

The Occupational Fatality Report is a collaborative effort between the Maine Bureau of Labor Standards and the Maine Workers' Compensation Board to collect and compile workplace fatality data.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following agencies for their cooperation and assistance in providing source documents relevant to the Maine Occupational Fatality Reporting program:

U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

U.S. Coast Guard

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Maine Workers' Compensation Board

Maine State Medical Examiner's Office

Maine Department of Marine Resources

Maine State Police

Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles

SafetyWorks! Can Help

The Maine Department of Labor SafetyWorks! program can help you improve the safety and health of your workplace.

At your request, one of our experienced occupational safety and health professionals can come to your workplace and help you identify hazards and reduce or eliminate the risk of injuries and illnesses.

Other services include safety classes on a variety of topics and a video and publication lending library. SafetyWorks! is not OSHA and cannot assess fines or penalties. All services are offered at no charge to Maine workers and businesses.

For more information on how SafetyWorks! can help you, call 1-877-723-3345 (TTY: 1-800-794-1110) or visit www.safetyworksmaine.com.

Contact Information

Work-related injuries and illnesses:

207-623-7900

Work-related fatalities:

207-623-7900



The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity in employment and programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available to individuals upon request.



2009 Occupational Fatality Report

Sixteen Maine workers died as a result of work-related injuries in 2009. Most of the deceased workers were male (15) and employed in the private sector (15). Twelve of the work-related deaths occurred after September 1. Sixty-nine percent (11) of the deaths occurred in Washington and Cumberland counties.

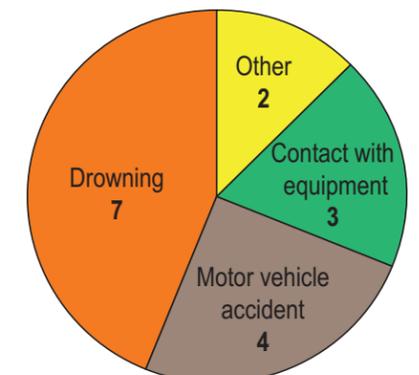
The average age of workers involved in fatal incidents was 42 years old and a total of 427 years of potential work life was lost (assuming a normal retirement age of 65) when they died. Four of the 16 cases were eligible for Workers' Compensation payments. A total amount of \$930,581 will be paid out over time to their dependents - meaning an average benefit amount of \$232,645 per eligible deceased worker.

Nationally for 2009, a total of 4,340 fatalities were reported. Using an employment-based rate¹ for comparison, Maine had a fatality rate of 2.48 per 100,000 employed versus a slightly higher national rate of 3.08.

Table 1 represents the occupations of those involved in fatal incidents in 2009. Half of the deceased workers (8) were self-employed, seven of whom were fishermen. Three workers were from materials moving occupations and another three were from healthcare and social assistance occupations.

Occupation	Number of Fatalities
Fishing, farming, and forestry occupations	9
Transportation and material moving occupations	3
Healthcare and social assistance occupations	3
Other Occupations	1
Total	16

Figure 1: 2009 Events (Causes) of Fatality



The events that resulted in those fatalities in Maine in 2009 are shown in Figure 1. Seven died in drowning events, four in motor vehicle accidents, three due to contact with equipment (falling or caught in), and two from other causes.

¹ Employment-based rates are estimated using employment figures provided by the Current Population Survey.

A Seven-Year Trend Analysis (2003-2009)

Table 2 shows the year by year information based on:

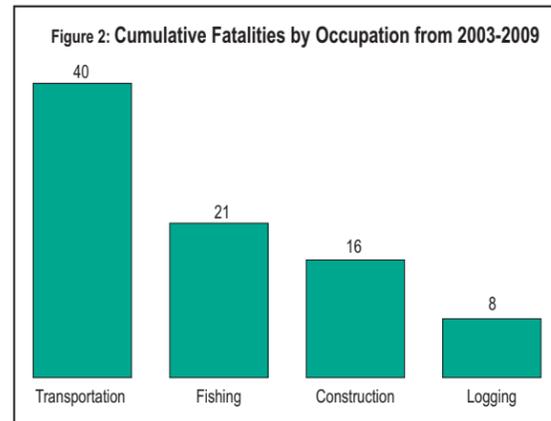
- The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and the
- Standard Occupational Classification (SOC)

Year	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	Totals
Total Fatalities	16	24	21	20	15	16	23	135
Management, professional, and related occupations		5		5	1	3	1	15
Service occupations	1	3	5	2	2	2	2	17
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	12	9	6	9	4	5	11	56
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	3	7	8	4	6	5	8	41
Other occupations			2		2	1	1	6

For the seven-year period there were 135 work-related fatalities with an average rate of 19 per year. A significant number of the fatalities in the “natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations” involved workers from the fishing occupation.

Similarly, the “production, transportation, and material moving occupations” is made up almost completely of workers from the transportation occupation. When taken together, the fishing and transportation occupations comprise over 45% of total work-related fatalities in this period.

Figure 2 provides a visual representation of which occupations had the highest number of fatalities over this period.

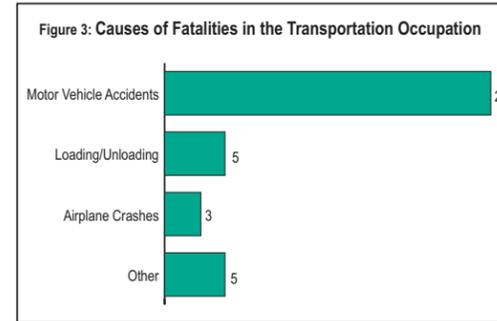


Special Focus: Fatalities in the Transportation Occupation (2003-2009)

The transportation occupation has experienced 40 work-related fatalities since 2003. This means that almost one in every three workers (29.6%) deceased in Maine have been from this occupation. The causes of death in the transportation occupation are overwhelmingly motor-vehicle accidents (MVAs).

For the 27 MVAs, police accident investigation reports list many contributing factors, often more than one per accident. The following is a summary of their findings:

- 12 involved unsafe speeds
- 10 were specifically noted as not wearing seat belts
- 10 involved poor weather
- 5 were directly related to distracted driving
- 5 cases were caused by fatigued drivers
- 2 fatalities were considered alcohol related



Resources

OSHA has identified driver distraction as a major factor in motor vehicle accidents. They launched an initiative to combat distracted driving on a new web page www.osha.gov/distracted-driving.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration provides information on all aspects of safe driving on their website www.nhtsa.gov.

Research and safety measures are available on topics such as:

- Impaired Driving
- Distracted Driving
- Seat Belt Safety
- Senior driving

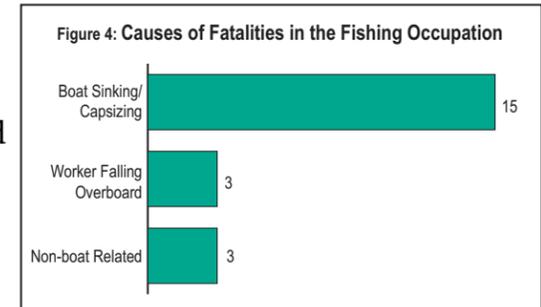
The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) provides in-depth research on motor vehicle safety topics at www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/motorvehicle.

Special Focus: Fatalities in the Fishing Occupation (2003-2009)

The fishing occupation has experienced 21 work-related fatalities since 2003. This represents 15.5% of deceased workers in Maine. The cause of death in the fishing occupation is most often drowning due to the sinking or capsizing of boats.

Based on research of the 18 boat related incidents

- Use of safety gear such as life jackets and survival suits varied:
 - 2 were noted to be wearing safety gear
 - 5 did not use safety gear
 - 11 reports make no mention of safety gear usage
- 5 fatalities were specifically attributed to bad weather or rough seas
- 3 bodies were unable to be located after extensive searching



Resources

The Department of Marine Resources (DMR) has established a Commercial Fishing Safety Council to provide guidance on safety requirements, community-based education programs, safety outreach and cost minimization.

The Commercial Fishing Safety Council includes a fisherman, a variety of marine experts, community members and a spouse or domestic partner of a commercial fisherman. The DMR can assist in safer fishing techniques and responses to dangerous situations.

To find out more, visit DMR website:

www.maine.gov/dmr/council/comfishsafety