

# The most dangerous jobs in America, 2010

Fishers, loggers, and airplane pilots have the most dangerous jobs in the United States, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

According to the BLS' annual report on workplace fatalities, 4,547 people died on the job in 2010. This preliminary number is slightly lower than the 4,551 fatal injuries recorded in 2009, and the lowest on record since the BLS began tracking information in 1992.

Using the most recent data available, workers in the fishing-related industry died from workplace injuries at the rate of 116 per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers in 2010. That's 60 times greater than the rate of 3.3 per 100,000 for the overall workforce.

For loggers, the fatality rate was 91.9 per 100,000, and for aircraft pilots and flight engineers, 70.6 per 100,000.

The census illustrates that some of the most dangerous and fatal jobs in America in 2010 are not the "classic" dangerous jobs — firefighters, high rise window washers, and electric linemen are not on the top 10 list.

Most of the dangerous jobs in 2010 require little formal training and have relatively low entry barriers. Strict safety measures are not enforced and worker turnover rates can be high, notes the Dangerous Jobs Guide web site. This shows that dangerous jobs are not only jobs that are dangerous by nature, but are subject to many contributing factors that make them more hazardous and extreme.

Construction and transportation and warehousing occupations registered the most deaths overall per sector, at 780 and 657 respectively. But because those deaths are counted against a larger population of workers in those

fields, the fatality rates for both occupations — 17.2 and 14.4 per 100,000

— don't even make the top 10.

The 10 jobs listed to the left all had

fatal injury rates at least five times greater than the U.S. average.

**1**  
Fishing Workers  
Fatal injury rate:  
116 deaths per 100,000 workers  
Total deaths: 29

**2**  
Logging Workers  
Fatal injury rate:  
91.9 deaths per 100,000 workers  
Total deaths: 59

**3**  
Aircraft Pilots/Flight Engineers  
Fatal injury rate:  
70.6 deaths per 100,000 workers  
Total deaths: 78

**4**  
Farmers and Ranchers  
Fatal injury rate:  
41.4 deaths per 100,000 workers  
Total deaths: 300

**5**  
Mining Machine Operators  
Fatal injury rate:  
38.7 deaths per 100,000 workers  
Total deaths: 23

**6**  
Roofers  
Fatal injury rate:  
32.4 deaths per 100,000 workers  
Total deaths: 57

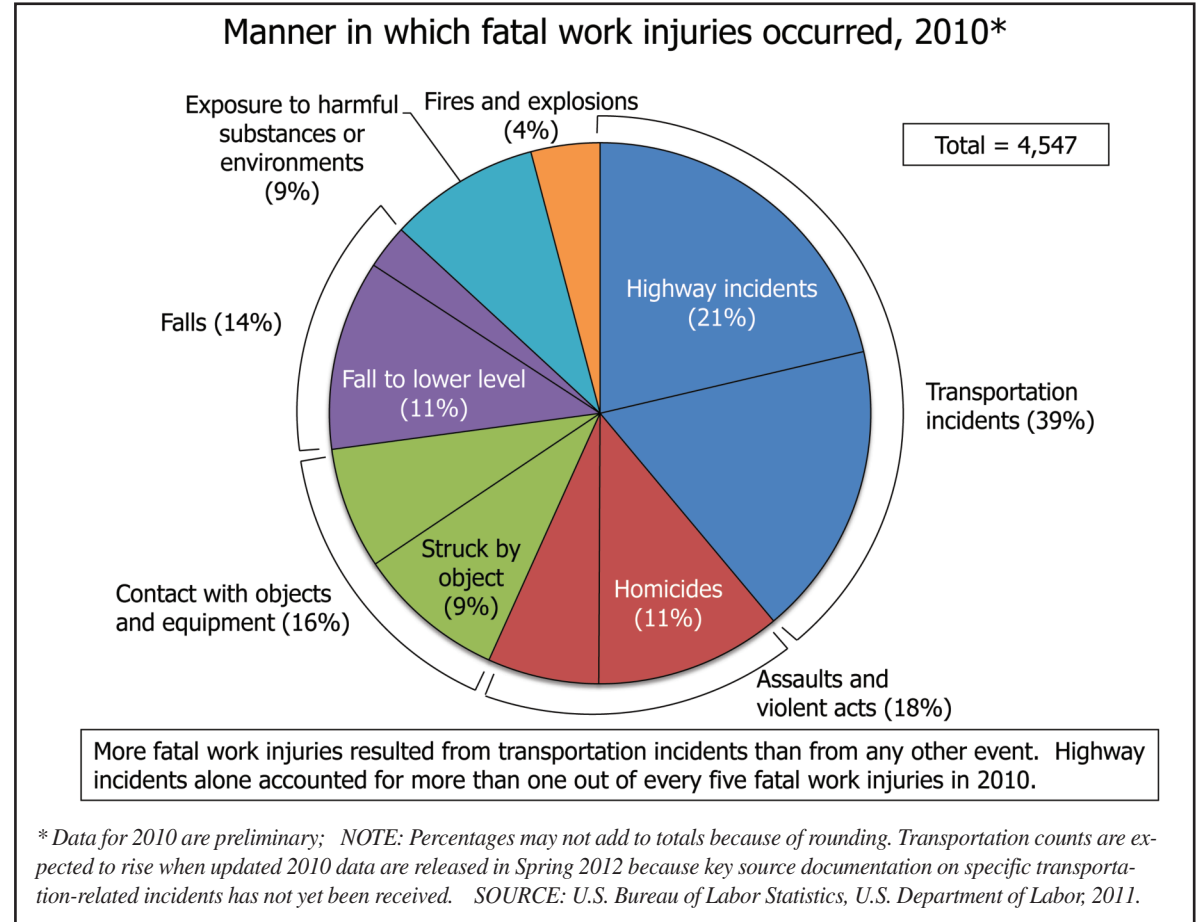
**7**  
Refuse and Recyclable  
Material Collectors  
Fatal injury rate:  
29.8 deaths per 100,000 workers  
Total deaths: 26

**8**  
Drivers,  
Including Sales and Truck Operators  
Fatal injury rate:  
21.8 deaths per 100,000 workers  
Total deaths: 683

**9**  
Industrial Machinery Installers  
and Maintenance Workers  
Fatal injury rate:  
20.3 deaths per 100,000 workers  
Total deaths: 96

**10**  
Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers  
Fatal injury rate:  
18.0 deaths per 100,000 workers  
Total deaths: 133

Source: U.S. Bureau of  
Labor Statistics/Data for 2010



## OR-FACE: Program investigates job-related deaths

The Oregon Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (OR-FACE) program investigates work-related fatalities within the state that are caused by a traumatic injury. The program is a project of the Center for Research on Occupational and Environmental Toxicology at Oregon Health & Science University.

Each year OR-FACE issues a report of its findings. The most recent report available is for 2008, in which Oregon recorded 57 fatal occupational incidents, with 60 worker deaths. The number represents a rate of 3.7 fatalities

per 100,000 employed workers in the civilian labor force in Oregon. The national worker fatality rate in 2008 was 3.7 per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers.

The following notable trends occurred in Oregon in 2008:

- Violence was the second most common category of events, with nine involving suicide, mostly related to financial crisis and family problems.

- A higher proportion of incidents than usual involved middle-aged workers, aged 45-64. Violence accounted for one-fourth of the incidents. All sui-

cide victims were aged 48-58. Only one incident involved an older worker, aged 77.

- Transportation and contact events involving mobile machinery and heavy trucks were a principal source of fatal injury, including tractors and farm machinery, dump trucks, construction equipment, trailer rigs, a skidder, and an all-terrain vehicle.

- July was the deadliest month for workers, with nine fatalities. January and November were the safest months of the year with two fatalities each.

- Tuesday was the most dangerous day of the week, with 15 fatalities occurring on that day of the week. Saturday and Sunday were the safest days of the week with four fatalities, respectively.

- The most dangerous time of day is from 7 to 8:59 a.m., from 1 to 2:59 p.m., and from 3 to 4:59 p.m., with 8 fatalities occurring during each of those time frames.

To see the full report, go on line to [www.ohsu.edu/croet/face](http://www.ohsu.edu/croet/face).

## Report blasts government contracting with unsafe companies

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Throughout the United States, government agencies at the state, local and federal levels routinely award construction contracts to companies known to be unsafe, according to a Public Citizen report released March 29. Public Citizen is a nonprofit consumer advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C.

The report, called "Contract Killers," highlights cases in which companies with suspect safety records win government contracts around the country, often with disastrous consequences.

"Taxpayer dollars should not be wasted on companies that expose their employees to dangerous work conditions," said Justin Feldman, worker

health and safety advocate with Public Citizen. "When government agencies fail to properly assess construction companies for health and safety performance, the results are not only expensive, but deadly."

The report details how most government agencies either have no process for reviewing contractor health and safety performance, or their procedures are inadequate. It calls on lawmakers to require agencies to consider a company's safety violations and injury prevention practices before awarding contracts.

The report cited several cases in which government agencies awarded construction contracts to companies that demonstrated alarming health and

safety problems:

- Robinson Prezioso, Inc., based in Santa Fe Springs, Calif., was allowed to work on government projects for decades despite a long history of safety violations. While working on the Bay Bridge connecting San Francisco with Oakland, Calif., unsafe conditions maintained by the company led to deaths, injuries and lead poisoning. While working on a power plant in Colorado, the company's inadequate precautions led to a fire that killed five workers. The corporation pleaded guilty to criminal charges in 2011 for the fire.

- Workers at Triangle Grading and Paving, Inc., based in Burlington, N.C., died in a manhole of apparent suffoca-

tion due to a lack of oxygen. The city of Durham awarded the company a sewer installation contract even as the company had been cited by OSHA more than 60 times for construction-related safety violations.

- Bontrager Excavating, located in Uniontown, Ohio, repeatedly exposed workers to trenching hazards, which ultimately killed a worker on a Jackson Township, Ohio, sewer repair project.

- Nicholson Drilling, located in Port Orchard, Wash., was hired by a public water district in Kitsap County, Wash., to drill a well, despite a record of safety violations and a worker fatality.

To read the full report, go to: <http://citizen.org/contract-killers-worker-safety-report>.