane tank exploded in 1984. The worker died from complications related to his compensable injury.
June 2007	Delayed Fatality – A 67-year old carpenter, in the Construction and Construction Trade Services sector, suffered burns over almost his entire body when a can of contact cement exploded in 1980 and died from complications related to his compensable injury.
August 2007	Delayed Fatality – A 58 year old truck driver suffered a shoulder injury that required corrective surgery. The worker died from complications related to the treatment/surgery of the injury.
November 2007	Delayed Fatality – A 72 year old worker, in the Construction and Construction Trade Services sector, died of renal and congestive heart failure as a result of a previous traumatic injury.