

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 2006. Web postings prior to 2006 currently focus on the incidents investigated by AEII rather than those accepted by WCB.

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 2006	Year-to-date 2005
Agriculture and Forestry	3	0
Business, Personal and Professional Services	2	1
Construction and Construction Trades	8	14
Manufacturing and Processing	5	7
Mining and Petroleum Development	4	4
Transportation, Communication and Utilities	2	4
Public Administration, Education and Health Services	0	0
Wholesale and Retail Trade	3	4
Unknown	0	0
Federal Government	0	0
TOTAL	27	34

Date of Acceptance	Description
Agriculture and Forestry	
March 2006	A 48-year old male worker, the owner/operator of a logging truck, was fatally injured while his truck was being offloaded. A log fell off and struck the worker on the head.
October 2006	A 55-year old male worker, employed as a foreman, and a co-worker were felling a tree. As the tree fell, it hit a dead tree and the top of the dead tree kicked back hitting the foreman.
November 2006	A 54-year old male worker, a log truck driver, was operating a picker truck when a log fell on him and asphyxiated him.
Business, Personal and Professional Services	
March 2006	A 33-year old man was whitewater rafting during a team building event when he fell into river and drowned
June 2006	A 41-year old woman was a the victim of a robbery and murder at a restaurant
Construction and Construction Trade Services	
April 2006	A 47-year old male worker, employed as a heating and air conditioning installer, was working on an inlet of a Heating Ventilating and Air-Conditioning System (HVAC) located on the outside of a prefabricated building. He was on a ladder and fell approximately three meters onto gravel.
May 2006	A 40-year old female worker, employed as a labourer, was cleaning up an area under an oriented strand board stacker (OSB) when the stacker went through an automatic cycle pinning the worker.

Date of Acceptance	Description
June 2006	A 58-year old male worker, employed as a sheet metal worker, while accessing the flat roof of a building to work on an air conditioning unit, complained of chest pains and sat down on the roof hatch opening. The worker was fatally injured when he fell backwards through the roof hatch and down the stairwell.
July 2006	A 26-year old male worker, employed as a welder's helper was fatally injured while he and a co-worker were welding on the outside of a shipping container when an explosion occurred. The container had propane bottles, a gasoline can, paint and aerosol cans and other oilfield tools and equipment inside prior to the explosion.
July 2006	A 58-year old male worker, employed as a heavy equipment operator was fatally injured while he and another heavy equipment operator were undertaking preliminary work for a new road construction. They were using a ripper on a Caterpillar to remove trees tied together with a sling. The operator of the Caterpillar lost site of the other worker while backing up and the co-worker was crushed by the ripper against a tree stump.
July 2006	A 47-year old male worker was walking on the roof and fell through an access opening to the concrete floor, 25 feet below.
August 2006	A 64-year old male worker, employed as a scaffolder, was working with a co-worker de-slugging the inside of a boiler when a motor failed on a swing stage. Both workers suffered heat stress. The worker in critical condition passed away
September 2006	A 64-year old heat stroke caused by a fall from scaffolding/suspension over a boiler.
Manufacturing, Processing and Packaging	
January 2006	A 53-year old male worker, employed as a journeyman fitter, was working on a large steel pipe when it shifted, striking him.
February 2006	A 22-year old male worker, employed as a labourer, was pinned between a tank that was being moved by a mobile crane and a stationary tank.
June 2006	A 56-year old male worker, employed as a swamper, was fatally injured while handling 30 inch diameter x 80 foot long pipe which was rolling down a ramp. The worker was caught in the pipes.
July 2006	A 40-year old female worker, employed as a welder, was found on the floor of the welding shop, it appears she fell from the mezzanine level.
July 2006	A 27-year old male worker, employed as a welder, was fatally injured while he and the welder's helper were welding on the outside of a shipping container and an explosion occurred. The container had propane bottles, a gasoline can, paint and aerosol cans and other oilfield tools and equipment inside prior to the explosion.
Mining and Petroleum Development	
January 2006	A 43-year old male worker employed as a foreman, was found lying beside a rail car at a sulphur production facility. The worker died en-route to hospital.

Date of Acceptance	Description
January 2006	A 19-year old male worker, employed as a directional drilling labourer, was fatally injured after being struck on the head with the bucket of a track hoe.
March 2006	A 55-year old male worker, employed as a driller, was loading a rig for a move. Workers use a winch mounted on a truck to pull the draw-works and derrick section clear of other rig sections. At some stage, the worker moved underneath the rig substructure from the passenger side of the trailer. The worker was found trapped and crushed in a pinch point between a fixed part of the substructure and a moving part of the draw-works and derrick section.
August 2006	A 45-year old male worker, employed as a consultant, was fatally injured when a wellhead was being pressure tested with nitrogen and catastrophically failed.
Transport, Communications and Utilities	
March 2006	A 54-year old man loading a 5 ton truck onto a flatbed, when it rolled and crushed him.
June 2006	A 58-year old male worker, owner of company, was caught and crushed between the cab of the truck and the flatbed deck as it was moved forward.
Wholesale and Retail Trade	
March 2006	A 40-year old male was fatally injured in a work related skiing incident.
September 2006	A 28-year old male worker, employed as a field operator, was setting up a meteorological tower for environmental monitoring near a drilling rig location. While raising the tower, contact was made with an energized overhead power line. The worker received an electrical shock of 14, 400 volts.
September 2006	A 32-year old male worker, employed as a meat cutter, was fatally injured when he unintentionally stabbed himself in the eye and the knife went through his brain.