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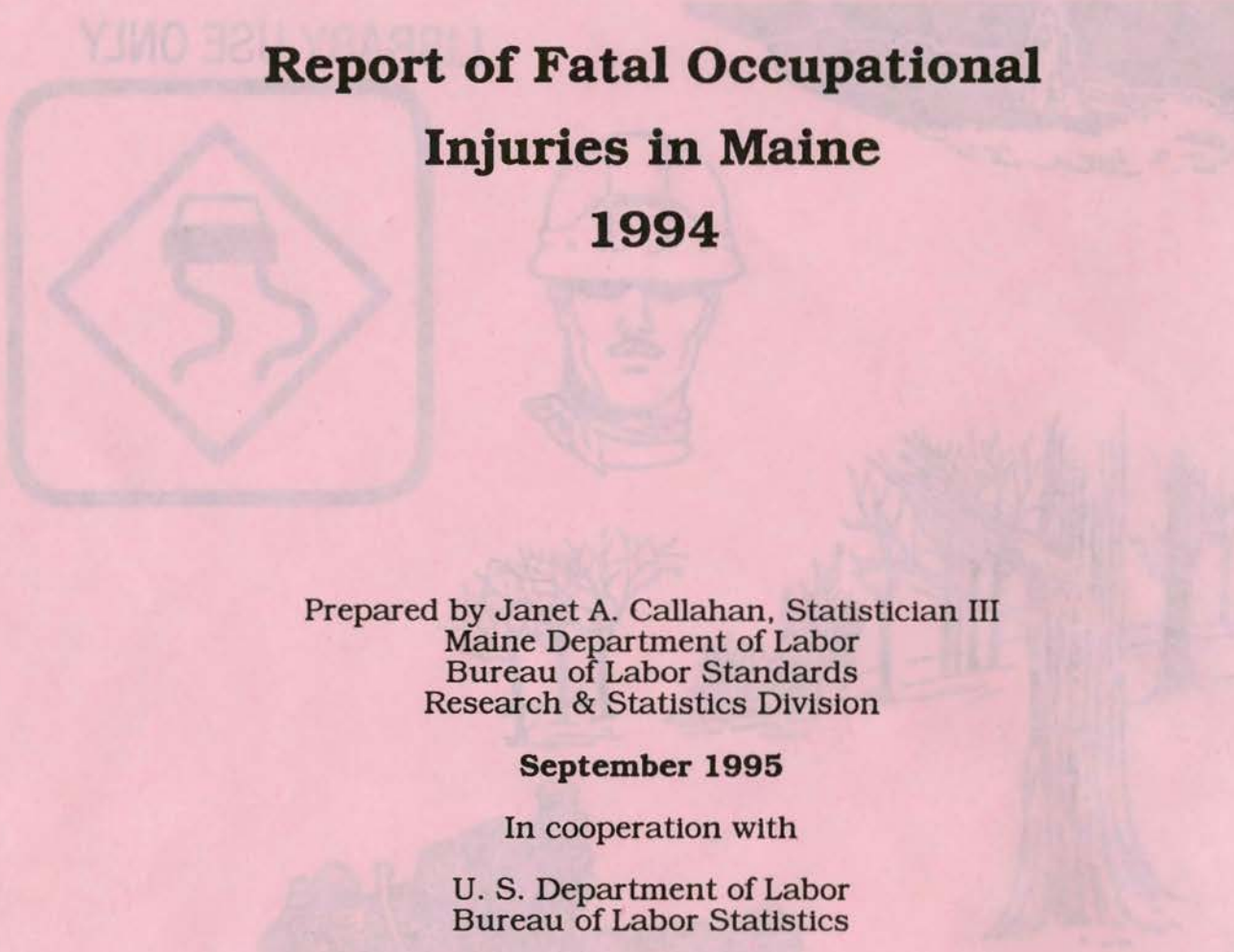
BUREAU OF LABOR STANDARDS

Research and Statistics Division



**Report of Fatal Occupational
Injuries in Maine
1994**

BLS 684
September 1995



Report of Fatal Occupational Injuries in Maine 1994

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Maine Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Standards
Research & Statistics Division

September 1995

In cooperation with

U. S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics

Grant No. W9J3835012

Introduction to Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries Program Maine, 1994

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program compiles the most complete, verifiable account of fatal work-related injuries in the United States. By using multiple data sources to verify deaths, we are able to get a more accurate count. CFOI is a Federal-State cooperative program, with all 50 states and the District of Columbia participating.

The CFOI program provides detailed data on all fatal workplace injuries, including those of workers under 16 years old, the self-employed, lobstermen, fishermen, farm workers, and government employees. These workers have not always been counted in the past as they are hard to identify with only one data source.

Hard Hat Area



For 1994, a total of 42 possible work-related deaths were reported to this office. By using multiple documents to verify a death, 32 cases were confirmed as work-related, five cases reported were verified as not work-related. Five cases were left pending due to lack of information. Of the 32 work-related deaths, 20 were due to accidents, and another 12 were because of illnesses. Heart attack was the cause of death in 11 of the 12 illness cases. This publication will use only the work-related fatal cases that were due to an injury. We hope employers and employees will use this data to make a safer workplace.

This publication is in two sections. The first half includes tables showing data for the year 1994 detailing only the 20 fatal injuries. The second half combines these 20 fatalities with the 24 fatal injuries reported in 1993, 19 fatal injuries reported in 1992 and 20 in 1991. By combining multiple years of data, trends may appear. Because this program is only four years old, it may take a few more years to see if there are common factors in work-related deaths. If you are interested in receiving a previous year's report, you may contact this office.

If you are interested in receiving national fatality information, you may contact:

Jim Hart or Jill Taylor
U. S.. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
1 Congress Street, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02114
Tel.: 617-565-2300

Highlights of 1994

In 1994, five (25%) of the 20 work-related fatal accidents involved employees being struck by objects. Another four (20%) employees lost their lives when they fell to lower levels. Due to confidentiality rules, events which resulted in only one fatality, are not detailed.

Table 1. Fatal Occupational Injuries
Distribution by Event/Exposure
Maine, 1994

Event or Exposure	Year of Death	
	1994	
	Number	Percent
Total	20	100.0
02 Struck by object	5	25.0
11 Fall to lower level	4	20.0
41 Highway accident	3	15.0
03 Caught in or compressed by equip/object	2	10.0
43 Pedestrian/nonpassenger struck by vehic	2	10.0
-- Other	4	20.0

Seven (35%) of the employees who died from work-related fatal injuries in 1994 worked in the Farming, Fishing and Forestry Occupational Group.

Table 2. Fatal Occupational Injuries
Distribution by Occupational Groups
Maine, 1994

Occupational Groups	Year of Death	
	1994	
	Number	Percent
Total	20	100.0
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry Occupation	7	35.0
Transportation or Material Moving Occup.	5	25.0
Precision Production, Craft or Repair	2	10.0
Other	6	30.0

In five (25%) of the 20 work-related fatal injuries in 1994, the source of injury was highway motor vehicles. Another four (20%) of the work-related fatalities were caused by trees and in an additional four (20%) deaths the floors or working surfaces were the source of the fatality.

Table 3. Fatal Occupational Injuries
Distribution by Source of Injury
Maine, 1994

Source of Injury	Year of Death	
	1994	
	Number	Percent
Total	20	100.0
82 Highway vehicle, motorized	5	25.0
58 Plants, trees, vegetation--not processed	4	20.0
62 Floors, walkways, ground surfaces	4	20.0
34 Material handling machinery	2	10.0
-- Other	5	25.0

Of the 20 work-related fatal injuries in 1994, nine (45%) were injuries to the head. Four death (20%) affected the body system. The body system is coded as the part of the body for asphyxiations, strangulations, drownings, electrocutions, and suffocations. Three deaths (15%) each occurred to the chest and multiple body parts (usually to the head and trunk).

Table 4. Fatal Occupational Injuries
Distribution by Part of Body Affected
Maine, 1994

Part of Body	Year of Death Cases	
	1994	
	Number	Percent
Total	20	100.0
01 Cranial region, including skull	9	45.0
5 Body System	4	20.0
22 Chest, including ribs, internal organs	3	15.0
8 Multiple body Parts	3	15.0
28 Multiple trunk locations	1	5.0

Table 5 shows that eight (40%) of the 20 deaths were due to intracranial injuries, three were struck by objects, three fell to lower levels and another two were because of highway accidents. Another eight employees lost their lives by asphyxiations, strangulations, suffocations, drownings, and crushing to the chest area (coded as 09-Other traumatic injuries and disorders).

Table 5. Fatal Occupational Injuries
Distribution by Nature of Injury
Maine, 1994

Nature of Injury	Year of Death	
	1994	
	Number	Percent
Total	20	100.0
06 Intracranial injuries	8	40.0
09 Other traumatic injuries and disorders	8	40.0
01 Traumatic inj-bones nerves spinal cord	2	10.0
-- Other	2	10.0

Seven (35%) of the 20 work-related fatal injuries in 1994 were employees in the 40-49 year old age group.

Table 6. Fatal Occupational Injuries
Distribution by Age Group
Maine, 1994

Age Groups	Year of Death	
	1994	
	Number	Percent
Total	20	100.0
Under 30 Years old	6	30.0
30-39 Years old	3	15.0
40-49 Years old	7	35.0
50 Years and older	4	20.0

Highlights of Fatal Injuries, 1991-1994

Figure 1 shows how deaths occurring between 1991 and 1994 happened. Drownings resulted in 18 (21.7%) of the 83 work-related deaths. Another 16 (19.3%) died because of work-related highway accidents.

Figure 2 shows the gender of the workers who died in a work-related accidents between 1991 and 1994. Only three (3.6%) of the 83 worker were women, while men accounted for 96.4%. Men usually work in the more hazardous occupations.

Figure 1. Fatal Occupational Injuries
Distribution by Event/Exposure
Maine, 1991-1994

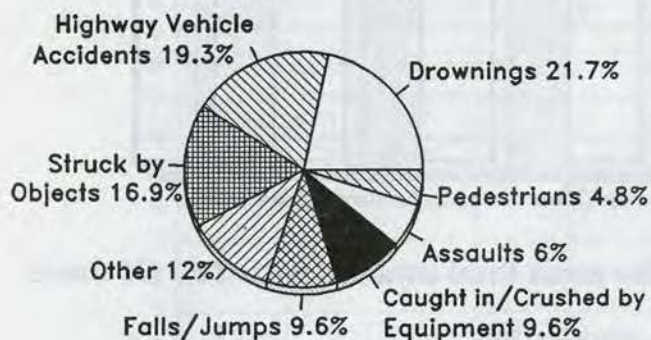
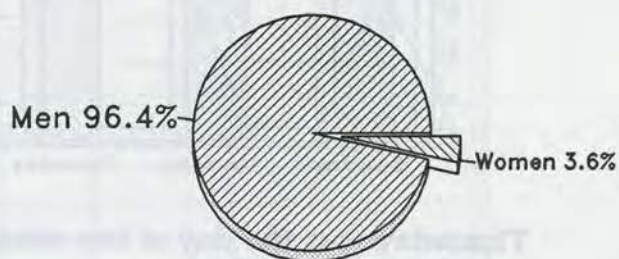


Figure 2. Fatal Occupational Injuries
Distribution by Gender
Maine, 1991-1994



There were 18 fatalities from 1991-1994 that involved drownings and accidents (boat and plane) that caused drownings:

- 9 were lobstering or deep sea fishing;
- 4 were scuba diving for sea urchins;
- 3 were periwinkle harvesting or clamming;
- 2 were on an aircraft that crashed into the ocean;
- ages ranged from 19 to 66, with an average of 36.

Of the 83 work-related fatal accidents during 1991-1994, 22 were because of highway motor vehicle, (four were because pedestrians were struck by motor vehicles).

Looking at these 22 death, we find:

- 5 were collisions with another moving highway vehicle;
- 5 were vehicles that struck stationary objects on the side of the road, such as trees, rocks, poles, buildings;
- 6 were non-collision accidents, where the vehicles ran off the road, may have overturned, but did not hit objects;
- 4 were accidents where pedestrians were struck by moving highway motor vehicles, two were hit by trucks backing up, and two were State Highway workers hit while working on road repair;
- ages for these 22 employees ranged from 17 to 93, with an average age of 42.

Another 14 employees lost their lives when struck by objects:

- 9 were struck by falling trees; 6 involved trees temporarily suspended which later fell onto the worker;
- ages ranged from 23 to 72, with an average age of 48.

There were 8 employees who were caught in or compressed by equipment or objects or caught in or crushed in collapsing materials:

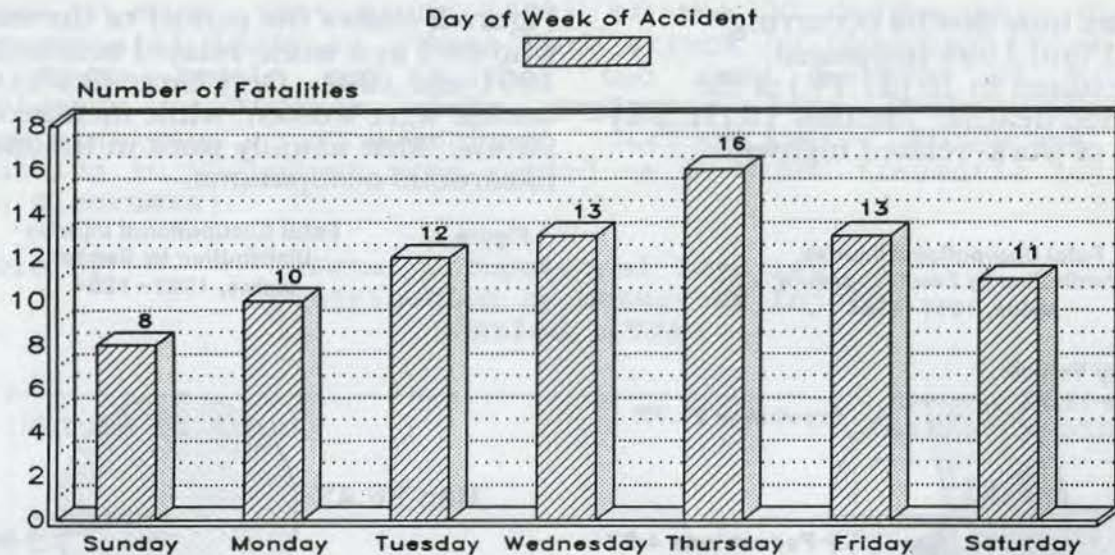
- structural metal materials, roof trusses, logs, powered conveyors and augers, elevators, tractors, and collapsing buildings.

There were 8 fatal injuries because of a falls or jumps to a lower level.

Other categories include aircraft accidents, explosions, contact with electric or power lines, assaults, suicides, and rail accidents.

Figure 3.

Fatal Occupational Injuries
Distribution by Day of the Week of the Accident
Maine, 1991-1994



Thursday was the day of the week with the most fatal injuries with 16. Of these 16 injuries we find:

- 9 were because of transportation accidents;
- 5 resulted from coming in contact with objects or equipment;
- 2 were struck by trees;
- 4 were in the Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupational Group;
- 6 were in the Transportation and Material Moving Occupational Group;
- 5 were in the Manufacturing Industry;
- 44 was the average age.

Wednesday tied as the second most hazardous day of the week with 13:

- 6 were because of transportation accidents;
- 4 were in the Transportation and Material Moving Occupational Group;
- 4 were in the Construction Industry;
- 36 was the average age; 7 were under 30 years old.

Friday also had 13 fatal injuries:

- 6 were due to transportation accidents;
- 5 were in the Transportation and Public Utilities Industry;
- 49 was the average age.

Tuesday ranked fourth with 12 fatalities:

- 7 were due to being struck by objects or caught in equipment;
- 4 were due to drownings;
- 8 were in the Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupational Group;
- 45 was the average age.

Saturday ranks third lowest with 11 injuries that led to a fatality:

- 6 were because of transportation accidents;
- 4 were due to drownings;
- 7 were in the Transportation and Material Moving Occupational Group;
- 27 was the average age; 5 were under 30, all were under 50.

Monday had 10 injuries that caused a fatality during this four-year period:

- 4 were in the Manufacturing Industry;
- 6 were due to being struck by objects or caught in equipment,
- 4 due to trees;
- 5 were in the Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupational Group;
- 46 was the average age; 9 were 35 or older.

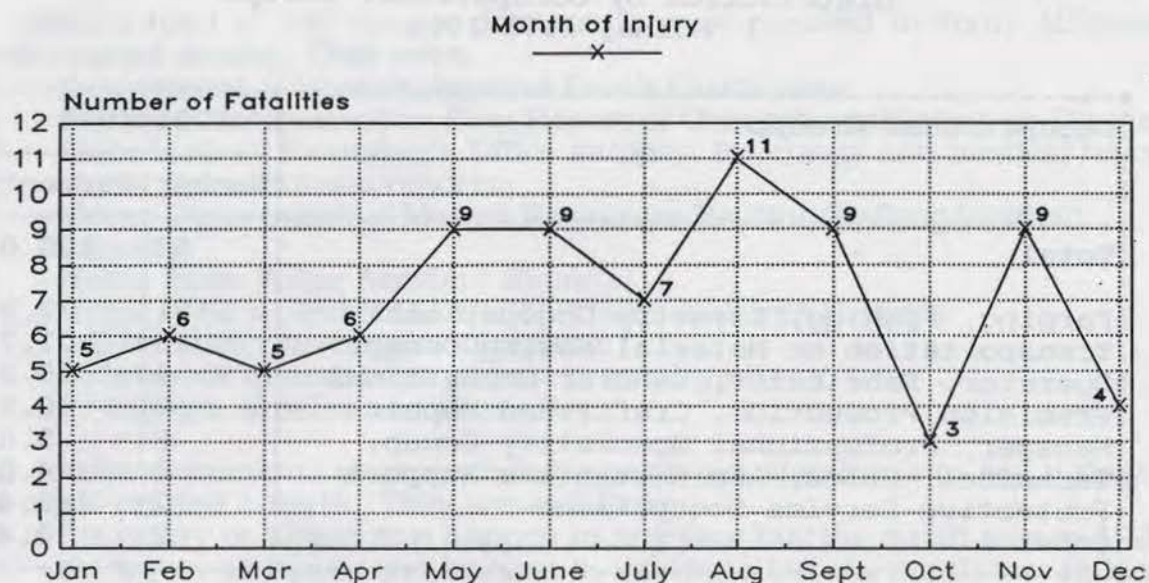
Sunday had the lowest fatal injuries (as expected) with 8:

- 3 were due to falls;
- 3 were due to drownings;
- 35 was the average age; 5 were between the ages of 38-49.

Figure 4 shows the number of deaths by month for 1991 through 1994. The month with the highest number of deaths was August with 11. Seven of these 11 employees were in the Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupational Group.

Figure 4.

Fatal Occupational Injuries
Distribution by Month of Injury
Maine, 1991-1994



By looking at the events leading to the deaths in each industry, we can see where most of the fatalities occurred. The Agriculture, Fishing, and Forestry Division had 21 accidents from 1991 through 1994, 10 of them because of transportation accidents and another 10 because workers were exposed to harmful substances or environments (electricity, drownings, suffocations, etc.).

Table 7.

Fatal Occupational Injuries
Industry Division by Event/Exposure
Maine, 1991-1994

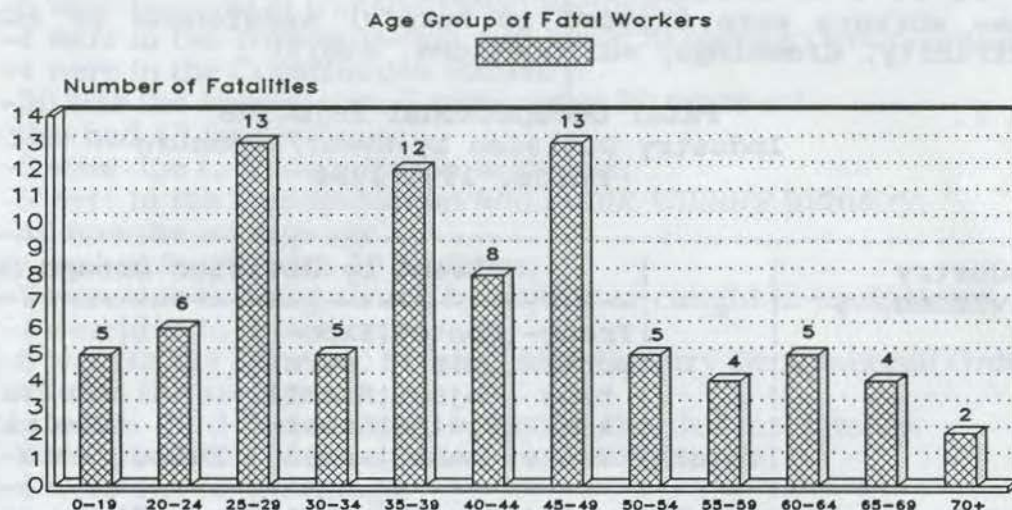
Industry Division	Event by Division Groups						
	Total	Trans- porta- tion Acci- dents	Contct with Object Equip- ment	Expo- sure Harmfl Subst- ances	Falls	Asslts Violnt Acts	Fire Explo- sions
Total	83	34	22	12	9	4	2
Agr/Fish/For	21	10	0	10	1	0	0
Manufacturing	17	2	11	0	3	1	0
Transport/PU	14	10	1	1	2	0	0
Services	9	0	4	0	1	3	1
Construction	8	2	3	1	1	0	1
Public Admin	6	4	1	0	1	0	0
Wholesale	4	3	1	0	0	0	0
Retail Trade	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
Other	1	0	1	0	0	0	0

Of the 83 work-related fatalities during 1991-1994, 31 (37.3%) involved farmers, fishers (including lobstermen, sea urchin and periwinkle harvesters) and foresters. Another 18 were in the Transportation and Material Moving Occupational Group, which includes truck drivers.

Table 8. Fatal Occupational Injuries
Distribution by Occupational Groups
Maine, 1991-1994

Occupational Groups	1991-1994	
	Number	Percent
Total	83	100.0
Farming, Fishing, Forestry Occupations	31	37.3
Transportation or Material Moving Occup.	18	21.7
Operator, Fabricator, Laborer Occupations	9	10.8
Precision Production, Craft, and Repair	9	10.8
Manager, Professional Speciality Occup.	8	9.6
Technical, Sales, Administrative Support	4	4.8
Protective Service Occupations	2	2.4
Other	2	2.4

Figure 5. Fatal Occupational Injuries
Distribution by Age Groups
Maine, 1991-1994



As shown in the chart above, 13 workers between the ages of 45 and 49 lost their lives between 1991 and 1994:

- 3 were involved in transportation accidents;
- 4 were in Transportation and Material Handling Occupational Group;
- 6 fell to lower levels or to the same level;

The 25-29 year old age group also lost 13 employees:

- 7 were involved in transportation accidents
- 5 were in the Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupational Group;
- 4 were drowned.

Project Summary

In 1994, a total of 126 source documents were received to verify 42 possible work-related deaths. They were:

- Department of Human Services Death Certificates;
- Workers' Compensation First Report of Occupational Injury or Disease;
- State Medical Examiner's Office autopsy, toxicology and medical reports;
- Maine Farm Bureau reports;
- Maine Department of Marine Resources Boating/Rafting Incident Reports;
- Maine State Police Accident Reports;
- Motor Vehicle Accident Division Traffic Accident Reports;
- OSHA fatality investigation reports;
- Followback questionnaires sent to employer;
- Newspaper articles and obituaries.

The source documents were reviewed against set standards to see if they met the work-related criteria. They are as follows:

- the injury or illness can happen in any year but the death was in 1994;
- the injury or illness can happen in any state but the death was in Maine;
- the death was during normal working hours on the employer's grounds or off-site while doing normal work-related activity;
- the death was a homicide or suicide and happened at work;
- the death was a heart attack or stroke and happened at work.

A followback questionnaire was mailed to each employer if:

- a death was identified by only one source document;
- we weren't sure if it was work-related;
- we did not know the worker's job status;
- required data fields were missing.

Of the 42 fatalities reported in 1994, the final status shows that:

- 10 were out-of scope (not work-related) or left pending;
- 20 were work-related injuries;
- 12 were work-related illnesses (11 were heart attacks).

The 20 work-related injury deaths in 1994 show:

- 5 died when they were struck by objects--see **Table 1**;
- 7 were in Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupational Group--see **Table 2**;
- 5 were caused by some kind of a vehicle--see **Table 3**;
- 9 died because of injuries to the cranial region--see **Table 4**;
- 7 were workers 40-49 years old--see **Table 6**.

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