



## Workplace Incident Fatalities Accepted by the Workers Compensation Board in 2008

### 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) Workplace Health and Safety typically investigates.

The numbers reflected in this report detail the workplace incidents accepted by the Workers Compensation Board – Alberta in 2008 and not incidents investigated by E&I.

### Industry Descriptions

<b>Industry Sector</b>	<b>Description</b>
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 2008	Year-to-date 2007
Agriculture and Forestry	1	4
Business, Personal and Professional Services	0	1
Construction and Construction Trades	17	17
Manufacturing and Processing	2	4
Mining and Petroleum Development	6	2
Public Administration, Education and Health Services	8	2
Transportation, Communication and Utilities	7	6
Wholesale and Retail Trade	3	4
Federal Government	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>40</b>
Delayed Fatalities <sup>1</sup>	8	7

Date of Acceptance	Description
<b>Agriculture and Forestry</b>	
March 2008	A 35 year-old male logging operation Owner/Operator was felling trees and hauling the logs from the bush, using a team of heavy horses. The worker was standing between the wheels of a diesel powered log skidder repairing the engine. The log skidder was stationary with no operator at the controls. The log skidder, unintentionally, began to move in reverse and ran over the worker. The worker died on site.
<b>Business, Personal and Professional Services</b>	
<b>Construction and Construction Trade Services</b>	
January 2008	A 28 year-old male construction worker suffered fatal injuries when he was struck on the head by a pipe.
January 2008	A 38 year-old male worker, operating a pressure truck, completed an unexpected maneuver which caused the truck to move. The worker became pinned between the pressure truck and a crude oil tank resulting in serious injuries. He was transported to hospital where he died.
February 2008	A 54 year-old male worker was operating a pipelayer when the side-boom structure collapsed onto the operator's chair. The operator was hit on the head and his body was crushed. The worker died on site.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<b>Date of Acceptance</b>	<b>Description</b>
March 2008	A 23 year-old male worker died of cardiac arrest.
April 2008	A 63 year-old male worker collapsed while walking to the lunchroom.
April 2008	A 52 year-old female worker was pinned against part of a gravel hauling pup trailer by the belly dump apparatus, which was inadvertently opened.
April 2008	A 33 year-old male worker was welding on top of an empty biodiesel settling tank when the tank exploded, fatally injuring the worker.
June 2008	A 62 year old man died due to heart attached related to overexertion.
July 2008	A 52 year-old female worker fall from a roof and suffered multiple severe injuries and surgeries. The case was reported as Cardiac episode.
August 2008	A 60 year-old man was fatally injured of heat attack due to work related overexertion.
August 2008	A 23 year-old worker was laying trucks. He was fatally injured when he went to look at the equipment and a car rolled and crushed him.
September 2008	A 68 year-old worker died of abdominal aneurism rupture due to work related exertion.
September 2008	A 48 year-old man was operating a zoom boom that eventually overturned and crushed him.
October 2008	A 27 year-old worker was crushed while working in a trench by a large spool.
October 2008	A 41 year-old man was fatally injured when he fall on back of his head due to pressurized pipe blew.
November 2008	A 48 year-old man was fatally injured while he was painting and fell off from a ladder.
November 2008	A 33 year-old worker was crushed by a front end loader.
<b>Manufacturing, Processing and Packaging</b>	
June 2008	A 57 year-old man fell through open basement – polytrauma. The worker died some 4 months later as a result of medical complications.
October 2008	A 43 year-old worker was fatally injured due to electric shock.
<b>Mining and Petroleum Development</b>	
January 2008	A 28 year-old worker, employed as a rigger, was in the process of moving a drilling rig. The crew he was working with was closing the hydraulically operated clam shell lid for a storage container when the lid became stuck. The worker went around the container to see why the lid was jammed. The clam shell lid collapsed striking the worker in the head. He died on site.

<b>Date of Acceptance</b>	<b>Description</b>
February 2008	A 33 year-old male worker, working as a swamper, pulled onto a lease road entrance with a swab rig truck and hit a large snow drift. As the road was impassable, he and some fellow crew members decided to remove some down hole tools from the derrick. The derrick was raised and contacted a 25,000 volt, three-phase overhead power line. The worker was fatally injured and two other workers were taken to hospital for observation.
February 2008	A 32 year-old male worker, working as a derrick man, was filling a casing pipe with mud. The worker turned off the mud pump and was checking the level of mud in the pipe. The next casing pipe was moved up to be added to the first casing pipe. The worker was struck in the head by the second casing pipe and fatally injured.
March 2008	A 46 year-old field operator was attempting to remove an orifice plate from a production gas metering system. The field operator caused a release of hydrogen sulphide gas into the building where he was working. The field operator was overcome by the hydrogen sulphide and was later found unconscious by a coworker. The field operator was pronounced dead at the scene.
October 2008	A 27 year-old worker was crushed between two oil tanks.
November 2008	A 33 year-old worker was killed when tire exploded.
<b>Public Administration, Education and Health Services</b>	
February 2008	A 30 year-old worker collapsed on a field. The death was determined to be caused by cardiac arrest related to overexertion.
May 2008	A 58 year-old man was fatally injured of head struck on a counter after he fall down backwards.
June 2008	A 63 year-old man was fatally injured after he fall down and hit his head on a fence. The worker was unconscious and drowned in water trough. The loss of his arms in 1976 on a farm accident has contributed to fall and fatally injured.
July 2008	A 47 year-old male worker was fatally injured due to cardiac arrest resulting from over exertion (stair climbing).
July 2008	A 16 year-old boy was fatally injured due to severe allergic reaction to food at camp.
October 2008	A 62 year-old worker died of heart attack due to overexertion
December 2008	A 63 year-old woman suffered from fractured humerus, went to hospital for surgery, deteriorated due to multiple medical problems and died from sepsis.
December 2008	A 28 year-old man was collapsed during morning exercises – cardiac.

Date of Acceptance	Description
<b>Transport, Communication and Utilities</b>	
January 2008	A 61 year-old male worker suffered an acute myocardial infarction as the result of exertion while loading a bus.
February 2008	A 55 year-old male truck driver, entered a pup trailer, which had contained produced water had just been steam cleaned, with a trouble light to check a crack in one of the baffles when an explosion occurred. He died on the site.
April 2008	A 43 year-old male worker was crushed when the pallet jack he was operating hit racking and the contents fell on top of him.
May 2008	A 52 year-old man was fatally injured after he fell of a silo while examining grain.
June 2008	A 56 year-old man was fatally injured after he fell down from stairs and struck his head.
August 2008	A 20 year-old worker was run over by a truck while he was helping a fellow employee to back up the truck.
October 2008	A 57 year-old man was fatally injured after he was crushed between a forklift cab and a "mast".
<b>Wholesale and Retail Trade</b>	
January 2008	A 61 year-old male worker, was operating a propane-powered forklift in a bay with closed doors. He was overcome by carbon monoxide and collapsed at the site. The worker was transported to a hospital where he died.
June 2008	A 16 year old boy was fatally injured while he was hanging on the side of a forklift that tipped and crushed him.
July 2008	A 40 year-old man was crushed while moving truck into the shop.
<b>Delayed Fatalities</b>	
January 2008	Delayed Fatality – A 53 year old heavy equipment operator, in the Government, Education and Health Services sector, suffered a back injury that required corrective surgery. The worker died from complications related to the treatment of the injury.
February 2008	Delayed Fatality – A 63 year-old pipe fitter died from respiratory failure caused by pulmonary fibrosis as a result of prior injury due to occupational exposure to inhalation of fumes in 1998.
March 2008	Delayed Fatality – A 50 year-old worker died of renal failure and respiratory difficulties related to paraplegia arising from a spinal cord injury in 1983.

<b>Date of Acceptance</b>	<b>Description</b>
May 2008	Delayed Fatality – A 42 year old man was suffering from initial trauma causing quadriplegia, developed bladder cancer, and metastasized to liver, resulting in death.
May 2008	Delayed Fatality – A 74 year-old man had congestive heart failure related to previous compensable heart attack in 1987.
May 2008	Delayed Fatality – A 45 year-old man has initial spinal cord injury from fall causing quadriplegia that developed respiratory failure related to the quadriplegia.
October 2008	Delayed Fatality – A 66 year-old man was working as a construction foreman; claimant fell 14-16 feet off a roof that finally resulted to D8 crush fracture.
October 2008	Delayed Fatality – A 46 year old worker was fatally injured due to electric shock.