



# Descriptions of Compensable Fatalities by Industry (NAICS), Oregon, 2008

Information Management Division

Department of Consumer and Business Services

September 2009

By [Karen Howard](#)

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

**Ten firefighters** and **three helicopter pilots** were on a helicopter flight that was transporting the crew back to their base camp at the end of the workday. During the initial takeoff, the helicopter lost power to the main rotor and crashed down into the trees on a remote mountainside. The impact caused the helicopter to explode and catch on fire. Seven of the 10 firefighters, the pilot flying the helicopter, and one of the other pilots\* died in the crash from multiple injuries. (Multiple fatality event involving eight compensable deaths)

*\* One of the fatalities involved a U.S. Forest Service official not covered by Oregon workers' compensation. This fatality is not included in the compensable fatalities count for 2008.*

**Logging supervisor** was driving a crew-cab pickup downhill on a steep, one-lane logging road when he experienced brake problems and went over a steep embankment. The driver either jumped out of the vehicle intentionally or was ejected. He was wearing a seatbelt before the truck went off the embankment but may have removed it intentionally in an attempt to jump out of the vehicle. He died from blunt-force trauma to the abdomen and chest. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

**Tree faller** was in the forest using a chainsaw to cut down a 14-inch diameter, 75-foot tall tree located on an uphill slope. As the tree fell, it struck a 37-foot snag. A 21-foot long section of the dead tree was ripped off when it was struck and it fell onto the victim's head. The faller was wearing a hard hat that was found nearby with the rivets ripped loose. He died on scene from head injuries. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

**Orchardist** was working alone operating a tractor when he apparently slipped and grabbed the shift lever causing the tractor to begin moving forward. He was caught under the rear mower deck. The tractor dragged him forward until it hit a barn wall. The rear wheels continued to rotate digging a hole in the dirt and causing further pressure

from the mower on top of him. He died from crushing injuries to the head, chest, and abdomen. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

**Rigging slinger** working on the ground under the skyline at a logging site 100 feet down a steep ravine had just set the choker on a 30-foot, 12- to 14-inch diameter hemlock. As the log was lifted, one end of it dug into the bank, causing the other end to swing back towards him, hitting him in the head and neck area. He died from a broken neck. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

**Skidder operator** was working at a logging site along a steep embankment. The skidder went off the edge of the embankment, fell 60 feet down, and ejected the operator. He was found nearly eight feet above the skidder, lying on the ground. He died at the scene from multiple traumatic injuries to his neck, chest, and lower extremities. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

**Mechanic** was attempting to activate a fuel pump with wire leads and a vehicle battery while the pump was placed in a parts cleaning sink with combustible liquid solvent. When the pump activated, a flash fire resulted and burned the victim severely over the hands, face, and torso. He then suffered a cardiac dysrhythmia resulting in his death. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

**Log truck driver** was driving an unloaded logging truck on a highway when he was involved in a multiple vehicle crash. His truck ran into the back of another semi-truck that was stopped in the road due to an earlier accident. The impact crushed the cab portion of the truck and he was trapped in the truck and died from compressive asphyxia. Fog and smoke from burning fields had caused limited visibility. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

## **Utilities NAICS 22**

**Equipment operator** was working alone using a small tractor with a bucket to remove snow from a narrow Forest Service road. The tractor slid off the road and fell 30 yards down an embankment. The tractor arm pinned

the operator to the ground causing death by asphyxiation. The road was slick with snow and ice. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

### **Construction NAICS 23**

**Equipment operator** was using an excavator to pick up slabs of concrete on the edge of a bridge. The excavator was about eight feet from the edge of the bridge with the mechanical arm almost fully extended. The excavator tipped over and fell off the bridge approximately 70 feet down into the river below. The victim died from blunt-force chest injuries.

**Construction worker** walked through a five-foot diameter corrugated pipe and entered an unguarded eight-inch trench to retrieve a piece of asphalt lying at the bottom of the trench. When he stepped outside of the end of the pipe, the trench collapsed and he was buried up to his chest by the falling dirt. He died later at the hospital from crushing pelvic trauma. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

**Heavy equipment operator** was operating an asphalt grinder on a paved road near the edge of a steep embankment. The pavement at the edge gave way from the weight and the asphalt grinder fell down the hill. The victim was thrown from the asphalt grinder and crushed by it as it rolled over him. He died from multiple head injuries. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

**Construction worker** was walking up a gravel road flagging dump trucks to the dump locations. He jumped onto the driver's side running board of one of the moving trucks to instruct the driver where to dump the gravel. He slipped off the running board and fell underneath the dump truck. He was run over by the rear tires of the truck and died from crushing injuries to his chest and abdomen. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

**Iron worker** was on the back of a boom truck marking 15-foot, 9-inch steel beams when he lost his balance and began to fall to the ground. He grabbed one of the beams on his way down. His hard hat came off as he fell and the 341-pound steel beam he held came down with him, landing on top of his head as he hit the ground. His head was fatally crushed by the steel beam. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

### **Manufacturing NAICS 31-33**

**Machine operator** was working in an industrial warehouse using a forklift to load large metal pipe segments onto a set of rollers then manually maneuvering the tubing into a band saw for cutting. At some point in the manual process, he was struck in the head by a falling pipe. He died from head injuries. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

**Production worker** was riding a motorized man-lift to the top of a grain silo tower. When he reached a height of approximately 95 feet, he fell through the 24-inch by 38-inch man-lift floor opening. He struck his head as he fell, landed on a cross member of the structure, and became trapped in the framework. He was unable to free himself and died from massive blunt head injuries. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

**Truck driver** lost control of his semi-truck on a highway and rolled the truck over an embankment. The truck came to rest upside down on top of the truck cab with the driver partially ejected from the vehicle. He was not wearing a seatbelt and died of blunt-force trauma to the head.

**Welder** working at a machinery shop was welding a 500-pound steel beam onto a logging truck. A sling used to hold the beam in place broke and the steel beam fell down onto the welder's head. He died three days later of traumatic head injuries and a broken neck. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

### **Wholesale Trade NAICS 42**

**Material sorter** was severely injured when his right arm was caught in a conveyor system and was amputated at the shoulder. He died two months later from pharmaceutical complications related to the original injury. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

**Mechanic** was struck by a boom attached to an excavator. The co-worker operating the excavator sat down and his coat caught on the boom controls causing the bucket to swing into the mechanic and pin him against the machinery. He died from crushing head injuries. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

### **Retail Trade NAICS 44-45**

**Construction worker** was driving a flatbed truck down the highway to deliver a load of materials to a nearby town. He drifted across the center line and crashed into an oncoming pickup that was towing a trailer loaded with golf carts. The victim was not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash and died from crushing chest injuries. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

### **Transportation and Warehousing NAICS 48-49**

**Truck driver** driving on a major interstate during daylight hours was in the left passing lane to pass another vehicle. His truck wandered onto the left shoulder of the road, he overcorrected, and the truck overturned. The driver was wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash. He was trapped upside down within the cab of the semi-truck and died from positional asphyxiation.

**Truck driver** was in the docking area sweeping out the trailer portion of his semi-truck shortly after unloading a full load of bark mulch. As he exited the rear of the trailer, the automatic, top-hinged trailer door came down and crushed him. He died from a cervical fracture and asphyxia. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

**Two truck drivers** were traveling in a semi-tractor trailer on a highway. The driver lost control and veered to the side, hitting a bridge abutment. A fire erupted on impact and the truck was engulfed in flames. Both truck drivers were trapped in the truck cab and died from smoke inhalation. (Multiple fatality event involving two deaths)

**Truck driver** was parked on the side of a major interstate walking around his truck to perform a safety check at a brake check area near a mountain summit. He was walking near the outside front of his truck when another semi-truck coming down the highway swerved to the right and hit the parked truck in the left rear side. The moving truck continued forward alongside the parked one and struck the victim, killing him instantly. He died from multiple traumatic injuries.

**Tow truck driver** was loading cars on his first day on the job. He climbed up on the lower deck of the tow truck and reached up to hook a chain. He grabbed the door handle of the auto above him to pull himself up. The door opened and he fell seven feet to the parking lot below. He died 11 days later from blunt chest and pelvic injuries. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

**Truck driver** was parked close to a silage pit when the pit collapsed, pinning him between the waste and the semi-truck trailer portion. He died from blunt-force trauma to the head.

### **Administrative, Support, Waste Mgmt. and Remediation Services NAICS 56**

**Millwright** was performing maintenance on a ring debarker. He had locked the machine and was lying across it. As he reached his arm into the machine to clear some wood debris, the machine cycled and he was crushed by the 2,000-pound top in-feed roll. He died on scene from crushing injuries to the trunk area and compression asphyxia. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

**Landscaper** was riding as a passenger in a pickup truck traveling in the slow lane of a highway. A loaded log truck was directly ahead of them in the right turn lane. As the log truck turned, the load of logs it was carrying swung out into the highway lane. The pickup truck ran into the end of the logs, killing the victim instantly. He was wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash.

**Industrial machinery mechanic** and a co-worker were working on repairing a hydraulic leak on a large pallet forklift. One of the hydraulic lines on the forklift ruptured, causing the front forks to descend onto the mechanic's chest, resulting in compression asphyxia. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

### **Educational Services NAICS 61**

**Sales representative** was traveling down a highway on a business trip. He crossed the center line and hit an oncoming vehicle in a head-on collision. He died from multiple injuries.

### **Accommodation and Food Services NAICS 72**

**Commercial pilot** was flying with a **salesman** as a passenger in a single-engine fixed-wing plane. The plane lost altitude, struck a large pine tree, and then crashed down into a small vacation home. Shortly after the crash, a fire erupted and completely destroyed the house and plane, killing the pilot and his passenger instantly. (Multiple fatality event involving two deaths)

### **Other Services NAICS 81**

**Diesel mechanic** was using welding and cutting tools to install baffles inside a 4,600-gallon tanker truck. Co-workers heard an explosion and observed flames coming from inside the truck. The victim was trapped inside the truck with the fire and smoke fumes. He died of smoke inhalation. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

### **State and Local Government NAICS 92**

**Research biologist** was driving down a two-lane highway in a pickup truck returning from an observation site. He failed to negotiate a right-hand curve, crossed the opposite lane of traffic, and went off the highway. The pickup ran into a dirt embankment, struck a tree, and stopped when it hit a power pole. The victim was wearing a seatbelt at the time of the accident. He died of blunt-force trauma to the head.

**Insect trapper** was driving an SUV down a wet road to various locations setting moth traps. The vehicle lost traction and failed to negotiate a curve in the road. He slid sideways on the pavement before crashing into a tree on the side of the road. He was wearing a shoulder and lap seatbelt at the time of the crash. He died from blunt head and chest trauma.

**Road maintenance worker** was transferring a trailer dump bed onto the back of a main dump truck. He leaned his head in between the dump bed and dump truck to check the clearance. His head was crushed in between them and he died immediately from crushing head injuries. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

*The information in this report is in the public domain and may be reprinted without permission. Visit the DCBS Web site, <http://dcbs.oregon.gov>.*

*To receive electronic notification of new publications, see "Electronic Notification" on IMD's home page, <http://www4.cbs.state.or.us/ex/imd/external/>*



Information Management Division  
350 Winter St. NE, Room 300  
P.O. Box 14480  
Salem, OR 97309-0405  
503-378-8254