

Oregon Compensable Fatality Report

Calendar Year 2004

*Information Management
Division*

*Oregon Department of Consumer
& Business Services*

May 2006



Oregon Compensable Fatality Report

Department of Consumer & Business Services

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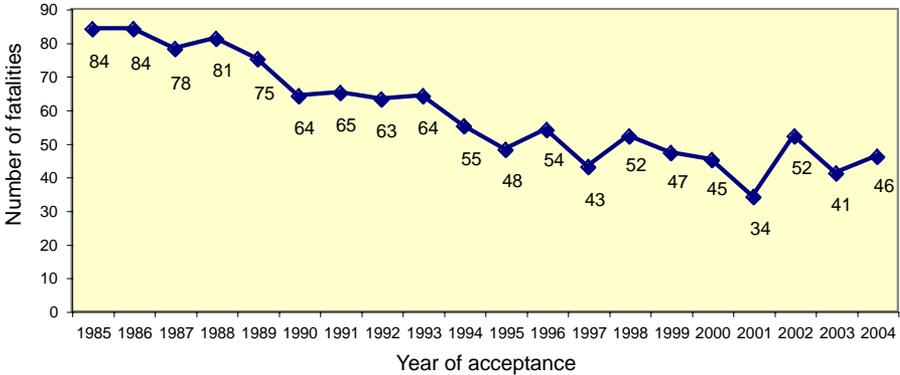
Additional tables available on the DCBS Web site, http://www.cbs.state.or.us/imd/rasums/2068/04tables/04_2068t.html, or in printed form by request to (503) 378-8254.

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Oregon Compensable Fatalities, Calendar Year 2004

The Workers' Compensation Division was notified by insurers of 46 claims accepted for fatality benefits during the 2004 calendar year, an increase of five fatalities from 2003. Employment increased by 49,300 workers. This resulted in a rise in the fatality rate to 2.81 compensable deaths per 100,000 workers compared with 2.59 in 2003.

Figure 1. Work-related fatalities, Oregon, 1985-2004



Claims included in this year's statistics are fatalities that occurred during or before 2004, and were reported to the Department of Consumer & Business Services by Jan. 31, 2005. Thus, claims with dates of death in prior years are included if the insurer accepted them for fatal benefits within the 13-month time frame (Jan. 1, 2004 - Jan. 31, 2005).

Data exclude deaths of workers not subject to Oregon Workers' Compensation coverage, such as workers who were self-employed, working in Oregon for out-of-state employers, City of Portland police and fire employees, or federal employees.

COMPENSABLE FATALITIES RATES 1995-2004

Year	WC covered employment	Fatal claims	Fatality rate
1995	1,431,600	48	3.35
1996	1,487,300	54	3.63
1997	1,547,800	43	2.78
1998	1,576,100	52	3.30
1999	1,602,700	47	2.93
2000	1,627,600	45	2.76
2001	1,616,400	34	2.10
2002	1,596,100	52	3.26
2003	1,585,800	41	2.59
2004	1,635,100	46	2.81

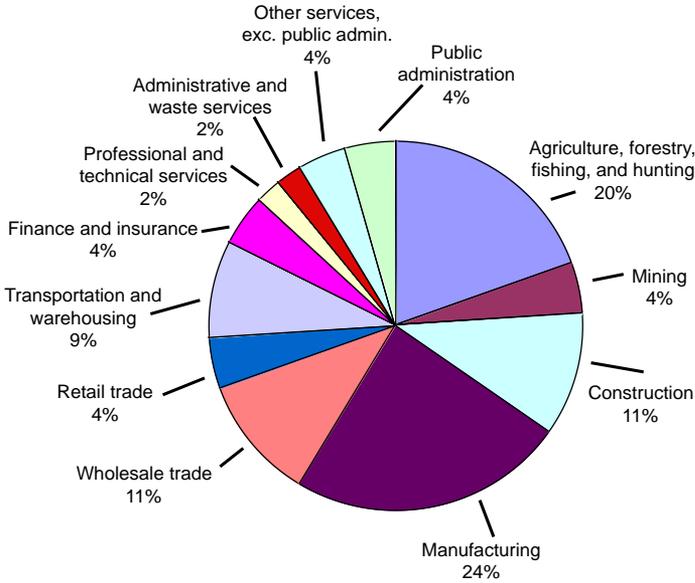
Note: Employment figures are based on data from the Oregon Employment Department. Fatality rates represent the number of claims per 100,000 workers. The 2004 WC covered employment estimate is preliminary.

The compensable fatality count can be affected by tragic accidents that kill multiple victims simultaneously. During 2004 there were no incidents with multiple victims, compared with three accidents in 2003 that claimed multiple victims.

The count can also be affected by increases in occupational illness claims. In 2004 there were five cases of occupational illness fatalities, including asbestosis, silicosis, and cancers; this compares with one compensable occupational illness case in 2003.

INDUSTRY

Figure 2. Fatalities by NAICS industry classification, Oregon, 2004



Within the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry group, the logging industry reported eight compensable fatalities in 2004, 17.4 percent of the total. Eight logging fatalities were also reported in 2003. The fatal rate for logging was 102.56 workers killed per 100,000 employed in 2004, compared with 105.26 in 2003.*

Four of the eleven compensable fatalities in the manufacturing industry group were due to exposure to toxic or caustic substances, including asbestos and silica.

*According to the [Standard Industrial Classification Manual](#) (SIC), logging is categorized in the manufacturing industry group. In the new [North American Industry Classification System](#) (NAICS), logging is categorized in the agriculture industry group. This and other changes due to the conversion from SIC to NAICS may result in different counts by industry group.

INDUSTRY, cont.

Industry division (NAICS)	2004			2003		
	Employment	# of fatalities	Fatality rate	Employment	# of fatalities	Fatality rate
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	72,300	10	13.83	70,500	16	22.70
Mining	1,900	2	105.26	1,800	0	0.00
Utilities	5,300	0	0.00	5,200	1	19.23
Construction	82,300	5	6.08	77,000	6	7.79
Manufacturing	199,500	11	5.51	194,900	4	2.05
Wholesale trade	75,300	5	6.64	74,600	1	1.34
Retail trade	188,200	2	1.06	184,400	0	0.00
Transportation and warehousing (exc. railroad and Pacific maritime)	48,300	4	8.28	47,500	2	4.21
Information	33,000	0	0.00	33,600	1	2.98
Finance and insurance	59,200	2	3.38	60,100	0	0.00
Real estate, rental and leasing	37,500	0	0.00	37,000	0	0.00
Professional and technical services	62,600	1	1.60	61,100	2	3.27
Management of companies and enterprises	26,500	0	0.00	26,400	0	0.00
Administrative and waste services	87,700	1	1.14	83,300	3	3.60
Educational services	26,100	0	0.00	25,300	0	0.00
Health care and social assistance	167,000	0	0.00	163,600	0	0.00
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	20,700	0	0.00	20,000	0	0.00
Accommodation and food services	135,100	0	0.00	131,600	0	0.00
Other services, excludes public administration	57,300	1	1.75	56,700	2	3.53
State government, including home health care workers	78,700	2	2.54	60,900	2	3.28
Local government	170,500	0	0.00	170,300	1	0.59
TOTAL	1,635,100	46	2.81	1,585,800	41	2.59

Notes: Employment figures are estimates of the number of workers covered by workers' compensation insurance and were developed primarily from data supplied by the Oregon Employment Department. Figures represent annual average employment.

Fatality rates are the number of fatality claims per 100,000 workers.

2004 employment and fatality rate estimates are preliminary.

Workers' Compensation claims rates can be found on the Internet at:

<http://www.cbs.state.or.us/imd/rasums/claimsrates/99-03/claimsrate99-03.pdf>

OCCUPATION

Occupation group	2004		2003	
	#	%	#	%
Management	2	4.3	2	4.9
Architecture and engineering	0	0.0	1	2.4
Life, physical, and social science	0	0.0	1	2.4
Community and social services	1	2.2	0	0.0
Education, training, and library	0	0.0	1	2.4
Healthcare practitioner and technical	0	0.0	1	2.4
Protective service	1	2.2	9	22.0
Food preparation and serving	1	2.2	0	0.0
Building and grounds cleaning/maintenance	2	4.3	1	2.4
Personal care and service	1	2.2	2	4.9
Sales	3	6.5	0	0.0
Office and administrative support	1	2.2	1	2.4
Farming, fishing, and forestry	6	13.0	6	14.6
Construction and extraction	5	10.9	5	12.2
Installation, maintenance, and repair	2	4.3	0	0.0
Production	4	8.7	5	12.2
Transportation and material moving	17	37.0	6	14.6
TOTAL	46	100.0	41	100.0

Transportation and material moving occupations accounted for the most fatalities (37 percent). Of these, nine were truck drivers and one was a pilot.

Four of the workers in the farming, fishing, and forestry occupations were loggers. Two of these loggers were killed when they were struck by trees.

EVENT OR EXPOSURE

Event	2004		2003	
	#	%	#	%
Struck by/against object	4	8.7	7	17.1
Caught in equipment/material	6	13.0	1	2.4
Fall from elevation	5	10.9	2	4.9
Bodily reaction	0	0.0	1	2.4
Exposure to caustic, allergenic substance	7	15.2	2	4.9
Exposure to harmful environments, other	1	2.2	1	2.4
Contact with electric current	1	2.2	2	4.9
Highway accident	13	28.3	13	31.7
Industrial accident	4	8.7	2	4.9
Pedestrian struck by vehicle	4	8.7	1	2.4
Aircraft accident	1	2.2	6	14.6
Assault or violent acts	0	0.0	1	2.4
Fires and explosions	0	0.0	2	4.9
TOTAL	46	100.0	41	100.0

Note: The event or exposure describes the manner in which the injury or illness was produced or inflicted by the source of injury or illness.

In 2004, highway motor vehicle accidents were the leading event, claiming 13 lives, the same count as reported in 2003. At least four of the 13 workers killed in highway motor vehicle accidents were not wearing seatbelts (four were unknown). Four of the 13 fatalities occurred on the interstate, four occurred on a highway, three occurred on a local road, and two occurred on other types of roads or streets (including logging roads).

Industrial accidents include transportation accidents that occur off public roadways. Of the four nonhighway accidents in 2004, two involved forklifts.

SOURCE OF INJURY/ILLNESS

Source of injury/illness	2004		2003	
	#	%	#	%
Vehicles	24	52.2	22	53.7
Highway vehicles	19	41.3	15	36.6
Industrial vehicles and tractors	3	6.5	1	2.4
Aircraft vehicles	1	2.2	6	14.6
Structures and surfaces	5	10.9	3	7.3
Floors, ground	5	10.9	2	4.9
Machinery	4	8.7	4	9.8
Construction and logging machines	3	6.5	4	9.8
Material handling machinery	1	2.2	0	0.0
Persons, plants and animals	8	17.4	6	14.6
Asbestos	4	8.7	1	2.4
Silica	1	2.2	0	0.0
Rocks	1	2.2	0	0.0
Trees/logs	2	4.3	2	4.9
Branches/limbs	0	0.0	1	2.4
Other sources	1	2.2	2	4.9
Atmosphere and environment	0	0.0	1	2.4
Water, liquids	1	2.2	1	2.4
Parts and materials	1	2.2	2	4.9
Chemicals	2	4.3	1	2.4
Containers	1	2.2	0	0.0
Tools, instruments, and equipment	0	0.0	1	2.4
TOTAL	46	100.0	41	100.0

Note:

The primary source of injury identifies the object, substance, or exposure that directly produced or inflicted the injury.

Vehicles were the leading source of injury, accounting for more than 50 percent of workplace fatalities. These vehicles would be the source of injury for all of the motor vehicle accidents and for workers struck by/caught in parts of the vehicles, such as workers struck by the lowering forks of a forklift.

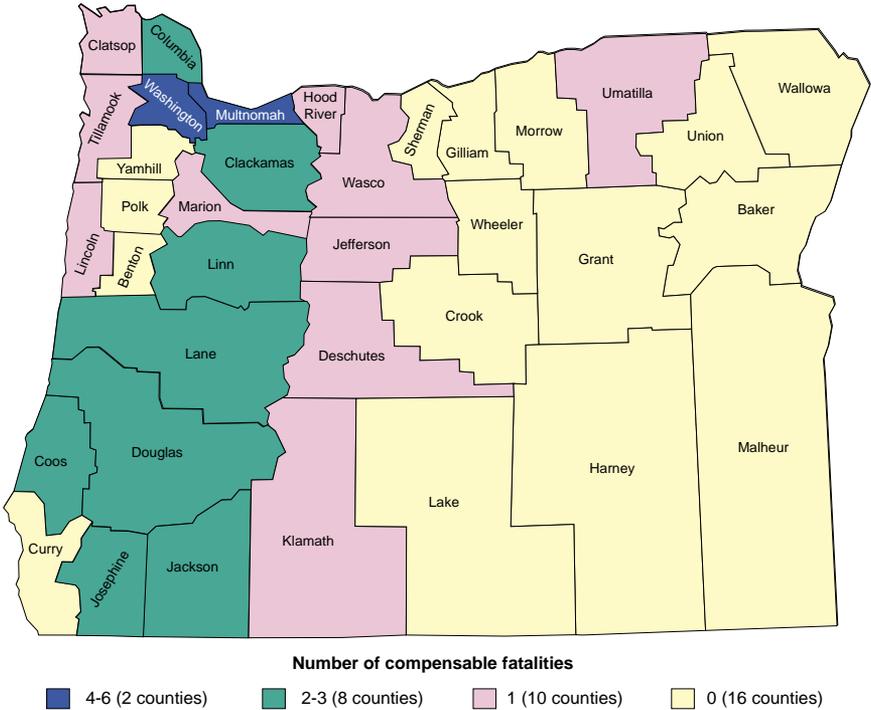
TENURE

Tenure	2004		2003	
	#	%	#	%
1st year	14	30.4	16	39.0
A month or less	5	10.9	5	12.2
2nd - 3rd months	4	8.7	5	12.2
4th - 6th months	4	8.7	3	7.3
7th - 12th months	1	2.2	3	7.3
2nd year	5	10.9	5	12.2
3rd year	2	4.3	2	4.9
4th - 5th years	6	13.0	1	2.4
6th - 10th years	6	13.0	10	24.4
11th - 25th years	6	13.0	2	4.9
26th and more	2	4.3	2	4.9
Unknown	5	10.9	3	7.3
Total	46	100.0	41	100.0

Fourteen workers died within the first year of working for the employer. Of these 14 workers, 11 were injured in transportation accidents including motor vehicle accidents, aircraft accidents, and industrial accidents. Of the 11 transportation accidents within the first year of employment, six were highway accidents, two were nonhighway/industrial accidents, two workers were pedestrians struck by vehicles, and one was an aircraft accident.

Tenure is the amount of time the victim had worked for the employer and is not necessarily indicative of the level of experience. However, the tenure information does indicate the need for training and supervision of new employees. The deaths of workers with longer tenure point out the need for programs to reinforce safety training.

COUNTY OF INJURY



Note: Eight fatalities occurred outside of Oregon.

Multnomah and Washington counties claimed the most fatalities in Oregon during 2004 with six victims each. Eight fatalities occurred outside Oregon (one in Alabama, two in California, one in Idaho, and four in Washington).

WORKER CHARACTERISTICS

The median age of the 46 workers at injury was 44.5. The youngest worker killed was a 16-year-old dog trainer who died in an ATV accident. The oldest worker killed was a 71-year-old log truck driver who died in a motor vehicle accident while driving a log truck. More information on these accidents can be found in the accident descriptions beginning on page 16.

WORKER CHARACTERISTICS, cont.

Worker characteristics	2004	
	#	%
Total	46	100.0
Sex		
Men	39	84.8
Women	7	15.2
Age		
Under 18 years	1	2.2
18 to 19 years	0	0.0
20 to 24 years	8	17.4
25 to 34 years	6	13.0
35 to 44 years	8	17.4
45 to 54 years	12	26.1
55 to 64 years	8	17.4
65 years and over	3	6.5
Race		
White	41	89.1
Other races, including Hispanic/Latino	2	4.3
Person of multiple races	1	2.2
Not reported	2	4.3
Hispanic origin?		
Yes	6	13.0
No	33	71.7
Not reported	7	15.2
Country of birth		
Mexico	4	8.7
Germany	2	4.3
U.S. citizen or not reported	40	87.0

Notes: Due to rounding, the sum of percents may not equal 100.0.

Persons identified as being of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

In 2004, Oregon began collecting ethnicity data for compensable fatalities in response to a national news story that stated that Hispanic workers were more likely to die on the job than non-Hispanic workers (see: <http://www.bls.gov/iif/peoplebox.htm#faq>).

Department of Consumer & Business Services
Compensable Fatalities
Listing of fatalities by industry (SIC), Oregon, 2004

Event of injury	Program related	Injury description	Age	Sex	Ten-ure	Injury mo/yr	County	Occupation	NAICS	SIC
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing										
Industrial accident	+	Forklift ran into utility pole	24	M	0	03/04	Marion	Equipment operator	111421	0181
HMV accident	+	Truck overturned into canal of water	20	M	1	10/03	Klamath	Farm worker	111998	0191
Industrial accident	+	Riding ATV in field; ATV hit a dip and victim was thrown off	16	M	2	08/04	Columbia	Laborer	812910	0752
Mining										
Caught in		Caught in collapsing rocks and materials in a hopper	33	M	39	06/04	Columbia	Line maintenance worker	212319	1429
Fall		Fell 12 feet to floor from elevated conveyor	63	M	329	08/04	Clackamas	Mining superintendent	212321	1442
Construction										
Inhalation of		Inhalation of asbestos while working with asbestos flooring and insulation	54	M	*	10/81	Multnomah	Asbestos worker	238310	1742
Fall	+	Fell through opening in roof	45	M	94	06/04	Multnomah	Journeyman roofer	238160	1761
HMV accident		Pickup truck flipped in the path of an oncoming car	22	M	14	01/04	Out-of-state	Construction worker	238160	1761
Caught in	+	Crushed between drill machine and concrete wall	47	M	224	03/04	Multnomah	Construction foreman	238910	1794
Industrial accident		Forklift overturned, worker attempted to jump free and was struck on head	23	M	25	10/04	Out-of-state	Forklift operator	238390	1799
Logging										
Struck by	+	Struck by falling tree	58	M	60	09/04	Tillamook	Timber faller	113310	2411
Struck by	+	Struck by tree being yarded	47	M	5	11/04	Douglas	Choker setter	113310	2411
Caught in	+	Crushed beneath rolling pickup	28	M	15	09/04	Clatsop	Hook tender	113310	2411
HMV accident		Dump truck ran off road, overturned, and ran into a tree	67	M	0	07/04	Jackson	Truck driver	113310	2411
HMV accident		Pickup truck collided with a tree	22	M	5	07/04	Josephine	Chaser	113310	2411

Event of injury	Program related	Injury description	Age	Sex	Ten-ure	Injury mo/yr	County	Occupation	NAICS	SIC
HMV accident		Semi truck rolled down a steep embankment when the road gave way	42	M	61	09/04	Lane	Truck driver	113310	2411
Industrial accident		Water truck lost control on hill at worksite and overturned	51	M	14	07/04	Out-of-state	Water truck driver	113310	2411
Aircraft accident		Helicopter crashed	41	M	12	05/04	Douglas	Helicopter pilot	113310	2411
Sawmill										
Caught in	+	Caught in debarker	24	M	41	02/04	Washington	Assistant millwright	321113	2421
Other woods										
Pedestrian	+	Pedestrian struck by forklift	29	F	5	11/04	Jefferson	Grader/feeder	321918	2431
Caught in	+	Caught between forklift and semitrailer	42	M	72	02/04	Hood River	Forklift operator	321219	2493
Contact with electric current	+	Electrocution from coming in contact with power box of conveyer	34	M	216	01/04	Linn	Packaging operator	321999	2499
Other manufacturing										
Fall	+	Fell 12 feet to concrete floor when a guardrail dislodged	39	F	38	09/04	Coos	Shrimp catcher	311712	2092
Inhalation of		Inhalation of asbestos while cleaning out brake drums	60	M	*	04/02	Multnomah	Corrugator supervisor	322211	2653
Struck by	+	Struck by a falling sack of raw polymer materials	39	M	2	06/04	Clackamas	Pre-expander operator	326140	3086
HMV accident		Cement truck overturned on curve in road	44	M	1	08/04	Lane	Concrete mixer driver	327320	3273
Inhalation of		Inhalation of asbestos while cleaning up at foundry	29	M	23	12/64	Washington	Cleanup worker	331511	3321
Inhalation of		Inhalation of silica while working in silica sand and coal dust	48	M	25	02/82	Washington	Laborer	331511	3321
Inhalation of		Inhalation of asbestos working with and around gaskets and other materials	61	M	474	07/01	Linn	Crane operator/boom truck driver	331419	3339
Transportation and public utilities										
HMV accident		Semi truck overturned and ran into trees	71	M	136	12/03	Lincoln	Log truck driver	484110	4212

Listing of fatalities by industry, Oregon, 2004, *continued*

Event of injury	Program related	Injury description	Age	Sex	Tenure	Injury mo/yr	County	Occupation	NAICS	SIC
Fall		Fell off top of trailer onto head	62	M	108	10/04	Out-of-state	Truck driver	484121	4213
Struck by		Struck by load of falling glass	63	M	48	03/04	Out-of-state	Truck driver	484121	4213
Pedestrian		Pedestrian struck by semi truck that slid on ice	24	M	2	11/04	Out-of-state	Truck driver	484121	4213
HMV accident		Pickup truck rear-ended by flatbed truck	49	F	*	03/04	Jackson	Travel agent	561510	4724
Wholesale trade										
Inhalation of	+	Inhalation of carbon monoxide from propane powered refinisher	50	M	1	11/04	Deschutes	Janitor	423850	5087
Pedestrian		Pedestrian struck by pickup while on side of road	57	M	50	10/04	Washington	Delivery driver/ route manager	424410	5142
HMV accident		Semi truck overturned and collided with a power pole	38	M	4	11/03	Josephine	Truck driver	424430	5143
Pedestrian		Pedestrian struck by flatbed pickup that was backing up	48	M	297	02/01	Umatilla	Assistant manager	424510	5153
HMV accident		Collided with oncoming delivery truck	34	F	106	02/04	Washington	Inventory assistant	424930	5193
Retail trade										
Fall	+	Fall against ladder down to floor	68	F	170	01/04	Multnomah	Service deli worker	452910	5311
Inhalation of	+	Exposure to chemical during thermal spraying demonstration	43	M	24	10/03	Out-of-state	Sales representative	454390	5963
Services										
HMV accident		Van crashed into rock-wall embankment	54	M	*	11/03	Wasco	President of company	524210	6411
HMV accident		Car was passing vehicle and struck oncoming pickup truck	49	F	3	07/04	Out-of-state	Locational case manager	524210	6411
HMV accident		Vehicle collided with pole	22	M	*	02/04	Multnomah	Sales driver	541810	7311
Government										
Caught in		Crushed between bus and pole	56	F	265	11/04	Washington	Bus operator	485113	4111
Drowning	+	Drowned rescuing person	51	M	66	12/03	Coos	Reserve police officer	922120	9221

Footnotes for listing of fatalities by industry, Oregon, 2004

Footnotes:

+ Indicates the fatality was program related. **Program-related** fatalities are a subset of compensable fatalities that resulted from incidents the DCBS Occupational Safety and Health Division (Oregon OSHA) determined may have been prevented by complying with safety and health standards and/or implementing a safety and health management program. Please contact Oregon OSHA at (503) 378-3272 for information about Oregon OSHA fatality investigations.

During 2004, the Oregon Workers' Compensation Division began converting claims data from the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system to the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). This conversion will allow the United States to make data comparisons with Canada and Mexico. This year, tables are available for fatalities by SIC and NAICS codes. Previous years' tables were presented using SIC codes only. **Industries** are grouped and classified according to the [Standard Industrial Classification Manual](#) (SIC), 1987 Edition. Industry classification codes are also provided according to the [North American Industry Classification System](#) (NAICS), 2002 edition.

Employees of client leasing firms are reported by the industry in which they were working at the time of injury.

Injury **events** are classified according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' [Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System](#) (OIICS).

Injury age is the age of the employee at the time of the fatal injury or the diagnosis of the fatal illness, which may be different than the age at death.

* Indicates the tenure is unknown. **Tenure** is the length of time, in months, that an employee had been working for the employer at the time of the fatal injury or the diagnosis of the fatal illness.

Eight fatalities occurred outside of Oregon: four in Washington, two in California, one in Alabama, and one in Idaho.

Descriptions of 2004 fatal compensable injuries and illnesses by industry (SIC)

Agriculture, forestry, fishing – 3 fatalities

SIC 01-09

- Equipment operator was operating a skid steer loader with a forklift attachment, stockpiling greenhouses with flats of planting pots. He had his jacket across his lap as he was working and, when he went to stand up, the jacket got caught on the controls and the forklift ran into a utility pole adjacent to the greenhouse. The vehicle was found running and wedged forward into the pole. The victim was found slumped in the operator's seat with his head crushed (program-related).
- Farm worker was driving a loaded potato truck from the fields on a narrow private road (11 feet wide). The truck's wheels traveled off the hard-packed road and onto loose dry soil. The truck sank into the soil and rolled over into an irrigation ditch, coming to rest on its top in 3-4 feet of water. The victim was unable to escape the cab of the truck as it filled with water, and he drowned. It was dark and headlights were the only lighting (program-related).
- Laborer was helping train retriever dogs in a pasture and needed to change locations. The victim was driving the ATV (with co-worker as passenger) through a field when it hit a small grass-covered ditch (dip) in the field. The ATV flipped end over end, and the victim was hit by the handle bars as he was thrown off. He was knocked unconscious and suffered massive chest injuries. He died a few days later. The ATV was made for a single rider. Helmets and other protective equipment were not worn. He was the youngest worker, age 16 (program-related).

Mining – 2 fatalities

SIC 10-14

- Line maintenance man was engulfed in sliding rocks and material in a 30-ton transfer hopper. He had entered the hopper from the top and was attempting to free material that had plugged the machine. He was standing on top of the material when it broke free, slid in, and engulfed him. Safety belts and lifelines were not used. Death was attributed to traumatic asphyxiation.
- Mining superintendent fell 12 feet from a 3-inch wide elevated cross beam of a conveyor. The victim and two co-workers were attempting to install a new conveyor belt on the elevated conveyor. The victim was pulling on a ¾-inch diameter rope tied to the new belt when the rope came loose from the belt. The victim was not wearing fall protection and fell from the elevated area backward to the concrete floor below. Victim died the next day of blunt force head trauma.

Construction – 5 fatalities

SIC 15-17

- Asbestos worker had worked in the construction industry for many years. He worked for contractors, and some of his duties were to install asbestos flooring and insulation. He was exposed to asbestos regularly in the course of his job.
- Journeyman roofer was in the process of laying sheets of insulation on a flat roof approximately 20 feet above the ground. An exhaust fan had been removed, leaving a 37.5-inch square hole that had been covered by a 4-foot square piece of insulation. The victim walked across the roof wearing dark glasses and kicked the piece of unsecured insulation and fell approximately 20 feet to the concrete floor below. He sustained massive head injuries and died (program-related).

- Construction worker was a passenger in a pickup truck that was being driven to a job site. The driver of the truck lost control of the vehicle on the icy highway, and it flipped into the path of an oncoming car. The victim died instantly and the driver and other passengers were seriously injured. Incident occurred in Washington.
- Construction foreman was walking or standing behind the drill rig, out of view of the rig operator when the drill was moved; the rear part of the rig pushed the worker up against a cement wall. He was crushed between the rotating superstructure of a track drill machine and concrete wall. Hard hat was found on the ground nearby (program-related).
- Forklift driver was operating a forklift that rolled over an embankment at a landfill. He attempted to jump clear but was hit on the head by part of the forklift or the load he was carrying. He was not wearing a seatbelt.

Manufacturing – 19 fatalities

SIC 20-39

- Shrimp catcher was leaning through the railing of a removable guardrail on the second story of a storage area. She was trying to catch boxes being thrown up to her when the guardrail dislodged causing her to fall 12 feet to the floor below. The employee struck the back of her head on the concrete when she hit. Guardrails acted as a removable gate. There was a language barrier in providing safety training (program-related).
- Corrugator supervisor developed mesothelioma from long-term exposure to asbestos. His job was to clean out large asbestos-lined brake drums of machinery.
- Pre-expander operator was using a forklift to move 2,205-pound “super sacks” of raw polymer beads. The forks pierced the bottom bag (the super sacks were stacked two high) and so he got out to repair the leak. As he was trying to repair the hole the lower bag collapsed causing the upper bag to fall onto him. The victim died of compressional asphyxiation (program-related).
- Concrete mixer driver was driving a loaded cement truck (wet) on county road when the vehicle overturned while negotiating a left-hand curve in the road. The vehicle slid off the shoulder and into an embankment — coming to rest on the passenger side. Victim was thrown around inside cab. The victim did not wear a seatbelt.
- Cleanup worker in a foundry used asbestos gloves and was exposed to asbestos insulation around furnaces. His job was to clean up messes, shake out the molds in the foundry, and throw the cast outs into the pot. Many of the products contained asbestos.
- Laborer inhaled silica during 16 years working in foundry. Most of that time was spent working directly with and in silica sand and coal dust. Worker died of silicosis.
- Crane operator/boom truck driver had worked around asbestos for 39 years. Part of his duties included repairing and rebuilding residue valves at the bottom of clonators, which brought him in contact with the gasket shop. Some of the gaskets used in the repair work contained asbestos. In addition, the various plants contained asbestos-related materials. Worker died years later of mesothelioma.
- Timber faller fell a 20-inch in diameter hemlock tree that had a 6-inch in diameter douglas fir tree hung up in it. As the hemlock tree fell the hung tree also fell, striking the victim in the head and shoulder area. The site was on a steep hill so the worker apparently assumed the tree would fall downhill like the others previously cut (program-related).

Manufacturing, *continued*

- Choker setter was setting chokers in a canyon. A yarder started pulling a load of trees up the hill. A small tree within the load was being held down by another tree, and when the load moved, it shifted off the small tree and caused it to snap back and hit the victim in the midsection (program-related).
- Hook tender was backing up a pickup truck into a turnaround. The pickup either stalled or was deliberately shut off. The victim put the vehicle in neutral and exited the pickup to troubleshoot the starter by reaching inside the right front wheel well with his arms and torso. While inside the wheel well, the pickup rolled backward, pinching the victim's upper body between the tire and wheel rim. The vehicle had a nonfunctioning parking brake and starter problems (program-related).
- Truck driver was operating a 12-yard dump truck, loaded with 10 yards of 1½-inch crushed rock. The truck was traveling down a steep grade on a gravel road. As the truck approached a left-hand turn, the truck continued to travel straight, leaving the roadway over the bank. The truck hit several small trees, rolled onto the passenger side, and then struck a large tree (36-inch diameter), stopping the truck movement. Victim had radioed co-workers that he was having brake trouble. He died of internal injuries.
- Chaser for logging company was responsible for using the company pickup truck to pick up and drop off the crew each day. They had started their day early in the morning, worked, and he had just dropped them off. He was driving home on a long, straight stretch of the highway. Trees provided partial shade and partial light — the pattern of shadow and light may have been a “road hypnosis.” Worker appears to have fallen asleep at the wheel (no brake lights, etc). The vehicle left the road and ran into a tree. He was wearing a seatbelt.
- Truck driver was driving a semi-tractor truck loaded with a piece of heavy logging equipment. Another semi truck was in front of and attached to the worker's truck by a towrope. It was providing power assistance to the truck up a hill, while driving at a low speed. A small portion of the road edge gave way under the right rear tires of the worker's trailer, causing it and the load to go over the edge and fall 30 to 50 feet down a steep embankment. The worker was ejected from the cab and then pinned under the truck. It's unknown if he wore a seatbelt.
- Water truck driver was driving a loaded (4,000 gallons) three-axle water truck downhill on a dirt logging road when he lost control on a tight turn and rolled ¾ times. He was not wearing a seatbelt and was partially ejected when the vehicle overturned. The brakes were not properly adjusted, which contributed to the accident. The victim died of positional asphyxia.
- Helicopter pilot was removing timber at a logging site using a 200-foot long line. The helicopter was hovering near the treetops in a heavily wooded, steeply sloped terrain and attempting to snag a log when it drifted sideways and one of the rotors hit the treetops. The helicopter began to roll away from the tree and into a nose dive, impacting the ground inverted. There was no post-crash fire. The incident occurred during daylight with calm winds. The pilot was wearing a seatbelt.
- Assistant millwright was doing routine maintenance on a log debarking machine. He was on the in-feed rollers grinding off grip pins when the upper holddown roll (weighing about 6,000 pounds) came down and crushed him. A co-worker in another section had unknowingly released air pressure from the machine while servicing the air system to the barker. The worker did not block the press roll into place with the safety pins. This would have prevented the press from lowering when the air system was turned off (program-related).

- Grader/feeder was bending down to pick up a piece of wood and was struck by a forklift carrying a load of lumber (program-related).
- Forklift operator was helping load pallets of wood pellets onto a semitrailer when he stopped to help the truck driver tarp his load. After dismounting the forklift, it somehow slipped into reverse and rolled backward — pinning the worker between the forklift and the trailer. Parking brake was set and the transmission shift lever was positioned in such a way that it slipped into reverse without the backup alarm sounding. Worker died of crushing injuries to chest and head (program-related).
- Packaging operator was using a long-handled scoop shovel to push spilled wood pellets into a pile. While holding the protective metal cage of a conveyor, he leaned forward to shovel and the back of his wrist came into contact with the exposed electrical controls of a 660-volt conveyor control box. The electricity arced through his chest and he died of a heart attack. Control box had a deformed cover that didn't fit properly and was often removed (program-related).

Transportation – 5 fatalities

SIC 40-49

- Log truck driver was driving a log truck down a county road when he failed to negotiate a curve and ran off the road. The vehicle overturned and hit trees with the cab of the truck, ejecting the driver and seat approximately 6 feet. The cab of the truck had been sheared off at the window level just above the dashboard. There were no skid marks or signs of braking. The driver was wearing a seatbelt. It was an overcast day with dry roads. He was the oldest worker, age 71.
- Truck driver had climbed to the top of the box trailer on his semi truck for unknown reasons. He fell off the trailer and hit the right side of his head on the ground. Incident occurred in Idaho.
- Long-haul truck driver was hauling huge pieces of glass between states when a strong wind cracked one of the pieces. Worker was told to drop off broken glass in dump. While standing next to the load of glass (near end of trailer) another strong wind, 20 to 30 miles per hour, caused more glass to crack. Worker ran toward the cab, but when the glass broke, the worker was covered with heavy shards. The worker suffered multiple injuries and died later of infection. Incident occurred in Alabama.
- Truck driver was involved in a minor accident and had pulled to the right shoulder of the interstate to exchange insurance information with the other driver. He walked toward the back of his truck on the driver's side as they waited for the police to arrive. A semi truck was proceeding along the same highway, traveling in the same direction, and skidded on ice. The side of the trailer of the skidding semi truck struck the back end of the victim's truck and the victim was crushed between the two trailers. The victim suffered multiple head injuries. The accident occurred in Washington state.
- Travel agent was driving a company pickup to work on the interstate. The clutch for the truck was going out and so she was driving approximately 30 miles per hour or less in a 65-miles-per-hour zone. Victim was rear-ended by a flatbed pickup truck. She was not wearing a seatbelt and was ejected from the vehicle. The vehicle in front of the flatbed truck had just changed lanes, so driver was unable brake in time because he had not seen the victim's vehicle.

Wholesale trade – 5 fatalities

SIC 50-51

- Janitor was using a propane-powered refinisher to buff the floor of an office building. He died from carbon monoxide poisoning emitted from the propane burnishing machine (program-related).
- Delivery driver/route manager was standing on the side of the road after making a home delivery. While the victim was getting into his truck, he was struck by a utility pickup.
- Truck driver lost control of a semi-truck loaded with milk and dairy products on a curve at the bottom of an interstate off ramp. The vehicle flipped over onto the driver's side and slid across two lanes of traffic before it crashed into a power pole, pinning the driver against the rear of the cab. Road conditions were wet, and the sky was overcast.
- Assistant manager was staking out an irrigation plot for a customer. The customer backed over the worker with a one-ton flatbed truck. The worker suffered deep cuts and a closed dislocation. He died three years later from post-phlebotic syndrome and pulmonary embolism.
- Inventory assistant was driving between two farms in a sport utility vehicle on a semi-rural two-lane highway. She lost control of the vehicle on the wet, foggy roadway. The SUV crossed into oncoming traffic and collided head-on with a commercial van. She was wearing a seatbelt. Victim was traveling too fast for conditions.

Retail trade – 2 fatalities

SIC 52-59

- Service deli employee was using an 8-foot stepladder to retrieve a stack of coffee cups from a shelf behind the service deli. She leaned out of the side rails of the ladder and overreached. She lost her grip on the side rail and fell against the ladder — sliding down the ladder and fracturing her tibia and fibula. She was hospitalized and developed fatal complications (program-related).
- Sales representative for welding company was exposed to toxic chemical byproduct during thermal spraying demonstration. Victim was involved in the test application; he applied a base coat (consisting primarily of nickel) on impellers of a generator in an enclosed area. The respirator was worn incorrectly due to the worker's beard. Exposure occurred over a couple days and worker died later. Incident occurred in Washington (program-related).

Services – 3 fatalities

SIC 70-89

- President of company was driving his van on the interstate when his vehicle drifted off the road, crossed the soft gravel shoulder, and crashed into a rock-wall embankment. Worker was entrapped in the van and died of injuries in the 40 minutes it took to extricate him. He was enroute to a meeting — there were known mechanical problems with the vehicle, and the victim did not appear to brake. He wore a seatbelt, and the road conditions were wet and windy.
- Locational case manager was driving car on the highway and passing another vehicle. The victim failed to remerge into her lane and hit an oncoming pickup truck head on. She died instantly. The driver was wearing a seatbelt.

- Sales driver was driving a sport utility vehicle when he made an abrupt right move from the outside lanes of the interstate toward the exit. The vehicle accelerated as it made the move, lost control on the wet pavement, went off the right side of the highway, and ended up striking a highway sign. The impact was at highway speed. The driver was not wearing a seatbelt.

Government – 2 fatalities

SIC 91-97

- Bus operator had deboarded customers and walked in front of bus to use the restroom. The bus is automatically kept in “park” when the doors are open even if the bus gears are in “drive.” Either the driver or someone else noticed the bus’s doors were open and shut them, which put the bus back into gear. The victim was standing on a curb near the bus when it ran over her and crushed her between a pole and the bus.
- Reserve police officer manned the lifeline of a rescue team diver who was trying to reach a teen who had been pulled into the ocean by a sneaker tide. Worker was 50 to 100 feet from the water’s edge. Another co-worker went into the water with the lifeline near the victim when a second sneaker tide knocked over the victim and pulled him into the water. He was entangled in ropes, retrieved several minutes later, but drowned. The sneaker wave may have been caused by a regional earthquake (program-related).

Additional Resource for Occupational Safety & Health Information

OREGON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH DIVISION (OR-OSHA)

The Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division (OR-OSHA) is taking an active role in preventing fatal accidents. OR-OSHA offers a wide range of services to Oregon's employers and workers to improve workplace safety and health. These services include:

- Consultations
- Education/conferences
- Technical resources and film library
- Educational grants
- Hazard abatement assistance

For more information, contact:

OR-OSHA

350 Winter St. NE, Room 430

P.O. Box 14480

Salem, OR 97309-0405

(503) 378-3272 or

(800) 922-2689

www.orosha.org

Fatality/claims data

Additional information about workplace fatalities, injuries, and illnesses can be found on IMD's Web site at: <http://www.cbs.state.or.us/imd/>. From the home page, select "Statistical Reports" and on the next Web page select "Workers' Compensation." From there you can find tables, description of cases, and summary reports for occupational fatalities by selecting "Fatality." Or you may select "Claim" and "Characteristics" to find rates, tables, and summary reports for all accepted disabling Workers' Compensation injury and illness claims.

Census of fatal occupational injuries

National work-related fatality data can be found on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries Web site: <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm>

Fatality assessment and control evaluation

Information about Oregon Health Sciences University's Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation Program (FACE) can be found at: <http://www.ohsu.edu/croet/face/>

Employer workers' compensation coverage

For additional information about employer coverage requirements, you may contact the Workers' Compensation Division Employer Compliance Program at wcd.employerinfo@state.or.us, call (888) 877-5670, or find it on the Internet at: <http://www.wcd.oregon.gov>

Classification systems

Data are classified according to the following classification systems:

[Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System](#) (OIICS)

[Standard Occupation Classification System](#) (SOC)

[North American Industry Classification System](#) (NAICS)



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