



Descriptions of Compensable Fatalities by Industry (NAICS), Oregon, 2005

Information Management Division

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Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing (including logging) NAICS 11

Ranch hand was feeding horses from the top of a trailer about 12 feet high. When he picked up a bale of hay, the strings broke on the bale, causing the victim to fall backward from the trailer onto the cement surface below. He suffered multiple fractures to his back, dislocation of his left great toe, and deep scalp lacerations. He died 13 days later from a massive pulmonary embolus as a result of his injuries.

Farm laborer was driving a pickup truck down a rural road. He failed to stop at a railroad crossing that had a stop sign but no gates or lights as a 56-car freight train approached. The train conductor sounded the horn, but the victim did not notice or hear the train. The train, traveling approximately 50 mph, collided with the pickup. The pickup was dragged for more than a quarter-mile before the train was able to stop.

Foreman of a reforestation tree planting crew was driving a van with seven other co-workers. It was dark, and the victim was driving too fast for the icy conditions. The van slid off the icy highway down an embankment, collided with a tree, and landed on its top. The victim was wearing a seatbelt, and an airbag was deployed. A tire on the van was found with little tread and the cords showing. The victim died from an open skull fracture. One co-worker also died.

Heavy equipment operator was driving a water truck on a private gravel farm road that intersected with a dirt logging road. The victim collided with a log truck at the uncontrolled intersection. The front of the water truck was hit, mostly on the driver's side. The log truck's trailer brakes were not operational; it was not hauling a load at the time, and the driver of the log truck was not injured. The victim died of open head injuries.

Tree planter for a reforestation company was a passenger in a van with seven other co-workers. It was dark, and the driver of the van was driving too fast for the icy conditions.

The van slid off the icy highway down an embankment, collided with a tree, and landed on its top. Victim was not wearing a seatbelt and was ejected from the van. A tire on the van was found with little tread and the cords showing. The victim died from closed abdominal and chest trauma. The driver of the van also died.

Skidder operator was riding on a logging skidder being driven on a private logging road by another employee. The victim, who was standing on the running board holding onto the handrails located on the operator's cab, fell off the skidder and was run over by it. It was daylight with dry weather conditions and little wind. The road consisted of powdery pumice dirt, 3 to 5 inches deep with less than 1 percent slope. The victim died of a skull fracture. At 18 years old, he was the youngest compensable fatality accepted in 2005. (Program-related)

Timber faller, working in forest, was in the process of felling a 30-inch diameter pine tree. When the tree left the stump, it hit a smaller tree (7-inch diameter) about 74 feet away. The 30-inch tree caught the standing 7-inch tree, breaking off a piece of the smaller tree. A 4-inch diameter and 4-feet long piece of the smaller tree was thrown back at the victim and struck him in the back of the head. He died four days later from massive head injuries. (Program-related)

Flight crew member was onboard a helicopter being tested in hover mode when the helicopter crashed to the ground and burned.

Mining NAICS 21

Bulldozer operator was operating a dozer, cleaning rock off a quarry bench in preparation for drilling basalt. He was unable to maintain control while trying to maneuver the large dozer on a narrow, elevated bench. The dozer backed over the edge and fell 45 feet, landing on the quarry floor. The victim was wearing a seatbelt. He died from multiple traumatic injuries.

Construction NAICS 23

Truck driver was driving a loaded cement truck on a narrow, two-lane, gravel, residential road. He was traveling down a steep grade at an unsafe speed for the conditions when he lost control of the truck. The truck overturned and slid into a dirt embankment east of the roadway. The victim was partially ejected from the cab of the truck. Later investigation also found that the brakes were improperly adjusted. The victim died of crushing head and chest injuries.

Grader operator was operating a road grader down a gravel forest road when the grader went off the road. The victim either jumped or was thrown from the grader and landed 35 feet below the road surface. The grader rolled over the victim before landing 300 feet down the hillside. The grader had defective braking components and no seatbelts installed. Victim died from multiple blunt injuries. At 71 years old, he was the oldest compensable fatality accepted in 2005. (Program-related)

Electrician was driving a company van to a worksite when he lost control of the vehicle. He drove off the highway at approximately 40 to 50 mph and crashed head-on into a tree. After impact the van was engulfed in flames, so it's unknown if the victim was wearing a seatbelt. It was dark with clear weather and dry surface conditions. The victim died of thermal injuries.

Carpenter, working his second day with a construction company, was grinding and sacking the concrete walls of an inground tank at a wastewater treatment plant. The victim fell approximately 19 feet from an elevation outside the tank to the concrete flooring of the tank. He died from blunt head, chest, and abdominal trauma. (Program-related)

Pipe layer was part of a construction crew installing sewer lines for a new housing subdivision. He was working in a trench box about 14 feet below ground. A trackhoe was moving a trench shield weighing several tons when the metal hook on the trackhoe failed and the rigging flew into the victim, striking him in the back of the head. The load on the hook exceeded manufacturer's specifications, causing the hook's failure. The victim died two days later from a skull fracture. (Program-related)

Manufacturing NAICS 31-33

Plywood press operator was attempting to reinstall the glue tray on a plywood press machine. He told the other operator to start the press. When she did, the lid went down

and the timer was set for 80 seconds. The victim stuck his head between the frame and the top plate; the time expired and the lid raised, catching the victim's head between the top plate and the machine's frame. Machine guards were not in place and lockout/tagout procedures were not used. He died from a skull fracture. (Program-related)

Supervisor for a metal fabrication company was exposed to coal tar pitch volatiles over a long period of time. The victim was employed in a number of positions in the aluminum reduction process and was exposed to coal tar pitch volatiles throughout most of his employment. He died of bladder cancer as a result of his exposure.

Tank inspector was inspecting the inside of a tank-truck trailer. He was found unresponsive at the bottom of the trailer tank, which was a confined space that had previously held silicon tetrachloride. It had been cleaned and purged with nitrogen but had not been ventilated. The oxygen level at the bottom of the tank was 12.4 percent. The victim died from asphyxiation due to the contaminated environment. (Program-related)

Paper wrapper in a sawmill was straightening a piece of lumber as it exited a trim saw onto a conveyor. The victim was attempting to exit the conveyor when he stepped through a hole in the deck. The conveyor, which was still in operation and loaded with lumber, pushed the victim under the stamper arm, which pinned him. He was treated for multiple fractures and other injuries. He died months later from reactions to medications he was given while undergoing treatment at a hospital. (Program-related)

Millwright was beneath a running palletizing machine to inspect a newly installed aligner chain. As he peered into the aligner chain apron, a "walking beam," a machine that is part of the company's material moving circuit, struck the victim in the back of the head. The victim died from blunt force head trauma. (Program-related)

Wholesale Trade NAICS 42

Lumberyard worker was in the process of strapping a semi-trailer load of lumber. He ascended a ladder, placed against the side of the trailer, to strap the top of the load. When he stepped from the ladder onto the load, he slipped off the load and fell about 11 feet to the asphalt surface below. Ice was found on top of the plastic covered load and no fall protection was used. He died from head and neck injuries. (Program-related)

Truck driver was driving a semi-truck and empty single trailer when he drifted onto the south shoulder and struck some rocks on the roadside embankment. He overcorrected, crossing over the centerline through the oncoming lane, and continued off the north side embankment dropping an estimated 20 to 30 feet where he collided with several trees. He was not wearing safety restraints and was ejected from the vehicle. He died from closed head and neck trauma.

Retail Trade NAICS 44-45

Airplane pilot and passenger died in a plane crash in the desert while flying a propeller-driven aircraft. Witnesses say the pilot had been doing extreme maneuvers, but no one witnessed the crash and no evidence of engine trouble was found. The pilot was employed by an aircraft manufacturing company as a salesperson and was flying to increase his flying hours. The passenger was a friend of the pilot and not related to the company. The victim died of multiple traumatic injuries.

Gas station manager was completing daily reports in the early morning when he was shot to death by a co-worker who was robbing the convenience store/gas station. The co-worker shot the victim twice, in the head and neck, with a .22-caliber handgun while in the store's back office.

Sales associate was arranging and stocking store items while on a step ladder about 4 feet above the floor. For unknown reasons, the victim lost his balance and fell backward, hitting his head on the floor. He died the next day from closed-head trauma. (Program-related)

Transportation and Warehousing NAICS 48-49

Medical transport van driver was driving on a local road when, for unknown reasons, the van went off the side of the road into a ditch. The van continued down the ditch until it hit a driveway, was airborne for approximately 20 feet, landed back in the ditch, took out 100 feet of chain-link fence, and finally collided with a power pole, breaking it. There were no passengers, and the victim was wearing a seatbelt. He died of severe blunt force trauma to the neck and chest.

Truck driver was driving a tractor-trailer hauling construction material on the highway. A pickup truck going southbound traveled into the path of the northbound semi-truck and the vehicles collided. The semi-truck continued north, burst into flames, and overturned as it left the road and went onto the shoulder. It was clear daylight with dry

roadways. The semi-truck had one tire with low tread, but no other defects. The victim was wearing a seatbelt. He died of blunt and thermal injuries.

Truck driver, towing two trailers loaded with wood chips, rounded a curve too fast for conditions. The truck cab and first trailer overturned on their sides; the second trailer remained upright and attached. The vehicles slid across the eastbound lane into the highway guardrail. The truck cab crashed into a bridge railing, resulting in the death of the driver. It was a dark, cloudy night with dry roads. The victim was not wearing a seatbelt. He died from a skull fracture.

Mechanic was doing an alignment job on a semi-truck parked facing another semi-truck in a shop bay. The victim had walked between the trucks when the driver in the other truck started the truck in gear without the clutch engaged. The truck moved forward approximately 13 feet, striking the truck facing it and pinning the victim between the trucks. He died of multiple injuries. (Program-related)

Administration, Support, Waste Management, and Remediation Services NAICS 56

Window washer was preparing to wash windows on a seven-floor office building. The victim had failed to properly hook his boatswain chair to one of the anchorage points and was not attached to a second, independent safety line. When he repelled from the roof down the wall, his equipment failed and he fell 72 feet and landed on the concrete walkway below. He died of head and chest injuries. (Program-related)

State and Local Government NAICS 92

Protection unit supervisor was engaged in a physical work capacity test. During the test he was required to walk three miles on a high school track within a given period of time while carrying a 40-pound backpack. Halfway through the test, the victim collapsed on the track. He died of a heart attack en route to the hospital.

Custodian went to retrieve playground balls from a lower flat roof of a school approximately 12 feet above the ground. He placed a fully extended extension ladder against the roof and climbed onto the roof to retrieve the balls. The victim had not properly set the spring-loaded locks on the extension ladder and while trying to descend the ladder, the upper ladder collapsed under his weight and he fell to the asphalt ground. He died from a skull fracture. (Program-related)

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