



**Oregon Fatality Assessment  
and Control Evaluation  
(FACE)**

**Annual Report 2005  
Occupational Fatalities**

# FACE Definitions

The Oregon Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation program investigates work-related fatalities that are caused by a traumatic injury when the injury occurs within Oregon.

A location *within Oregon* means the incident, or some portion of the incident, occurs within the geographical boundaries of the state of Oregon, including the coastal waters, airspace, and subterranean portions of the state.

A *work relationship* exists if an incident occurs (a) on the employer's premises and the person was there to work, or (b) off the employer's premises and the person was there to work, or the event or exposure was related to the person's work or status as an employee.

*Work* is defined as duties, activities, or tasks that produce a product or result, are done in exchange for money, goods, services, profit, or benefit, and are legal activities.

## In Scope

- Self-employed, family or volunteer workers who are exposed to the same work hazards and perform the same duties or functions as paid employees and that meet the work-relationship criteria
- Suicides and homicides that meet the work-relationship criteria
- Fatal events or exposures that occur when a person is in travel status, if the travel is for work purposes or is a condition of employment (excluding commute)

## Out of Scope

- Institutionalized persons, including inmates of penal and mental institutions, sanitariums, and homes for the aged, infirm and needy, unless they are employed off the premises of their institutions
- Fatal heart attacks and strokes, unless causally related to a traumatic injury or exposure
- Fatal events or exposures that occur during a person's recreational activities that are not required by the employer
- Fatal events or exposures that occur during a person's commute to or from work

Adapted from Bureau of Labor Statistics (2001), *Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries: Definitions*. U.S. Department of Labor. Available online (March 11, 2004): <http://stats.bls.gov/iif/oshcdef.htm>

## Acronyms

BLS	Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor
CFOI	U.S. Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries
DCBS	Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services
OR-OSHA	Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division
SAIF Corp	State Accident Insurance Fund (Workers' Compensation)

## Population Data Sources

U.S. CENSUS: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) (American Factfinder, Data Sets, Summary File 3)

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS: <http://stats.bls.gov/ces>

LAUS – LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: [www.bls.gov/lau](http://www.bls.gov/lau)

OLMIS – OREGON LABOR MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEM:  
[http://olmis.emp.state.or.us/olmisj/CES?x=1&y=1&p\\_action=](http://olmis.emp.state.or.us/olmisj/CES?x=1&y=1&p_action=)

# Oregon

## Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation

### Annual Report 2005

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Website:

[www.ohsu.edu/croet/face](http://www.ohsu.edu/croet/face)

*This report is dedicated to the men and women in Oregon who have lost their lives as the result of traumatic workplace injuries, in the hope that better understanding of these fatal incidents may help to save the lives of other workers in similar situations.*

## Oregon FACE Program

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# OR-FACE Publications 2005

## Fatality Investigation Reports

### 2005 Incidents

- Window cleaner killed in fall due to unsecured line
- Temporary mill worker dies in fall from tower catwalk
- Excavation worker killed by flying rigging when hook fails
- Bulldozer movement kills operator standing on track
- Mechanic killed while inspecting masonry stacker machine
- Operator crushed while repairing running machine
- Technician crushed when aerial platform lift engaged

### 2004 Incidents

- Logger killed by swinging tree in yarding operation
- Ranch hand killed by bulldozer while logging

## Other Reports

- Annual Report 2004

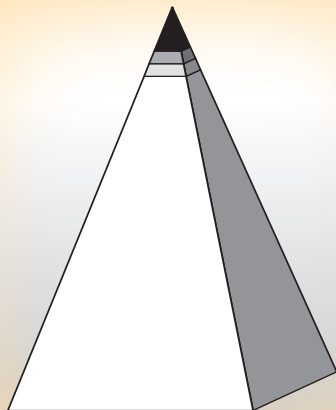
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Find published reports and other information at the OR-FACE website ([www.ohsu.edu/croet/face](http://www.ohsu.edu/croet/face)). New reports are published regularly.

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*Oregon Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation reports are for information, research, or occupational injury control only. OR-FACE is a research program, and has no legal authority to enforce state or federal occupational safety and health standards. The identity of the decedent, employer, and witnesses are not included in reports or alerts.*

*FACE data are protected from disclosure under Oregon law. Data collected by the Oregon Department of Human Services in connection with special morbidity or mortality studies are confidential and may be used solely for the purpose of the study (ORS 432.060).*



### Incident Report Status 2005

- 7 Reports published**
- 2 Draft in review**
- 2 Active**  
(potential interest)
- 53 Abstract only**  
(no investigation)

**An abstract is produced for each incident (see p. 17-31).**

# Summary

- OR-FACE conducts surveillance, investigation, assessment, and outreach related to traumatic occupational fatalities in Oregon (see summary of core activities, p. 7).
- The most common hazards in 2005 related to (a) motor vehicles, (b) falls, (c) mobile machinery, and (d) contact with objects or equipment (see details on each hazard area and safety recommendations, p. 8-11).
- OR-FACE summarizes incidents by work characteristics (industry, occupation, event), personal characteristics (age, gender, race/ethnicity), time (hour, day, month), and location (county of incident). Worker fatalities in 2005 were most frequent in transportation and construction industries (see charts, p. 15-16).
- An abstract for each incident provides a brief description of the event and contributing factors (see abstracts, p. 17-31).
- OR-FACE began recording traumatic occupational fatalities in Oregon in 2003, becoming one of 15 states funded by NIOSH to conduct a fatality surveillance and assessment program to promote occupational safety. OR-FACE investigation reports and other publications are available online (see contact information, p 31).

## INTRODUCTION

In 2005, Oregon Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation recorded 64 fatal occupational incidents, and 67 worker deaths. The number of worker fatalities represents a rate of 3.8 per 100,000 employed workers in the civilian labor force in Oregon, slightly below the national rate of 4.0 (CFOI 2005).

OR-FACE produces investigation reports for a selection of incidents according to priority areas defined by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), in combination with local areas of concern. The frequency of priority incidents in 2005 occurred in the following order.

• Machine-related (also mobile machinery)	14
• Construction	11
• Forestry/Logging	8
• Agriculture	7
• Hispanic workers	7
• Youth (under age 18)	2
• Street and highway work zones	0

Notable trends in 2005 included the following.

- Four events with mobile machinery involved young workers, aged 21 and under.
- All four homicides at work in 2005 involved business managers or owners, comprising the main cause of death for this category of workers.
- Three incidents involved a narcotics overdose, one related to drug abuse, and two related to methadone medication following a work injury.

# OR-FACE Network

OR-FACE actively promotes information exchange with various agencies, institutions, associations, and firms to assist in core activities related to occupational fatality surveillance, incident investigation, assessment to identify areas of concern, and outreach to alert workers to common hazards and safety recommendations. Network contacts in the following list have helped OR-FACE accomplish its mission.

## Federal Agencies

- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- National Transportation Safety Board
- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Coast Guard
- Federal Aviation Administration
- U.S. Forest Service
- Mine Safety and Health Administration

## State Agencies

- Department of Consumer & Business Services
  - Oregon OSHA
  - Information Management Division
  - Workers' Compensation Division
- Department of Human Services
  - Center for Health Statistics
  - Public Health Services
- Employment Department
- Bureau of Labor & Industries
- Medical Examiner's Office
- State Fire Marshal
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Forestry
- School-based Health Care Network
- FACE programs in other states

## Local Agencies

- Medical examiners, county sheriff offices
- Portland Police Bureau
- Portland Fire Bureau
- County health departments
- Local fire departments

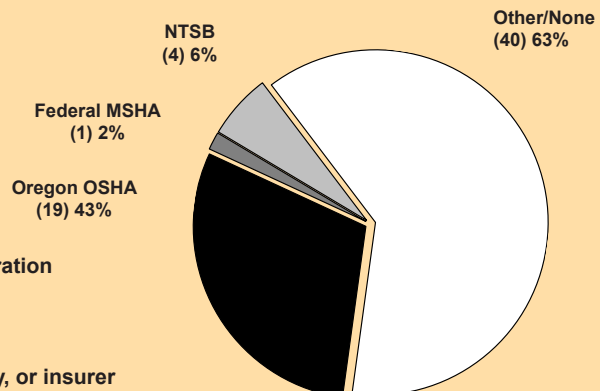
## Academic Institutions

- Department of Forestry, Oregon State University
- Sea Grant Extension, Oregon State University
- Labor Education Research Center, University of Oregon
- Pacific Northwest Agriculture Safety and Health Center, University of Washington

## Associations and Firms

- Associated Oregon Loggers
- Oregon Farm Bureau
- SAIF Corporation (Workers' Comp)
- Liberty Northwest (Workers' Comp)
- Oregon Trucking Association
- American Society of Safety Engineers
- Association of General Contractors
- American Industrial Hygiene Association
- American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
- American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
- Oregon AFLCIO

## OR-FACE incidents investigated by other safety agencies, 2005



OSHA = Occupational Safety & Health Administration  
 MSHA = Mine Safety & Health Administration  
 NTSB = National Transportation Safety Board  
 Other = Sheriff/police, U.S. Coast Guard, military, or insurer

# Core Activities

## SURVEILLANCE

OR-FACE received first notification on fatal occupational incidents in 2005 mostly from Oregon OSHA for immediate notification, and from death certificates selected and forwarded to OR-FACE as work-related within 6 months to a year following the incident (see chart and table below). All incidents are recorded with demographic information, and coded according to industry, occupation, and event. OR-FACE information sources include death certificates, law enforcement and medical examiner reports, Oregon OSHA and other safety investigation reports when available, and news reports.

## INVESTIGATION

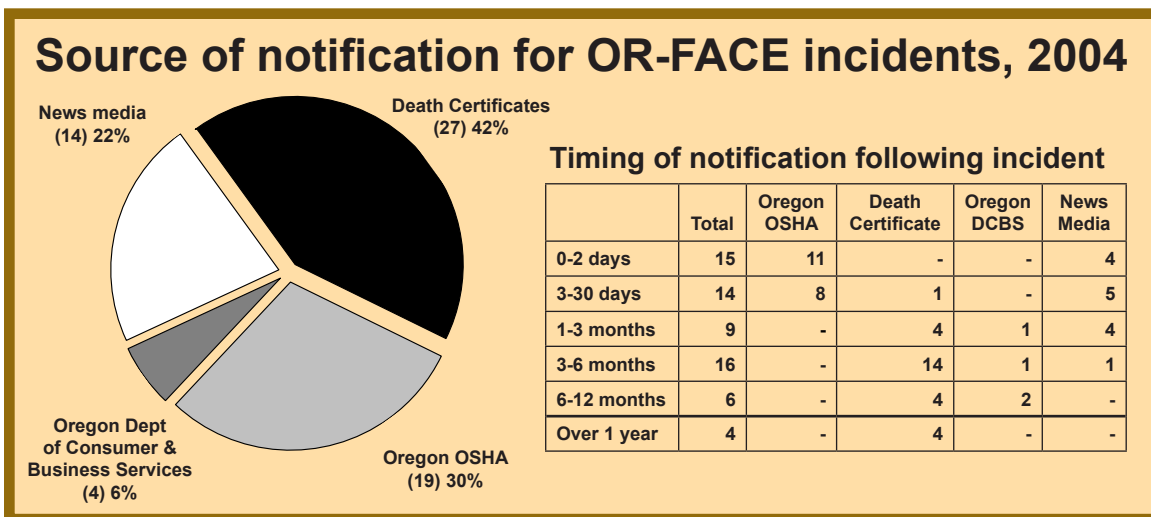
A full OR-FACE investigation includes an onsite visit, interviews with employers, employees, and witnesses, and consultation with other investigators and investigation reports. In 2005, OR-FACE contracted with two independent investigators, one expert for machine-related and other incidents, and one for logging.

## ASSESSMENT

OR-FACE is a research and education program, and is not designed to assign blame or enforce rules. Information is aggregated and analyzed to distinguish particular hazards and priority areas. Safety recommendations in OR-FACE reports and hazard alerts are developed from applicable government, industry, and association standards. Prior to publication, OR-FACE reports and alerts are reviewed by an independent panel of occupational safety experts from NIOSH, OSHA, and state agencies.

## OUTREACH

In 2005, OR-FACE fostered partnerships in logging, marine, and transportation safety; presented fatality data at health and safety conferences statewide; and disseminated OR-FACE publications online ([www.ohsu.edu/croet/face](http://www.ohsu.edu/croet/face)) and through targeted distribution. A hazard alert, *Parked Vehicles Kill*, was circulated as a flyer to Oregon Department of Motor Vehicle field offices in the state and through other venues.



# Hazard Alert – Motor Vehicles

One-third of the 64 fatal incidents for Oregon workers in 2005 involved motor vehicles (22 of 64).

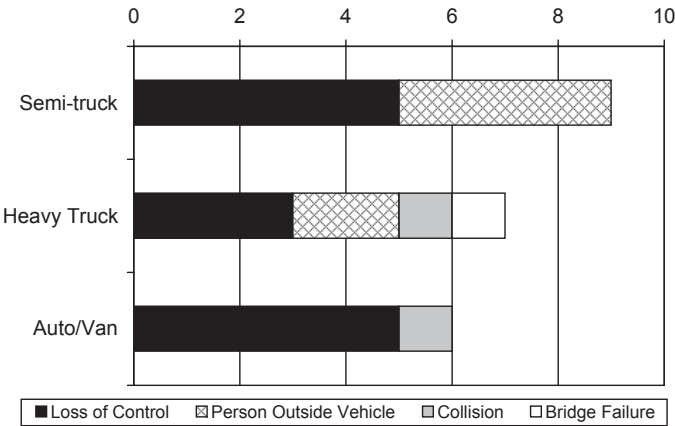
Roadway events in 2005 were most often the result of loss of control. A majority of the 15 roadway incidents occurred in the dark, and most often in winter. No teen or senior drivers were involved; the age range for driving incidents was 23-55.

The root cause for a driving incident cannot always be determined exactly, but certain risk factors were identified.

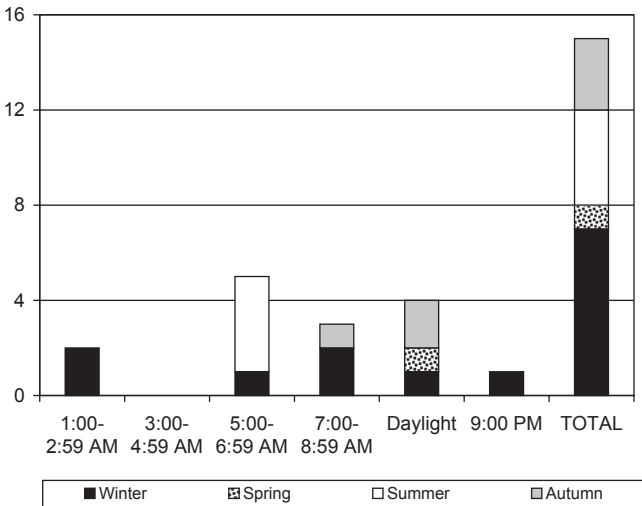
- Weather (ice, heavy rain)
- Drowsiness/Fatigue
- Alcohol use
- Cell-phone use
- Speed
- No seatbelt used
- Bridge failure

Six of the 22 incidents involved a worker outside the vehicle (2 in maintenance, 2 in loading, 1 bicyclist, and 1 passenger who exited a truck cab on the highway).

**Worker Motor Vehicle Fatalities by Type of Vehicle and Setting, 2005**



**Driver Fatalities by Time and Season, 2005**





## Parked Vehicles Kill

- ▶ **REMEMBER**, your vehicle could unexpectedly move, even if you are not in it.
- ▶ Shut down engine before exiting a motor vehicle, and engage parking brake.
- ▶ Fix a faulty parking brake right away.
- ▶ Before exiting mobile machinery, lower the blade or forks to the ground to promote stability. On bulldozers, apply downward pressure.
- ▶ Do not trust the stability of heavy mobile machinery on an incline.
- ▶ Block tires before working beneath a vehicle.
- ▶ You are not a superhero. Do not try to stop a rolling vehicle with your body.



## Hazard Alert – Falls

# Gravity Kills

Falls became a leading area of concern in 2005. One-half of the 12 fatal falls involved ladders. One-third of the incidents involved elevated work areas, including (a) roof work, (b) a narrow, elevated catwalk without guardrails, and (c) work near the ledge of a concrete tank. One incident involved a window cleaner suspended from a height. Recommendations were developed in response to each condition.

Construction workers were involved in half of the fall incidents. Older age as a risk factor was less prominent in 2005. Only one fall involved a worker over age 65; average age was 46 (range 31-67).

### Fatal Falls by Setting, 2005

Ladder	6
Roof or elevated work area	4
Suspended from height	1
Floor-level trip	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

### Ladders

- ▶ Make sure ladder is in good condition, base and locks are secure. Set base 1/4 working length from wall, supported at top by both rails extending 3-4 ft above dismount level.
- ▶ Three-point rule: Get a firm grip with three of four limbs, especially in icy conditions.

### Elevated Work Areas

- ▶ Beware of losing your balance from the unexpected release of a weight you are carrying or pulling, or from overreaching.
- ▶ Avoid standing up from a kneeling position next to a ledge, where momentary dizziness can cause you to lose balance.
- ▶ Cover and guard holes securely.
- ▶ Guardrails must be installed on regularly used access walkways that are 4 ft or more above the ground. If guardrails are not feasible, alternative fall protection must be employed.
- ▶ Training in fall protection must be provided to all workers exposed to fall hazards.



### Suspended from a Height

- ▶ Inspect the condition and security of all anchors, rigging, and other equipment prior to use.
- ▶ Communicate with coworkers: Double check the security of all rigging, and explicitly communicate readiness to proceed.
- ▶ Employers must maintain a written fall-protection safety program to document that workers at suspended heights are properly trained and proficient in safe work procedures.

# Hazard Alert – Mobile Machinery

Nine incidents in 2005 involved mobile machinery, with a variety of equipment. No forklift incidents occurred. Two incidents involved cable rigging attached to mobile machinery.

Age distribution is the most notable characteristic in this category of incidents: four involved workers aged 21 or younger (one aged 12), and three involved workers aged 70 or older (oldest 81).

Specific recommendations were developed for each type of mobile machinery. OR-FACE investigation reports in 2005 covered bulldozers and cable rigging.

## Tractors

- ▶ Go slow on uneven ground.
- ▶ Be sure the tractor has rollover protection and seatbelts.
- ▶ Use extra caution on slopes, particularly when working with a load.



## Cable Rigging

- ▶ Hooks and other rigging equipment should be selected and used properly.
- ▶ An excavation or construction site must be inspected daily by a competent person to detect and correct hazards.
- ▶ In a towing or lifting operation, workers should be removed or guarded from the reach of the rigging in the event of failure.

## Skidders & Forklifts

- ▶ Do not operate equipment with loose clothing, a tool belt, or other apparel that could interfere with the operator controls.
- ▶ Never lean out of the protective cage for any reason.
- ▶ Before exiting the operator's seat, completely shut down the machine: gear in neutral, parking brake set, power off.
- ▶ Do not ride as a passenger on any mobile machinery.

## Bulldozers

- ▶ Before exiting a bulldozer: (a) stop on level ground, (b) idle engine, (c) put gear in neutral, (d) apply brake, (e) lower all raised equipment to the ground and apply a slight downward pressure.
- ▶ Never rely solely on the brakes of a bulldozer to prevent movement.
- ▶ Be aware of inclines and other conditions where bulldozer tracks may be unstable.
- ▶ Do not use alcohol or other impairing drugs before operating equipment.



## Worker Fatalities Involving Mobile Machinery by Setting, 2005

Bulldozer	2
Skidder	2
Farm Tractor	2
Cable Rigging	2
Grader	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>

# Hazard Alert – Contact

**A**mong the eight contact events in 2005 – separate from incidents with motor vehicles or mobile machinery – half involved machine safety. All but one machine-related event involved maintenance conducted without first shutting down and locking out the machine.

Contact events, where a worker is struck or crushed, are also common in logging occupations. Three incidents in 2005 involved tree cutting. No logging incidents occurred in yarding operations in 2005, but an OR-FACE investigation report was published on a yarding incident that occurred in 2004 (see p. 4).



### Fallers Logging Safety

- ▶ Never turn your view away from a falling tree.
- ▶ Watch for impacts.
- ▶ Train before you cut.

### Yarding Logging Safety

- ▶ Always position yourself “in the clear” to the side or behind the moving turn.
- ▶ A responsible supervisor must plan operations in advance and effectively communicate with coworkers.

(These recommendations refer to conditions emphasized in 2005 incidents.)



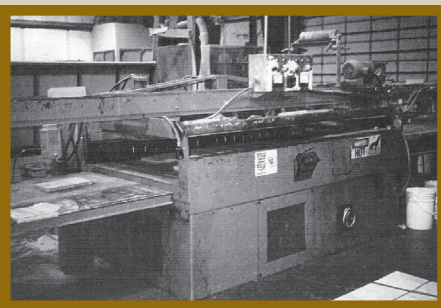
**A 2005 incident involving an aerial platform lift indicates a common hazard while working under a roof (p. 23).**

### Worker Fatalities in Contact Events by Setting, 2005

Machine maintenance	4
Tree falling	3
Aerial platform lift	1
Total	8

## Machine Safety

- ▶ All workers using machinery should have adequate training on that specific equipment, including the manufacturer’s operating instructions.
- ▶ Completely shut down and lockout machinery before conducting maintenance.
- ▶ Ensure that all machinery moving parts and pinch points are fully guarded.
- ▶ Employers should develop, implement, and enforce a comprehensive hazardous energy program.
- ▶ Interlock devices should be installed to automatically shut down energy when safety gates are opened. Do not disconnect or override safety devices.
- ▶ An alarm should sound prior to machine activation.



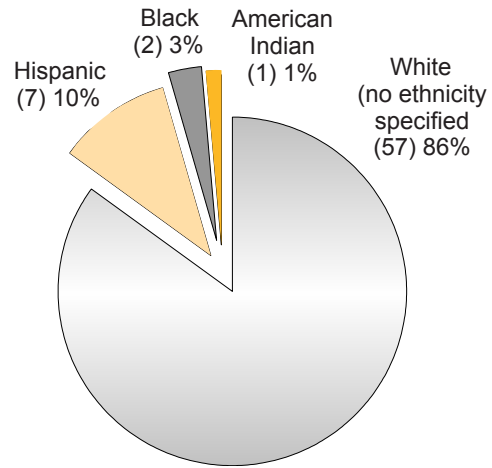
# Charts

The age distribution of occupational fatalities in Oregon continues to overrepresent workers aged 55 and over. A very young age is represented in an incident involving a young teen worker, aged 12 (p. 24, Climbing on skid steer).

The proportion of fatalities involving Hispanic workers reached 10% in 2005, higher than the 8% Hispanic in the general population.

Methadone overdose was implicated in two incidents, newly observed in 2005.

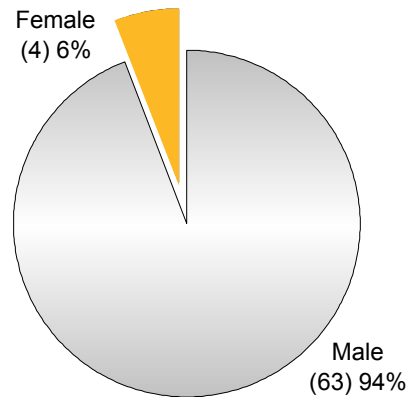
**Worker Fatalities by Race/Ethnicity, 2005**



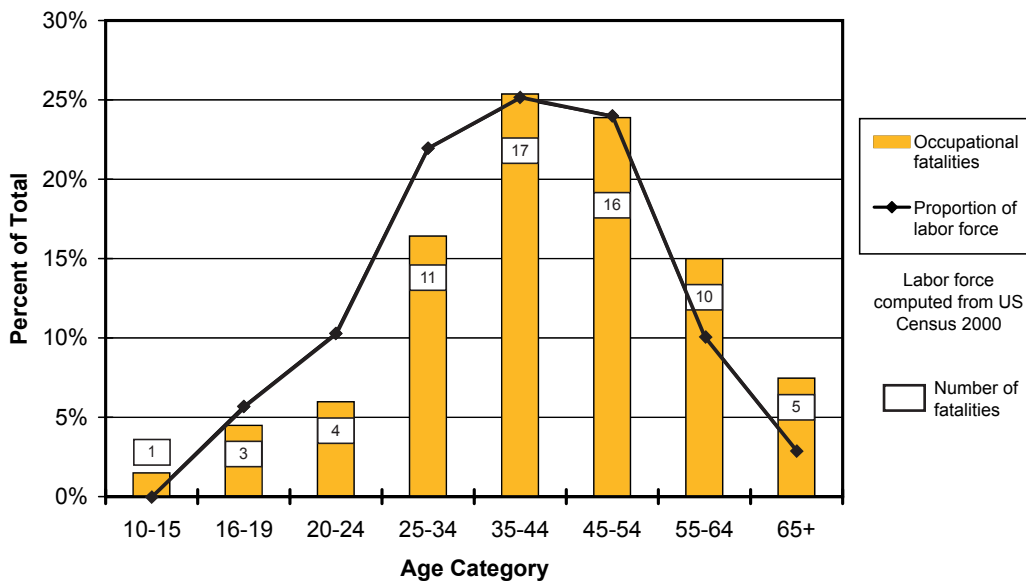
**Delayed Death – Worker Fatalities 2005**

Event	Cause of Death	Interval
Contact (p. 23)	Fatal seizure	26 years
Overexertion (p. 31)	Methadone overdose	9 months
Fall (p. 28)	Pulmonary embolism	6 weeks
Fall (p. 27)	Methadone overdose	29 days

**Worker Fatalities by Gender, 2005**

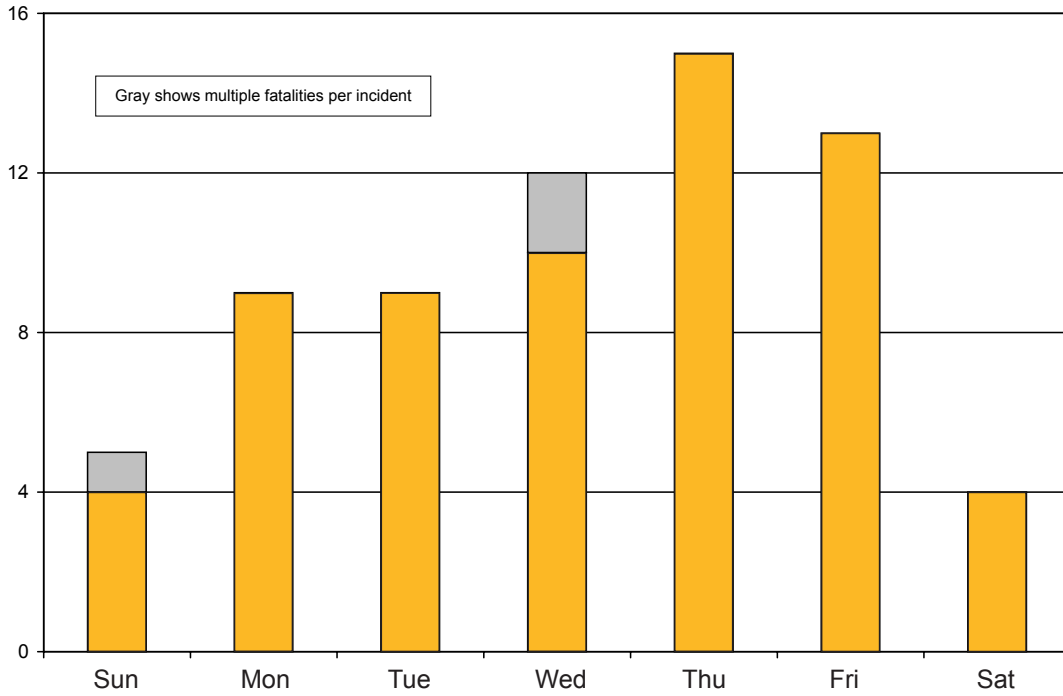


**Occupational Fatalities in Oregon by Age, Compared to Age Distribution of Civilian Labor Force in Oregon, 2005**

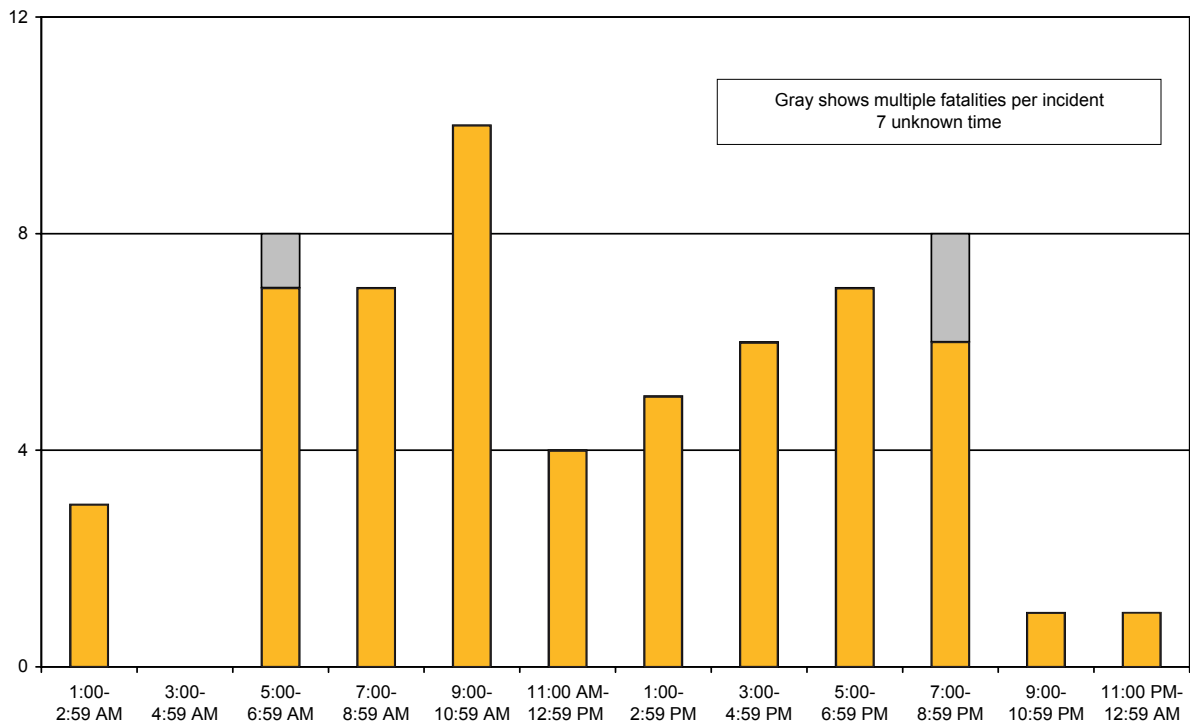


# Charts

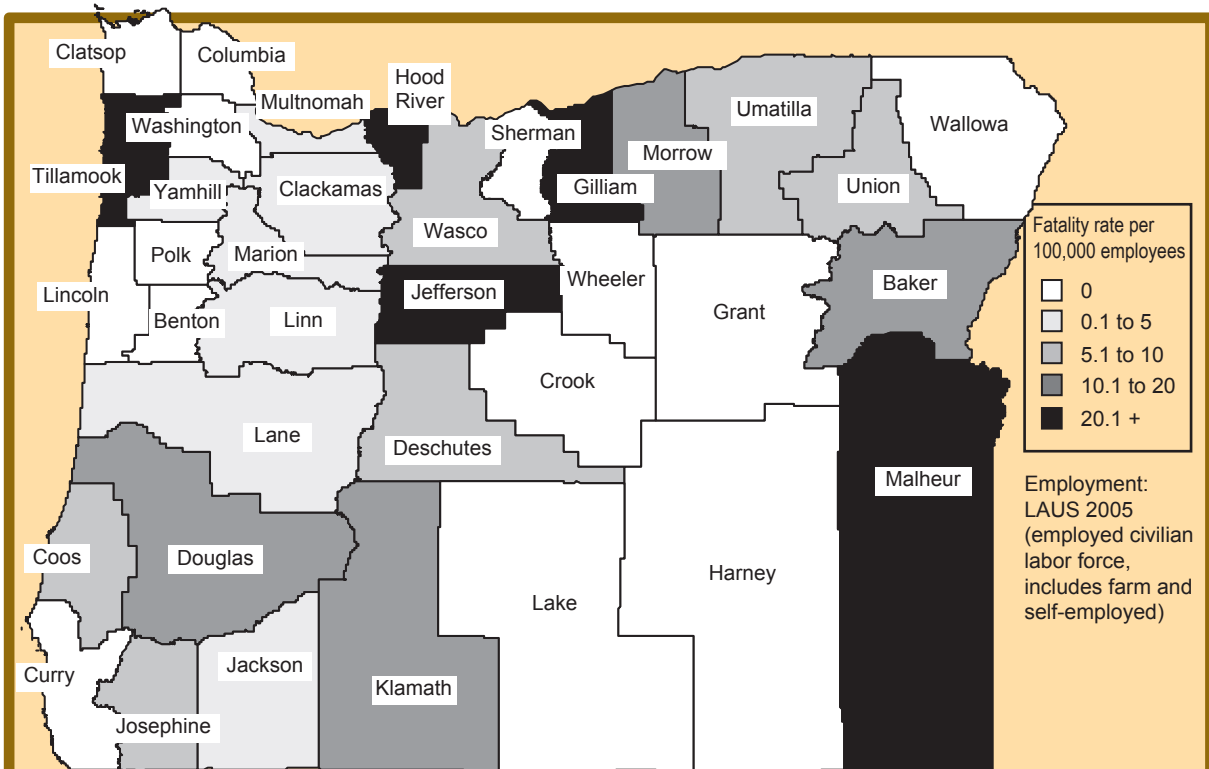
**Worker Fatal Incidents and Total Fatalities by Day, 2005**



**Worker Fatal Incidents and Total Fatalities by Time of Incident, 2005**



# Oregon Counties



## Oregon Population, Employed Labor Force, and Fatalities by County, 2005

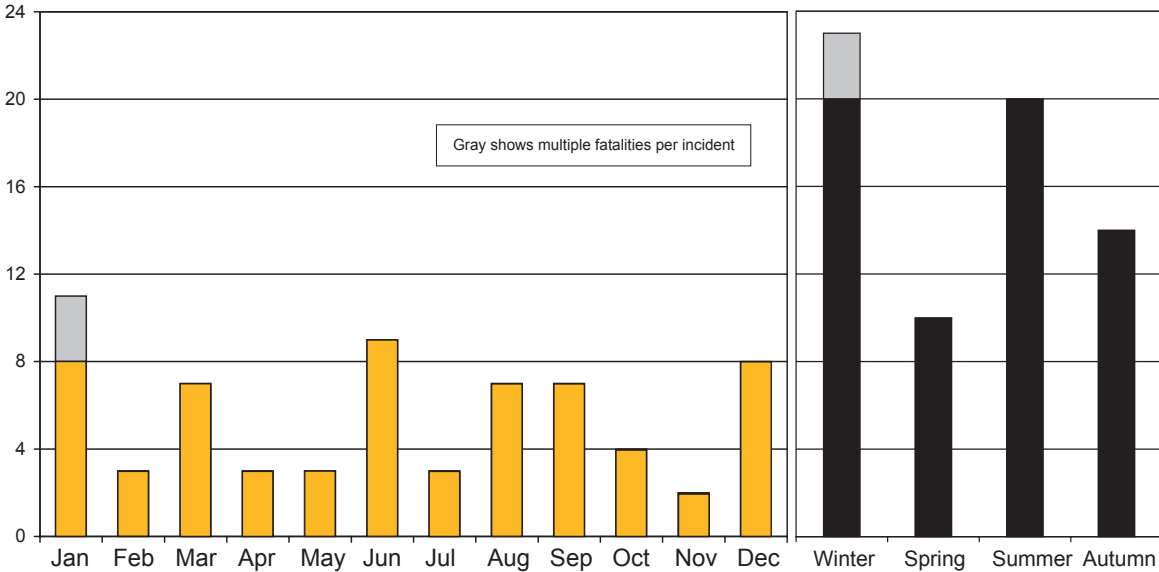
County	Total population	Employed labor force	Worker fatalities
OREGON TOTAL	3,631,440	1,745,818	67
BAKER	16,500	6,625	1
BENTON	82,835	40,138	
CLACKAMAS	361,300	180,561	5
CLATSOP	36,640	17,945	
COLUMBIA	46,220	21,418	
COOS	62,695	27,099	2
CROOK	22,775	8,684	
CURRY	21,190	9,064	
DESCHUTES	143,490	70,234	6
DOUGLAS	102,905	43,565	6
GILLIAM	1,890	957	1
GRANT	7,685	3,304	
HARNEY	7,660	3,141	
HOOD RIVER	21,180	11,500	3
JACKSON	194,515	93,598	3
JEFFERSON	20,600	8,533	2
JOSEPHINE	79,645	32,621	2
KLAMATH	65,055	27,986	3

County	Total population	Employed labor force	Worker fatalities
LAKE	7,505	3,301	
LANE	336,085	163,668	4
LINCOLN	44,405	20,857	
LINN	107,150	48,609	1
MALHEUR	31,800	11,729	3
MARION	302,135	140,181	3
MORROW	11,945	5,122	1
MULTNOMAH	692,825	344,576	9
POLK	65,670	33,078	
SHERMAN	1,880	828	
TILLAMOOK	25,205	11,622	5
UMATILLA	72,395	33,638	3
UNION	24,950	10,998	1
WALLOWA	7,130	3,281	
WASCO	23,935	11,894	1
WASHINGTON	489,785	253,358	
WHEELER	1,550	625	
YAMHILL	90,310	41,480	2

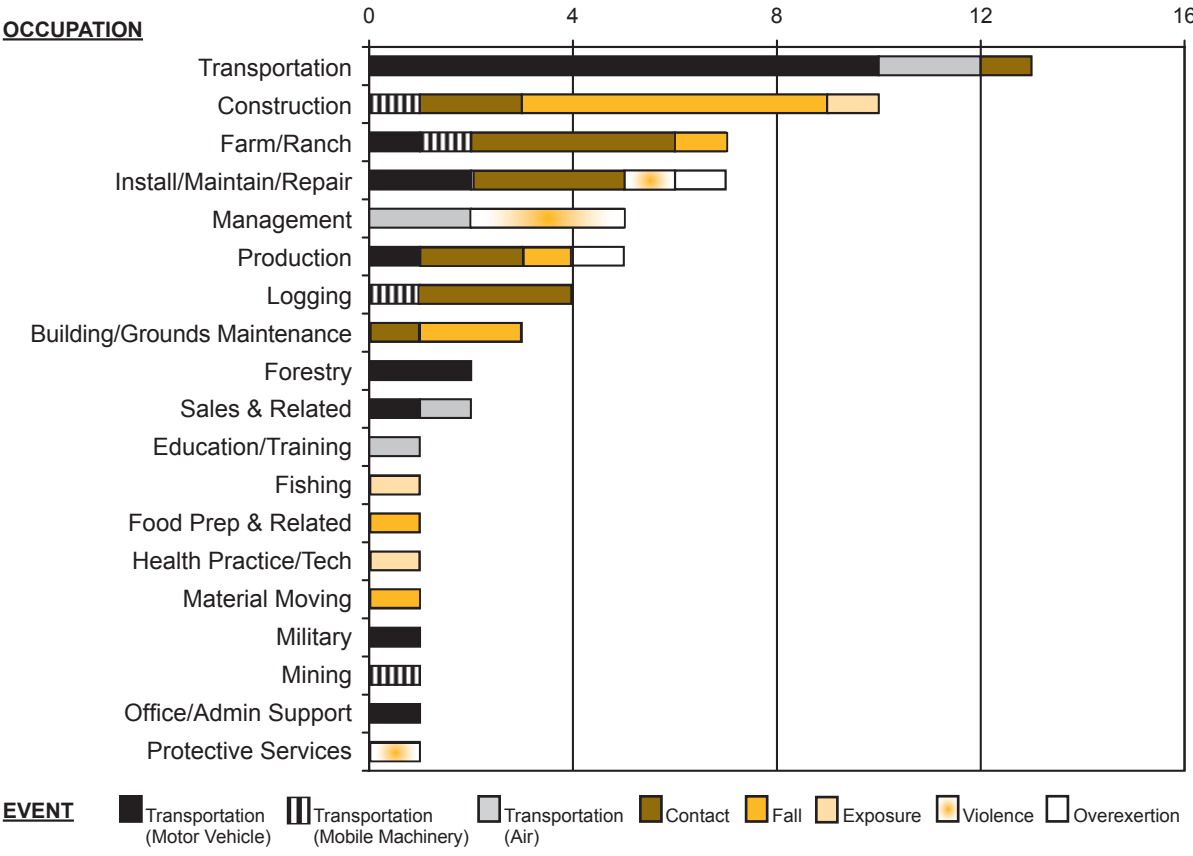
Data sources: Portland State University Population Research Center, and LAUS 2005

# Charts

**Worker Fatal Incidents and Total Fatalities by Month and Season, 2005**

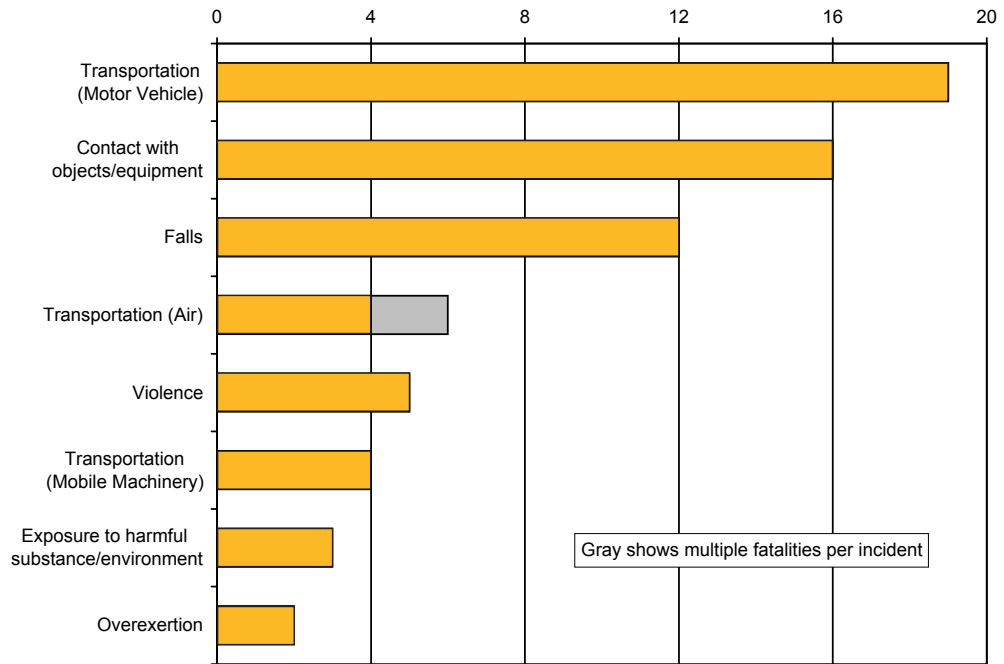


**Worker Fatalities in Oregon by Occupation and Event, 2005**



# Charts

**Worker Fatal Incidents and Total Fatalities by Type of Event, 2005**



**Worker Fatalities in Oregon by Industry, 2005**





## Worker Fatalities

### INFORMATION KEY

*Description*

Industry  
Occupation

Date of Incident  
County of Incident  
OR-FACE Number

# Abstracts

## of fatal occupational incidents in Oregon by type of event

**2005**

**Transportation – Contact – Exposure – Falls  
Violence – Overexertion**

## Transportation (Motor Vehicle)

<i>Forestry crew van</i>	A 41-year-old male driver of a crew van, and a 22-year-old passenger, both tree planters of Hispanic origin, were killed when the van slipped on ice, left the road, and crashed into a tree. The driver was wearing a seatbelt. The passenger, located behind the front passenger, may not have worn a seatbelt. Six other occupants were wearing seatbelts and survived.
Forestry/Logging Forestry	
January 3 Douglas OR 2005-09-2	
<i>Van rollover</i>	A 32-year-old assistant manager was killed as a passenger in a van with seven coworkers on their way to a business meeting. The van crossed the center line, left the roadway and rolled. The assistant manager was not wearing a seatbelt, and he was partially ejected from the van and killed instantly. Others in the van suffered only minor injuries. The group had been drinking alcohol and over 100 beer cans were found scattered at the scene. The blood alcohol content of the victim was very high, at 0.35. Blood alcohol content of the driver was 0.10, above the legal limit.
Retail Trade Sales & Related	
January 12 Deschutes OR 2005-52-1	
<i>Icy road jackknife</i>	A 53-year-old cabinetmaker was killed when he was ejected from his pickup on the highway. The cabinetmaker was pulling a 24 ft two-axled trailer on an icy morning (temp. 29 degrees). The pickup and trailer jackknifed, scuffed the guardrail, and then rolled down the 21% grade median. The pickup disengaged from the trailer. The victim wore only the lap portion of his seatbelt, with the shoulder harness tucked behind him. A passenger, wearing his seatbelt properly, survived inside the cab of the truck.
Manufacturing Production	
January 21 Baker OR 2005-11-1	
<i>Semi leaves roadway</i>	A 37-year-old truck driver was killed when he was ejected from the cab after losing control of his semi-truck on the highway, with an empty trailer. The truck drifted off the shoulder and struck a rock bank. The driver overcorrected in pulling back on the highway, crossed to the far side and continued over an embankment with a 20-30 ft drop into several trees. The victim was found outside the cab and pronounced dead at the scene. It was not reported whether or not the victim was wearing a seatbelt.
Transportation Transportation	
February 3 Douglas OR 2005-12-1	

## Worker Fatalities – Transportation

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<i>Loaded double trailer</i>	A 54-year-old truck driver was killed when he lost control of his semi-truck and two loaded trailers on a curve. The first trailer rolled and pulled the tractor onto the driver's side. The second trailer remained upright. The cab slid about 600 ft, causing severe intrusion into the driver's compartment. The victim was not wearing a seatbelt. He was pronounced dead at the scene.
Transportation Transportation	
February 25 Coos OR 2005-16-1	
<i>Van rear-end collision</i>	A 49-year-old service technician driving a company van was killed on I-5 when he failed to slow down in a construction zone and rammed into the trailer of a semi-truck in front of him. The van driver continued to travel at highway speed, while the truck in front had slowed to under 5 mph as traffic merged into one lane. The trailer's brake lights were in working condition. Although the airbag deployed and the victim was wearing a seatbelt, he was pinned against the driver's seat by the dashboard and front end of his vehicle, and was killed immediately.
Wholesale Trade Install/Maintain/Repair	
March 11 Jackson OR 2005-14-1	
<i>Driver ejected</i>	A 41-year-old Hispanic truck driver was killed when he apparently jumped from the cab of his semi-truck with a loaded trailer while traveling on the highway. He was run over by the rear wheels of the trailer. The driver was an experienced truck driver, and no evidence of drug abuse, mental distress, or mechanical failure was discovered. The truck was traveling on a straight road with a slight downgrade. Without a driver, the truck eventually crossed the road and overturned in a ditch.
Transportation Transportation	
April 5 Douglas OR 2005-59-1	
<i>Farm road intersection</i>	A 46-year-old water truck driver on a farm was killed in a collision with a log truck at a farm-road intersection.
Agriculture Farm/Ranch	
June 10 Morrow OR 2005-62-1	
<i>Bike Messenger</i>	A 25-year-old female bike messenger was run over by the trailer of a semi-truck in downtown Portland, and died the next day. The messenger was riding in the bike lane during heavy morning traffic, and came abreast of the truck as it started to move after waiting at a red light. Truck speed was 2-5 mph, moving "perfectly straight" within its lane, according to a witness. The event is unexplained. The messenger may have fallen, swerved into the wheels of the trailer as she readjusted her bag, or possibly swerved to avoid an opening door of a parked car.
Transportation Office/Admin Support	
June 27 Multnomah OR 2005-25-1	

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## Worker Fatalities – Transportation

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<i>Wooden bridge collapse</i>	A 51-year-old tow truck operator was killed when a private bridge over a river collapsed as he was crossing with a vehicle in tow. The wooden bridge, supported by two logs 80-90 ft long and about 3 ft in diameter, was built in 1970. The log that gave way appeared to have rotted near the concrete pillar on the bank. The tow truck crossed the bridge successfully to reach the private residence, but the bridge collapsed on the return trip with a BMW in tow. The truck landed upside down in the river bed about 75 ft below, in 2 ft of water. The victim was pinned in the vehicle and found dead at the scene.
Transportation Transportation	
July 1 Linn OR 2005-27-1	
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<i>Semi on sharp curve</i>	A 55-year-old truck driver was killed when he failed to negotiate a sharp curve posted at 20 mph. At the curve, the driver locked his brakes and skidded across a gravel parking lot, where the truck crashed into and demolished a building on the side of the highway. The driver was wearing his seatbelt and shoulder harness, but the left side of the cab was heavily damaged. The victim was killed instantly.
Transportation Transportation	
August 3 Tillamook OR 2005-26-1	
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<i>Newspaper route</i>	A 51-year-old female delivery driver on a newspaper route was killed when her car failed to negotiate a curve on the highway and rolled over a steep embankment. The roof of the car on the driver's side was crushed against a large boulder. The work shift on the route began about midnight and was completed by about 7 a.m. The incident occurred about 5:45 a.m. The driver's son, age 26, was a passenger in the car, and survived after being ejected through the windshield. Neither occupant of the vehicle was wearing a seatbelt. Newspaper delivery workers are exempt from the seatbelt requirement.
Information Transportation	
August 19 Tillamook OR 2005-47-1	
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<i>Van leaves highway</i>	A 28-year-old electrical contractor was killed when his van left the highway and crashed into a tree. The contractor had been driving erratically, frequently crossing outside the lane, then straightening out. He may have been falling asleep at the wheel. The incident occurred at about 6 a.m. The contractor was traveling on a rural highway to a new job site. The van left the road at 40-50 mph, crashed into a tree, and burst into flames. The van was partially on its side and the victim was unable to escape the burning vehicle.
Admin/Support/ Waste/Remed. Install/Maintain/Repair	
September 7 Douglas OR 2005-30-1	
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<i>Trucking partners</i>	A 42-year-old truck driver was killed after he voluntarily exited the passenger side of the cab of a semi-truck being driven by his wife. The couple had been arguing for the past couple hours. The truck driver opened the door and grabbed a bar on the outside of the cab to exit fully, then lost his footing and tumbled onto the side of the roadway. The truck was traveling at about 55 mph.
Transportation Transportation	
September 28 Malheur OR 2005-57-1	

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## Worker Fatalities – Transportation

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<i>Speeding semi-truck</i>	A 29-year-old truck driver was killed when his semi-truck and loaded trailer failed to negotiate a curve on the highway. The incident occurred shortly after 7 a.m., while still dark. A witness reported the truck passing him at 65-70 mph. The truck skidded for about 300 ft and tore through the guardrail before coming to rest against a telephone pole, just short of toppling over an embankment. The cab was crushed and the guardrail was entangled inside the cab.
Transportation Transportation	
September 30 Malheur OR 2005-55-1	
<i>Truck convoy</i>	A 30-year-old National Guard soldier was killed on I-5 when the truck he was driving overturned and he was ejected from the vehicle. The soldier was driving a 5-ton cargo truck in a convoy of 11 vehicles, which had been returned by rail from relief efforts following hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The vehicles were being driven from Portland to Medford during steady rain. Two trucks in the convoy lost control on a downhill curve. The victim's truck spun and flipped into a ditch. The second truck did not flip, and the driver was uninjured.
Public Administration Military	
November 6 Josephine OR 2005-41-1	
<i>Van in ditch</i>	A 23-year-old driver of a medical transport van was killed when the van veered off the road into a ditch. The ditch was 3-4 ft deep, with the edge about 1 ft from the fog line. The van traveled down the ditch until it hit a driveway, which sent it airborne for about 20 ft. The van landed again in the ditch to plow through 100 ft of chain-link fence before being stopped by a telephone pole. The driver was apparently killed by a 15 ft metal fence pole that penetrated the windshield. The driver may have been distracted by use of a cell phone. An open flip-type cell phone was found on the floor near his right foot.
Transportation Transportation	
December 14 Marion OR 2005-46-1	
<i>Icy road semi rollover</i>	A 48-year-old truck driver was killed when his semi-truck and loaded tanker trailer rolled over on a steep, curved downgrade. The cab was crushed, and the driver was ejected and pinned beneath the overturned tanker. The incident occurred about 2:30 a.m. Road conditions were icy. The driver had previous experience as a truck driver, but was on the job only a week with the present company.
Transportation Transportation	
December 29 Wasco OR 2005-44-1	

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# Worker Fatalities – Transportation

## Transportation (Mobile Machinery)

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<i>Overtuned tractor</i>	A 17-year old tractor operator was killed on the family farm when his tractor overturned. The operator was driving on a dirt road in an older-model tractor, with a large implement attached to the back. The tractor veered off the road over an embankment toward a separate field when it overturned in the soft dirt. It is unclear whether the path taken over the embankment was intentional or not. The victim was crushed by the rear fender and seat of the overturned tractor, and was pronounced dead at the scene.
Agriculture Farm/Ranch	
March 6 Malheur OR 2005-15-1	

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<i>Logging road grader</i>	A 71-year-old operator of a road grader was killed when the grader went over the edge of a steep embankment. The operator was a very experienced heavy equipment operator. He was building a forest road in a remote logging tract. The brakes on the grader had recently malfunctioned, and it had been sent to a shop to be fixed. The operator used the grader only once the previous day since it returned from the shop. The incident occurred on a slight downward incline at a left-hand corner. Transmission or hydraulic fluid was observed on the gravel road leading to the edge of the embankment. The operator may have jumped or was ejected from the grader. The victim was found dead at the scene 40 ft down the slope. The grader tumbled another 300 ft. down.
Forestry/Logging Construction	
June 18 Douglas OR 2005-19-1	

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<i>Bulldozer mining ledge</i>	A 70-year-old bulldozer operator was killed at a mining site when the bulldozer backed over a ledge where rock was being cleared, rolled over, and fell 45 ft to the quarry floor, landing on its tracks. The operator was wearing his seatbelt, securely fastened, but suffered a severe head injury and was found dead at the scene. The operator's serious health conditions may have played a role in the incident. He had been recently hospitalized, and had only been released to return to work 2 weeks prior to the incident.
Mining Mining	
June 27 Multnomah OR 2005-31-1	

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<i>Skidder passenger</i>	An 18-year-old logger, working as a skidder operator, was killed when he fell off a moving skidder while riding as a passenger on the step outside the cab. At the end of a 10-hour workday, the operator parked his own skidder and rode outside a coworker's skidder up a dirt skid road to retrieve a fuel truck to the landing site to fuel the machinery there. On the way, he fell off the skidder and was run over. The victim died at the scene shortly after the arrival of first responders from the local fire department.
Forestry/Logging Logging	
October 20 Klamath OR 2005-39-1	

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# Worker Fatalities – Transportation

## Transportation (Air)

<i>Business air crash</i> Transportation Transportation Construction Management January 20 Hood River OR 2005-03-3	A 41-year-old corporate pilot and flight instructor, and his two passengers, were killed when a single-engine, four-seat Cirrus SR22 airplane they were flying in crashed in steep terrain. The owner of the plane, a 34-year-old real estate developer, and his employee, a 26-year-old subcontractor, were returning from a business trip in Salem. The plane left Salem at 7:51 p.m., and crashed at 8:20 p.m. The original flight plan had been altered due to deteriorating weather conditions in the Columbia Gorge, which was reportedly foggy at the time of the incident. The wreckage was spotted the next day by a helicopter pilot.
<i>Training flight</i> Education Services Education/Training June 23 Yamhill OR 2005-33-1	A 39-year-old flight instructor was killed during a training flight in a single-engine Cessna 172M. The instructor was a retired Air Force captain. The incident occurred during a landing attempt, described by witnesses as well executed, but not completed. The pilot added power at the last moment and swerved aside. The plane then pitched upward at full throttle until it stalled 80-100 ft in the air and pivoted into a direct vertical descent, with the engine continuing at full throttle until impact with the ground. The plane struck right wing first. The instructor was pronounced dead at the scene. A 19-year-old student pilot was also killed in the incident. A passenger in the plane survived the crash in serious condition.
<i>Airshow exercise</i> Arts/Entertainment/Rec Transportation June 25 Jefferson OR 2005-60-1	A 66-year-old professional airshow pilot was killed when his Ellsberg One Design amateur-built experimental airplane crashed while the pilot was practicing stunts. The pilot pulled the airplane straight up in a vertical roll, until it stalled and entered a spin. The maneuver was apparently intentional. Witnesses had seen it before. The pilot dove and pulled out of the spin, and continued with a nose-down attitude to regain airspeed. The airplane then struck the ground, exploded, and was consumed by fire.
<i>Pilot flight hours</i> Manufacturing Sales & Related August 15 Jefferson OR 2005-56-1	A 25-year-old sales representative for an aircraft manufacturer was killed in a plane crash while accumulating flight hours in a Legacy Sport experimental airplane. Witnesses reported the plane engine sputtering just prior to the crash. Later investigation found no evidence of mechanical failure. A passenger in the plane, a friend of the pilot, was also killed in the incident.

# Worker Fatalities – Contact

## Contact with objects/equipment

<i>Fatal seizure</i> Forestry/Logging Logging March 1, 1979 Clackamas OR 2005-51-1	On September 23, 2005, a 47-year-old former heavy equipment operator for a logging company died from a seizure, resulting from a head injury that occurred 26 years earlier, in 1979, when he was age 21. The operator was struck in the face by a towing hook when cable rigging failed while pulling heavy equipment from the mud at a logging site. The injury left him legally blind and subject to grand mal seizures. The seizures were well controlled by twice-daily medication. He apparently missed taking his medication for 2 days.
<i>Trailer brake lines</i> Construction Transportation March 10 Clackamas OR 2005-37-1	A 55-year-old driver of a dump truck for an excavation contractor was killed when his truck rolled over him while he was working on the brakes. Brake lines were damaged while dumping a load of recycled concrete, and the brakes to the trailer were locked in the “on” position. In an effort to free the brakes, the driver climbed under the truck and released pressure valves to override the brake-activation system. The dump truck was on an incline, and once the brakes were freed, the truck and trailer rolled backwards downhill. The victim was killed immediately.
<i>Flying tree branch</i> Forestry/Logging Logging March 14 Deschutes OR 2005-06-1	A 48-year-old male timber faller was hit by a falling branch, and died 4 days later. The faller cut a large tree that struck another smaller tree about 75 ft away. As the cutter was heading away from the tree by his escape route, a branch was thrown in his direction. The branch was 8-12 in. diameter and 4 ft long. The victim was transported by helicopter to a rendezvous within an hour. He was pronounced dead after 4 days in intensive care.
<i>Glue press</i> Manufacturing Production March 17 Lane OR 2005-05-1	A 61-year-old woodworker operating a glue-press machine at a wood-products firm was killed while attempting to replace a glue tray while the machine was running. The glue tray had been removed to correct a glue-dripping problem. The operator instructed another worker to finish processing a product that was already in the press, while he and a new coworker attempted to reattach the glue tray. The operator put his head between the frame and the closed top lid of the press in order to see the latch. The top plate suddenly lifted at the end of a programmed automatic cycle and crushed the operator’s head against the frame.
<i>Aerial platform lift</i> Admin/Support/ Waste/Remed. Install/Maintain/Repair April 9 Multnomah OR 2005-07-1	A 51-year-old security systems technician with a freight shipping company was killed while operating an aerial platform lift. The technician was working alone, using a rented “articulating boom lift” to install security camera equipment above the doors of a freight terminal. After completing the wiring of one camera, the technician moved the lift to a second door, and raised the lift to work on the camera there. He apparently engaged the lift control while he was bent over the platform railing, and his head struck the door overhang. The lift continued to rise and the technician was crushed. A truck driver later discovered the victim and lowered the platform.

## Worker Fatalities – Contact

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<i>Stacker machine</i>	A 55-year-old millwright maintenance mechanic was killed while inspecting repairs to a masonry stacking machine. New parts had been installed a week earlier and had been operating well. On the morning of the incident, the stacker was in operation for 1 hour, and then put into idle mode while the operator added more materials. While the stacker was idling, the mechanic entered a barricaded, posted area under the stacker to inspect the alignment chain. The mechanic failed to lockout the machine and did not notify the operator. The mechanic was apparently leaning over a support beam to inspect the chain alignment when the operator took the machine out of idle and resumed operation. The stacker's traveling bar under the deck evidently crushed the mechanic's head against the support beam. The victim was dead at the scene.
Manufacturing Install/Maintain/Repair	
May 5 Multnomah OR 2005-08-1	
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<i>Excavation tow rigging</i>	A 40-year-old pipelayer was struck in the head by the flying rigging of a towline that failed at an excavation site, and died 2 days later. During installation of a sewer pipeline, a hydraulic excavator, commonly called a track-hoe, pulled a 14,000 lb. steel trench shield forward inside a 14.5 ft trench, using a wire rope and hook system. The pipelayer was standing inside the shield while it was being moved. A hook attached to the track-hoe failed, causing the taut rigging to snap loose, fly into the trench shield, and hit the pipelayer on the back of his hard hat. The victim was air evacuated to a hospital, where he later died.
Construction Construction	
June 10 Multnomah OR 2005-24-1	
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<i>Rolling tractor</i>	An 81-year-old rancher was killed when he was run over by a tractor he was operating. The rancher was using an articulated scoop loader to move straw, and exited the operator's seat to open a gate, without shutting down the engine. The tractor started to roll, and the rancher apparently tried to climb back on to stop it. The rear wheel rolled over him.
Agriculture Farm/Ranch	
August 7 Gilliam OR 2005-36-1	
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<i>Climbing on skid steer</i>	A 12-year-old girl was killed at her family's dairy farm when she attempted to get in a skid-steer loader while it was running. The girl's mother was operating the skid steer with an agitator attached. The daughter was getting in the machine to take her mother's place when the skid steer started bouncing. The victim lost her balance and was crushed between the frame and the bucket arm. She was transported to the hospital, where emergency surgical intervention was unsuccessful.
Agriculture Farm/Ranch	
August 16 Tillamook OR 2005-34-1	
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<i>Bulldozer track</i>	A 32-year-old Hispanic bulldozer operator was killed when he slipped between the tracks while the bulldozer was parked. The operator gave a coworker a ride on the bulldozer to the top of a hill where the operator was intending to work, and stopped the bulldozer on a fairly level area of the slope to let off his rider. He then noticed the coworker had left a jacket in the cab, so he lowered the tractor's blade to the ground, put the machine into idle, and stood on the track to reach out and give the jacket to the coworker. The tractor suddenly moved backward, and rolled 8-10 ft. The operator lost his balance and was pulled beneath the tractor and crushed. The victim was dead at the scene. The victim's blood alcohol content was reported at 0.08.
Agriculture Farm/Ranch	
August 20 Yamhill OR 2005-28-1	

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## Worker Fatalities – Contact

<p><i>Brush clearing</i></p> <p>Admin/Support/ Waste/Remed. Building/Grounds Mtc</p> <p>August 23 Lane OR 2005-29-1</p>	<p>A 24-year-old male inmate on a prison work crew was killed during brush-clearing operations along a roadside, when a tree he cut fell in the wrong direction.</p>
<p><i>Parked trucks</i></p> <p>Transportation Install/Maintain/Repair</p> <p>September 13 Umatilla OR 2005-32-1</p>	<p>A 55-year-old truck mechanic was killed when he was crushed between two semi-trucks. The trucks were parked in the shop bay, one behind the other, and a relatively new coworker was told to start the rear truck. The coworker failed to depress the clutch and the truck lurched forward just as the mechanic was walking between the two trucks. The victim was transported to the hospital, where he died a half hour later.</p>
<p><i>Drill rig entanglement</i></p> <p>Construction Construction</p> <p>October 17 Union OR 2005-49-1</p>	<p>A 64-year-old drill rig operator was killed while drilling a water well, when he attempted to recover a hose that dropped down the drill shaft. The machine was in operation, and the operator's fingers were caught under a loop of chain running on a pulley. His hand, arm, and then his entire body were quickly drawn into the pulley and rotated several times, striking the support frame. A coworker, untrained to start or stop the engine, began pulling out wires until the engine shut down. The victim was killed instantly.</p>
<p><i>Parked hay truck</i></p> <p>Agriculture Farm/Ranch</p> <p>December 12 Jackson OR 2005-45-1</p>	<p>A 62-year-old hay hauler was killed when he was crushed between the rear end of his flatbed truck and bales of hay he was loading with the help of equipment known as a "hay squeeze," mounted on the rear of the truck. The truck was found running, and was believed to be in reverse gear when it was later moved forward by rescuers. A truck-mounted hay squeeze requires the vehicle engine to be running to supply power.</p>
<p><i>Tree spins in fall</i></p> <p>Forestry/Logging Logging</p> <p>December 13 Clackamas OR 2005-58-1</p>	<p>On December 13, 2005, a 63-year-old occasional logger, falling a 100 ft Douglas fir on his 18-acre property, was killed when the tree fell on him. The logger and his 28-year-old son were falling the tree together, taking turns making the face cut and backcut. The son was handling a wedge and his father had the chainsaw when the tree started to fall. The tree spun at its base, dropped from the stump, and fell quickly as the victim was trying to escape. He was pronounced dead at the scene.</p>
<p><i>Wood chipper</i></p> <p>Manufacturing Production</p> <p>December 16 Umatilla OR 2005-43-1</p>	<p>A 52-year-old machine operator was killed by a flying chunk of wood ejected from a wood chipper as he was working to unplug the machine without first shutting it down. The machine operator, following standard procedure, freed a long chunk of wood about 7 ft long and ducked away as it fed into the rotating hammers of the chipper. He was struck in the back of the head by a flying chunk of wood debris about 18 in. long and weighing 12 pounds. A coworker hurrying away in front of him was uninjured. The victim's blood alcohol content was reported at 0.06.</p>

## Worker Fatalities – Exposure

### Exposure to harmful substance/environment

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<i>Electrician hot wire</i>	A 46-year-old electrician was killed by electrocution while installing motion sensors to the lighting system at a school. The electrician was working with a coworker, who preceded him, installing the sensors and transformer. He completed the connection to a high-voltage junction box in the ceiling. The electrician did not de-energize the system. He worked atop a fiberglass ladder with a 277-volt hot wire, making connections with insulated wire nuts. Evidently, the electrician touched the hot wire with his index finger while leaning over metal ductwork in the ceiling, which created a ground through his body. The victim was transported to the hospital in cardiac arrest, and was pronounced dead shortly after arrival.
Construction Construction	
April 21 Clackamas OR 2005-35-1	
<i>Drug overdose</i>	A 39-year-old male nurse died of a drug overdose. The nurse was found on the floor of a bathroom at work, with indications of intravenous drug abuse involving demerol.
Health/Social Asst Health Practice/Tech	
May 18 Klamath OR 2005-40-1	
<i>Stranded fishermen</i>	A 36-year-old fisherman drowned while attempting to swim from a sandbar where he and a partner were stranded. The two fishermen set out about 4 p.m. to catch shrimp, and anchored their boat to work from a sandbar in an ocean bay. About 6:30 p.m. the fishermen discovered their boat had drifted away, and they eventually decided to swim for shore. The victim's partner made it to shore and was hospitalized with severe hypothermia. The victim's body was discovered 3 weeks later.
Fishing Fishing	
December 29 Tillamook OR 2005-67-1	

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# Worker Fatalities – Falls

## Falls

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<i>Residential ladder</i>	A 35-year-old laborer from Ecuador was killed after falling off a ladder at a private residence. The laborer was repairing a window, standing on the top rung of a 16-foot ladder. The ladder tipped over, and the laborer fell and hit his head when he landed on the pavement below. The victim died the next day in the hospital.
Construction Construction	
January 11 Multnomah OR 2005-10-1	
<i>Icy lumber load</i>	A 41-year-old lumber yard worker was killed when he fell about 11 feet off of a loaded semi-trailer. The worker placed an extension ladder against the load of lumber on the trailer, and climbed to the top to strap down the load. Ice had formed on a layer of plastic covering the load. The worker apparently slipped as he was stepping from the ladder onto the load, and he fell to the asphalt below. The event was not witnessed, but the ladder was found askew, with the victim on the ground nearby.
Wholesale Trade Material Moving	
January 14 Multnomah OR 2005-01-1	
<i>Concrete tank</i>	A 51-year-old construction worker died after falling about 19 ft into a concrete tank. The construction worker was subcontracted to remove concrete from an underground water treatment tank that was being dismantled. He was chipping away the fastening strip from the top edge. He was either bending over or kneeling to perform this task, and apparently lost his balance and fell into the tank when he stood up to move to the next section.
Construction Construction	
January 14 Tillamook OR 2005-02-1	
<i>Ladder collapse</i>	A 54-year-old custodian died after falling about 12 ft from the roof of a school building. The custodian placed an extension ladder, fully extended, against a building to access the roof and retrieve balls. The spring-loaded locks were not set properly. The custodian climbed the ladder successfully and retrieved the balls on the roof, but once he put weight on the upper part of the ladder to return to the ground, the ladder collapsed. The victim was discovered on the ground with the extension ladder on top of him. He was taken to a local hospital, and died about 5 hours after the incident.
Education Services Building/Grounds Mtc	
January 27 Coos OR 2005-04-1	
<i>Medication overdose</i>	A 41-year-old construction contractor sustained a non-fatal fall from a ladder that slipped on ice, and died 29 days later of a pain medication overdose. The contractor was building log homes when he fell from an unknown height off the ladder and landed on his side. He continued to work that day, and intermittently on following days. He was diagnosed with a finger fracture and post-concussive syndrome. Narcotics and a muscle relaxant were given, including a methadone prescription the day before the victim died of methadone overdose.
Construction Construction	
February 15 Deschutes OR 2005-13-1	

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## Worker Fatalities – Falls

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<i>Hay trailer</i>	A 42-year-old rancher was injured when he fell about 12 ft off a trailer onto his head, and died 2 weeks later (Apr 4). The rancher was feeding hay to horses from the top of a trailer when the string broke on a bale of hay he picked up, sending him backward off the trailer. He landed on concrete on his head, without losing consciousness, and a bale of hay landed on top of him. He suffered broken ribs, a scalp laceration, and dislocated left big toe. He walked a few hundred yards to his house, and went to the hospital. He was discharged from the hospital 4 days later. Two days before his death, the rancher returned to a community clinic with shortness of breath. Cause of death was a massive pulmonary embolism.
Agriculture Farm/Ranch	
March 21 Klamath OR 2005-22-1	
<i>Catwalk</i>	A 43-year-old temporary worker, operating a tower conveyor at a lumber planing mill, fell 17 ft from a catwalk in the tower, and died 2 days later. While operating the planer, the temporary worker observed broken pieces of 2x4s beginning to jam up the flow of lumber. Following standard procedure, he stopped the conveyor and stepped onto one of the catwalks that traverse the interior of the metal-beam structure to reach the jam. He picked up a broken 2x4 and stepped backward on the catwalk to the platform; then walked out a second time to retrieve another long 2x4, and backed out dragging the board. At the end of the catwalk, he missed his footing and fell to the concrete floor below, striking his head on another machine in his fall. The victim was transported to the hospital, underwent immediate surgery, and later died.
Manufacturing Production	
June 23 Lane OR 2005-18-1	
<i>Knee injury</i>	A 54-year-old female food service worker fractured her knee cap when she slipped on water on the floor while pushing a kitchen cart, and died 6 weeks later (Aug 8). The worker had surgery a few days after the incident, without complication, and was discharged with a knee brace. She appeared at a hospital emergency room on the day of death with shortness of breath. Cause of death was a massive pulmonary embolism.
Health/Social Asst Food Prep & Related	
June 27 Deschutes OR 2005-61-1	
<i>Home ladder</i>	A 53-year-old building contractor was killed when he fell about 12 ft from a ladder and struck his head. The contractor was working at a residence. The work included framing, siding, and roof repair.
Construction Construction	
September 7 Deschutes OR 2005-48-1	

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## Worker Fatalities – Falls

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<i>Plywood on roof</i>	A 67-year-old laborer was killed when a stack of plywood slipped off a roof and crushed him. The laborer was hired by a family to help with construction work on their residence. He was standing on a ladder 4-5 ft off the ground, helping to straighten a braced stack of about 30 sheets of plywood on the roof, when the stack slipped free. The laborer fell off the ladder and the stack of plywood fell on top of him. The victim was pronounced dead shortly after arriving at the hospital.
Construction Construction	
September 16 Jackson OR 2005-64-1	

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<i>Window washer fall</i>	A 31-year-old Hispanic window cleaner was killed when he fell six stories from a balcony on a seven-story commercial building. The window cleaner and a coworker had rigged their descent lines, safety lines, and boatswain's chairs, and attached the equipment to wire cables strung between roof anchors. The window cleaner, who was the designated supervisor of the team, got into his boatswain's chair, and climbed over the balcony edge. The coworker saw the window cleaner falling, and then saw one end of his safety cable fall off the roof of the building. The coworker immediately rappelled down to assist the victim, who had landed on the concrete walk below. An emergency medical team arrived minutes later. The victim was killed instantly in the fall.
Admin/Support/ Waste/Remed. Building/Grounds Mtc	
October 19 Multnomah OR 2005-38-1	

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<i>Snowy roof</i>	A 36-year-old construction worker was killed when he slipped off of a steep, snow-covered roof and fell about 11 ft to the ground. He fell face down. The victim had apparently been using a hammer on the roof when he slipped and fell.
Construction Construction	
December 13 Deschutes OR 2005-65-1	

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# Worker Fatalities – Violence

## Violence

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*Gas station homicide* A 56-year-old gas station attendant, working as the morning manager, was killed in a homicide. Videotape shows a person in a hooded jacket entered the office of the gas station just prior to opening at 6 a.m., immediately walked up to the manager and shot him in the head, and then removed the cash from the cash drawer. A coworker later confessed to the shooting.

Retail Trade  
Management

May 5  
Marion  
OR 2005-20-1

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*Shot leaving work* A 43-year-old owner of a copy shop was shot and killed in the parking lot outside his place of business. The shooter approached as the owner was leaving his shop in the company of an employee at about 8:50 p.m. The victim and the shooter were apparently acquainted, but no motive has been found for the incident.

Manufacturing  
Management

July 13  
Josephine  
OR 2005-53-1

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*Security guard suicide* A 19-year-old Hispanic night security guard at a manufacturing plant committed suicide at work by hanging himself with a cord of insulated copper wire.

Admin/Support/  
Waste/Remed.  
Protective Services

July 17  
Marion  
OR 2005-23-1

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*Auto shop* A 50-year-old owner of an auto parts store died instantly at his place of business, due to multiple gunshot wounds from a .22 caliber handgun. The victim may have been shot by a younger man who had been romantically involved with his wife for more than a year.

Arts/Entertainment/Rec  
Install/Maintain/Repair

October 7  
Lane  
OR 2005-50-1

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*Business dispute* A 55-year-old owner of a pest-control business, operated from his home, was bludgeoned to death, apparently in a business dispute at his home.

Admin/Support/  
Waste/Remed.  
Management

November 15  
Clackamas  
OR 2005-63-1

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# Worker Fatalities – Overexertion

## Overexertion

*Prescription narcotic*      On September 23, 2004, a 44-year-old mechanic suffered a back strain while pushing a welder that hit a rock and came to an abrupt stop, and died 9 months later (Jun 30, 2005), apparently from an overdose of prescription narcotic medications. The mechanic had not worked since the injury. Although the victim had been taking several medications, a toxicology test proved positive only for methadone.

Other Services  
Install/Maintain/Repair  
September 23, 2004  
Umatilla  
OR 2005-66-1

*Moderate exertion*      A 29-year-old prison inmate, working as a laborer on the night shift at a metal factory, died due to cardiac arrest shortly after arriving at a hospital emergency room. The inmate had a known heart problem and was advised to avoid strenuous physical activity. He was engaged in moderate physical labor at the factory when he suddenly slumped against a pile of metal bars.

Manufacturing  
Production  
December 28  
Multnomah  
OR 2005-54-1

## Contact Information

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### TELL US YOUR STORY

In 2005, OR-FACE added a survey to its website to gather feedback on how workers and safety professionals use our reports and hazard alerts. We appreciate your comments!

Oregon Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation is a project of the Center for Research on Occupational and Environmental Toxicology at Oregon Health & Science University. OR-FACE is supported by a cooperative agreement with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Division of Safety Research (U60/OH008472) through the Oregon Worker Illness and Injury Prevention Program, Oregon Public Health Division.

OR-FACE is dedicated to preventing workplace injuries through surveillance, investigation, and assessment of occupational fatalities in Oregon, and outreach to alert the working public to common hazards and appropriate safety recommendations. OR-FACE investigations evaluate the working environment, the worker, the activity, the tools, the energy exchange, and the role of management in fatal occupational incidents.

Oregon Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation  
Center for Research on Occupational and Environmental Toxicology



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