Parked Vehicles Kill

Oregon Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation

Oregon Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (OR-FACE) monitors, investigates, and reports on occupational fatalities in Oregon. OR-FACE makes safety recommendations for employers and workers, but does not enforce occupational safety standards, nor determine blame.

OR-FACE has collected 3 years of data since the program began in 2003, including all workers who have died of traumatic injury on the job in Oregon, whether or not they are an Oregon resident.

Independent OR-FACE investigations are conducted in priority areas. Files also include law enforcement and medical examiner reports, and investigation reports from Oregon OSHA or federal safety agencies where applicable.

An analysis of fatal transportation incidents illustrates the usefulness of detailed narrative information in a surveillance program.

**Occupational Fatalities in Oregon, 2003-2005**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Incidents</th>
<th>Fatalities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005*</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*preliminary

**SURVEILLANCE**

Transportation events comprise 49% of all occupational fatalities, including motor vehicles, air and water transportation, and mobile machinery – during the “normal operation” of the vehicle.

**INVESTIGATION**

Including fatal incidents that involved a vehicle under any circumstances raises the proportion of “transportation-related” fatalities to 60% of the total. Detailed files allow a closer view of the setting and type of vehicle involved.

**ASSESSMENT**

Distinguishing the setting of transportation-related events highlights the high number of incidents involving a person outside the vehicle, usually the operator. Further analysis produces the startling result that the highest proportion of cases involved a vehicle that was “parked” and moved unexpectedly.

**OUTREACH**

Responding to the cluster of incidents involving a parked vehicle, OR-FACE produced a hazard alert that was circulated in 2005 through the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles, trucking schools, state automotive associations, occupational safety conferences, and published on the OR-FACE website. The hazard alert incorporates the three basic elements of National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health outreach: narratives of actual incidents, safety recommendations, and artwork.

Oregon is one of 15 states with an occupational fatality assessment program funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Oregon Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation is sponsored by the Oregon Department of Human Services, and administered by the Center for Research on Occupational and Environmental Toxicology (CROET) at Oregon Health and Sciences University.