

# ...Workers Memorial Day a reminder of job safety

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counting for 24 of the fatalities. Transportation incidents (20) and contact with objects and equipment (12) were the top killers.

"Each year, we hope to see the list of fallen workers diminish until we do not have a list to read from at all," said Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain. "Until that day, we will continue to fight for safe working conditions. As we add jobs to Oregon's economy and get more people back to work, it is crucial that Oregon employers continue to prioritize safety at the workplace — anything else would be unacceptable and undermine the years of hard work we all have put in to strengthening our workplace protections."

Nationally, 4,609 fatal work injuries were recorded in the United States in 2011, down from 4,690 deaths in 2010. Transportation incidents accounted for more than two out of every five fatalities in 2011.

Of the 1,898 transportation-related incidents, about 57 percent (1,075 cases) were roadway incidents involv-

ing motorized vehicles. Non-roadway incidents, such as a tractor overturn in a farm field, accounted for another 11 percent. About 16 percent involved pedestrians who were struck by vehicles. Of the 312 fatal work injuries involving pedestrians struck by vehicles, 61 occurred in work zones.

Fatal falls, slips, or trips took the lives of 666 workers in 2011, or about

14 percent of all fatal work injuries. Falls to a lower level accounted for 541 of those fatalities. The height of the fall was reported in 451 of the 541 incidences. Of those cases, about one in four (115) occurred after a fall of 10 feet or less. Another fourth (118) occurred from a fall of over 30 feet.

A total of 472 workers were fatally injured after being struck by objects or

equipment, including 219 workers who were struck by falling objects or equipment and 192 who were struck by powered vehicles or mobile equipment not in normal operation.

There were 152 multiple-fatality incidents in 2011 (incidents in which more than one worker was killed) in which 354 workers died.

"So many of these deaths are readily

preventable, the result of problems that can easily be addressed by employer compliance with our rules and with safe work practices," said OR-OSHA's Wood. "That can make Workers Memorial Day a frustrating experience for those of us who attend each year. But that is also why it is an important event. Because we can, indeed, do better. And we must never forget that."

## LATEST NUMBERS

2011

### Fatal Work-Related Injuries (Preliminary)

**Total fatal injuries (all sectors):**  
4,609

**Roadway incidents (all sectors):**  
1,075

**Falls, slips, trips (all sectors):**  
666

**Homicides (all sectors):**  
458

### Non-fatal injuries and illness Private Industry, U.S.

**Total recordable cases:**  
2,986,500

**Cases involving days away  
from work:**  
908,300

**Median days away from work:**  
8

**Cases involving sprains, strains,  
tears:**  
340,870

**Cases involving injuries to the  
back:**  
182,270

**Cases involving falls, slips, trips:**  
225,550

From the Occupational Injuries (CFI) program conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## OREGON

### Worker Safety and Health

Number of employees: <sup>1</sup>	1,598,173
Number of establishments: <sup>1</sup>	126,858
State or federal OSHA program: <sup>2</sup>	State
Number of workplace fatalities, 2010: <sup>3</sup>	47
Rate per 100,000 workers: <sup>4</sup>	2.6
National rate:	3.6
Ranking of state fatality rate, 2010: <sup>5</sup>	10
Total cases of workplace injuries and illnesses, 2010: <sup>6</sup>	42,400
Rate per 100 workers:	3.9
National rate:	3.5
Total injury and illness cases with days away from work, job transfer or restriction, 2010: <sup>7</sup>	24,100
Rate per 100 workers:	2.2
National rate:	1.8
Number of state and local employees: <sup>1</sup>	249,371
Are state and local employees covered by the OSH Act? <sup>2</sup>	Yes
Number of workplace safety and health inspectors, FY 2012: <sup>8</sup>	79
Number of workplace safety and health inspections conducted, FY 2011: <sup>9</sup>	4,798
Construction:	1,376
Non-construction:	3,422
Length of time it would take for OSHA to inspect each workplace once:	26 yrs.
Average penalty assessed for serious violations of the OSH Act, FY 2011: <sup>9</sup>	\$346
National average:	\$1,576

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Employment and Wages: Annual Averages*, 2010.

<sup>2</sup> Under §18 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, a state may elect to run its own occupational safety and health program, provided it is as effective as the federal program. One condition of operating a state plan is that the program must cover state and local employees who otherwise are not covered by the OSH Act. Currently, 21 states and one territory administer their own OSHA programs for both public- and private-sector workers. Connecticut, Illinois, New Jersey, New York and the Virgin Islands have state programs for public employees only.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries*, 2010.

<sup>4</sup> Preliminary rate calculated by the AFL-CIO using BLS 2010 CFI fatality number and 2010 employment data from the Current Population Survey (CPS).

<sup>5</sup> Ranking based on best to worst (1=best; 50=worst).

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses*, 2010 private sector only.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *State Data, Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Requiring Days Away from Work, Job Transfer or Restriction*, 2010 private industry only.

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of Labor, OSHA. *Summary of State Safety and Health Compliance Staffing, FY 2012, Federal-state operations and CSHO totals by state, FY 2012.*

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Department of Labor, OSHA IMIS and OIS Inspection Reports, *Nation by Region for 18(B) State (only) and/or Nation by Region for Federal (only)*, FY 2011.

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