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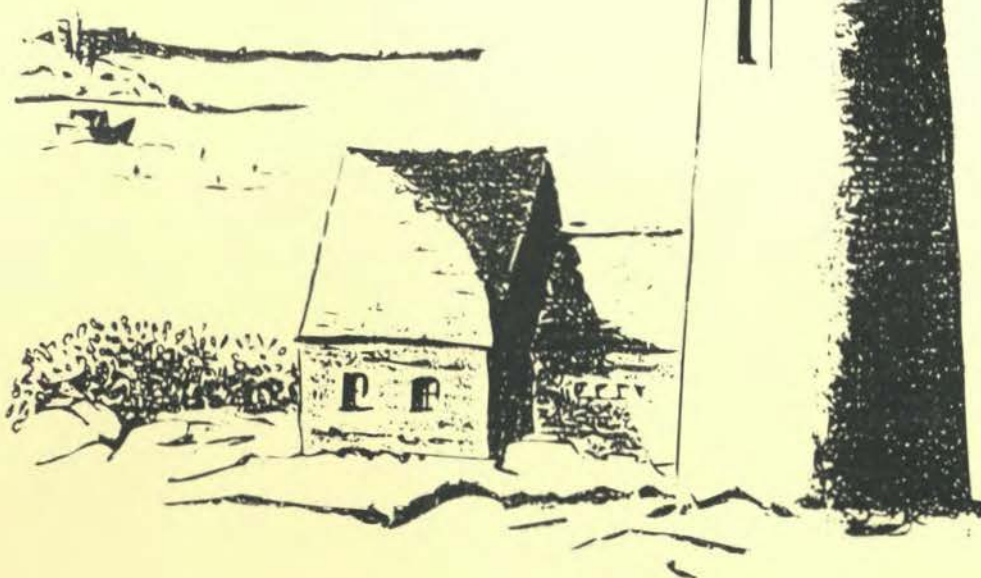
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# Fatal Occupational Injuries in Maine 1996



Bureau of Labor Standards





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## FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES IN MAINE, 1996

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Maine Department of Labor  
Bureau of Labor Standards  
Augusta, Maine

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MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
BUREAU OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

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Maine State Police

Maine Department of Motor Vehicles

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## Introduction

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program is a Federal/State cooperative program. It was created in 1990 by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and includes all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. The program was established to determine a true count of work-related fatalities in the U.S. Prior to CFOI, estimates of work-related fatalities varied because of the differences in definitions and reporting sources. The CFOI program collects and compiles workplace fatality data that is based on consistent guidelines throughout the U.S.

The CFOI program provides detailed data on all fatal workplace injuries in all industries and ages, including those workers under the age of 16. It also includes self-employed individuals, employees in the lobstering, fishing & farming industries, and government employees. In the past these employees were excluded due to the difficulty in verifying the data.

This report provides information on the work-related fatalities caused by accidents in the workplace in Maine during 1996. We hope the information in this report helps reduce the risk of injury and makes Maine's workplaces safer. For more information about the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, please contact the Department of Labor at (207) 624-6400.



## **Summary - Fatal Occupational Injuries, Maine, 1996**

- 23 work-related fatalities occurred in 1996
- 21 worked for private places of employment, 2 in public
- 17 employees worked for wages or salary, 6 were self-employed
- 18 employees were males, 5 were females

### **Industries**

- 6 occurred in Construction (30.3%)
- 4 occurred in Services (17.4%)
- 3 occurred in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing (13.0%)
- 3 occurred in Transportation (13.0%)
- 3 occurred in Manufacturing (8.7%)
- 1 occurred in Retail (4.3%)
- 1 occurred in Wholesale (4.3%)
- 1 occurred in State Government (4.3%)
- 1 occurred in Local Government (4.3%)

### **Occupations**

- 7 occurred in the Precision Production, Craft, and Repair Occupations (30.3%)
- 5 occurred in the Managerial and Professional Specialty Occupations (21.7%)
- 5 occurred in the Farming, Forestry, and Fishing Occupations (21.7%)
- 3 occurred in the Operators, Fabricators, and Laborers Occupations (13.0%)
- 2 occurred in the Technical, Sales, and Administrative Support Occupations (8.7%)
- 1 occurred in the Service Occupations (4.3%)

### **Body Parts**

- 9 involved the head (39.1%)
- 6 involved the entire internal body system (26.1%)
- 3 involved multiple body parts (13.0%)
- 3 involved multiple trunk locations (13.0%)
- 1 involved the neck (4.3%)
- 1 involved the abdomen (4.3%)

### **Event**

- 6 fatalities involved falls (30.4%)
- 5 fatalities involved transportation accidents (26.1%)
- 4 fatalities involved contact with objects and equipment (17.4%)
- 5 fatalities involved exposure to harmful substances or environments (13.0%)
- 3 fatalities involved assaults and violent acts (13.0%)

## Scope of Fatality Data

All work-related deaths due to injuries in 1996 are included in the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries. A death is considered work-related if there was a work relationship. This includes working at an employer's premises whether working at an on-site or off-site location. If an event or exposure resulted in death to an employee while in work status, then the death is considered "in-scope" and is counted as a fatality in CFOI. Private and public sector (state, local, and county government) employees are included. Self-employed individuals such as partners and owners of a business, professional practices, contractors, traveling salespeople, farmers, and volunteers in law enforcement, firefighting, and emergency medical services are also included.

Fatalities must be confirmed by two independent sources before inclusion in CFOI. The sources include death certificates, First Reports of Injury for workers' compensation, medical examiner's reports, Department of Marine Resources reports, Maine State Police reports, Department of Motor Vehicles fatality records, OSHA reports, and newspaper clippings.

Fatalities due to injuries are included in the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries while fatalities due to illnesses are generally excluded. Occupational illnesses are excluded because many deaths due to illness or disease are understated because the illness may not be diagnosed until years later or the work relationship may not be known.

Heart attacks and strokes are generally considered illnesses and are excluded from the count. However, heart attacks and strokes are considered injuries if a traumatic work injury was listed as a contributing or underlying cause of death on the death certificate or other medical report. Heart attacks and strokes that occur while lifting or pushing an object or while performing other physical activities are considered illnesses since there was no traumatic injury involved.

Injuries occurring in international waters or airspace surrounding the U.S. are in-scope if a U.S. death certificate was issued and the case meets the other CFOI criteria for work relationship.

Injuries occurring in another country are out-of-scope even if a U.S. death certificate was issued. For example, a death occurring in the U.S. but resulting from an injury received in Germany would be considered out-of-scope.

Each fatality is coded according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System. Each fatality is classified in 7 categories: **Nature**, **Part**, **Source**, **Secondary Source** (if applicable), **Event or Exposure**, **Activity**, and **Location** of the incident.



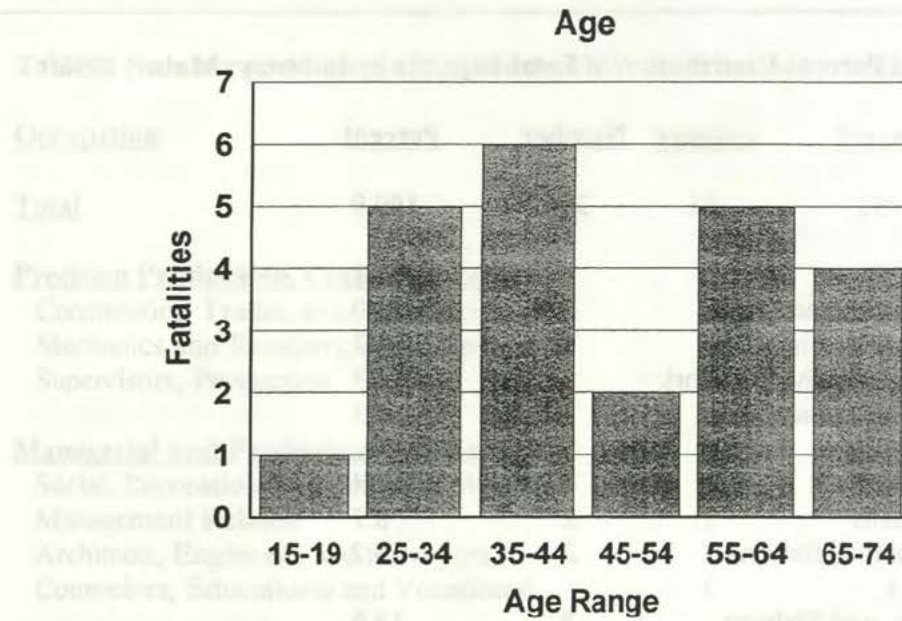
## Employee Characteristics

Table 1 lists the general characteristics of the 23 employees who were fatally injured in Maine in 1996. The list includes the employer, employment status, gender, age, and race.

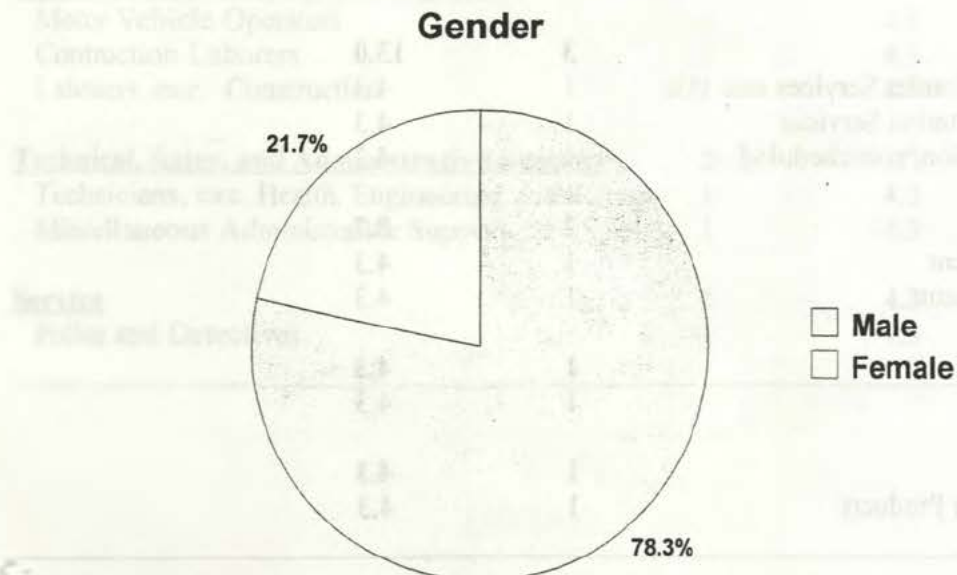
**Table 1. Number and Percent Distribution of Fatal Injuries by Characteristic, Maine, 1996**

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b><u>Employer</u></b>		
Private Industry	21	91.3
Public (state, local & county government)	2	8.7
Federal Government	0	0.0
<b><u>Employment Status</u></b>		
Working for Wage or Salary	17	73.9
Self-Employed	6	26.1
<b><u>Gender</u></b>		
Male	18	78.3
Female	5	21.7
<b><u>Age</u></b>		
15-19	1	4.3
25-34	5	21.7
35-44	6	26.1
45-54	2	8.7
55-64	5	21.7
65-74	4	17.4
<b><u>Race</u></b>		
White	20	87.0
American Indian	1	4.3
Unknown	2	8.7

**Figure 1. Work-Related Fatalities by Age Group, Maine, 1996**



**Figure 2. Work-Related Fatalities by Gender, Maine, 1996**





## Industry

Table 2 lists the number and percent distribution of fatalities by the industry in which the employee was working when the incident occurred (See Figure 3 on page 8).

**Table 2. Number and Percent Distribution of Fatal Injuries by Industry, Maine, 1996**

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b><u>Construction</u></b>	<b>6</b>	<b>26.1</b>
Residential Building Contractors	3	13.0
Heavy Construction, exc. Highway	1	4.3
Roofing, Siding, and Sheet Metal Work	1	4.3
Misc. Special Trades Contractors	1	4.3
<b><u>Services</u></b>	<b>4</b>	<b>17.4</b>
Religious Organizations	2	8.7
Management and Public Relations	2	8.7
<b><u>Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing</u></b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13.0</b>
Commercial Fishing	2	8.7
Dairy Farms	1	4.3
<b><u>Manufacturing</u></b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13.0</b>
Logging	2	8.7
Fabricated Metals	1	4.3
<b><u>Transportation</u></b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13.0</b>
Trucking and Courier Services exc. Air	1	4.3
Water Transportation Services	1	4.3
Air Transportation, nonscheduled	1	4.3
<b><u>Government</u></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8.7</b>
State Government	1	4.3
Local Government	1	4.3
<b><u>Retail</u></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4.3</b>
Fuel Dealers	1	4.3
<b><u>Wholesale</u></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4.3</b>
Paper and Paper Products	1	4.3

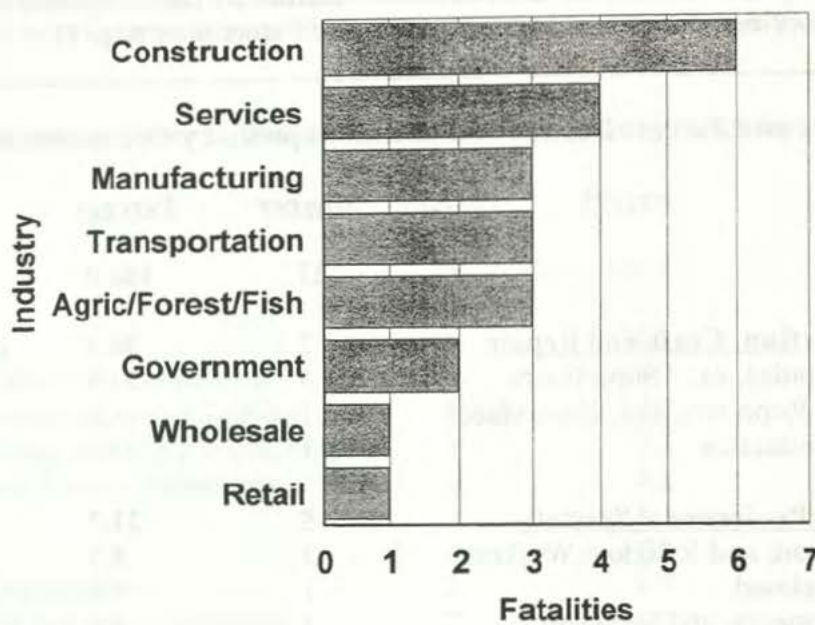
## Occupation

Table 3 lists the number and percent distribution of fatalities by the occupation in which the employee was working when the incident occurred (See Figure 4 on page 8).

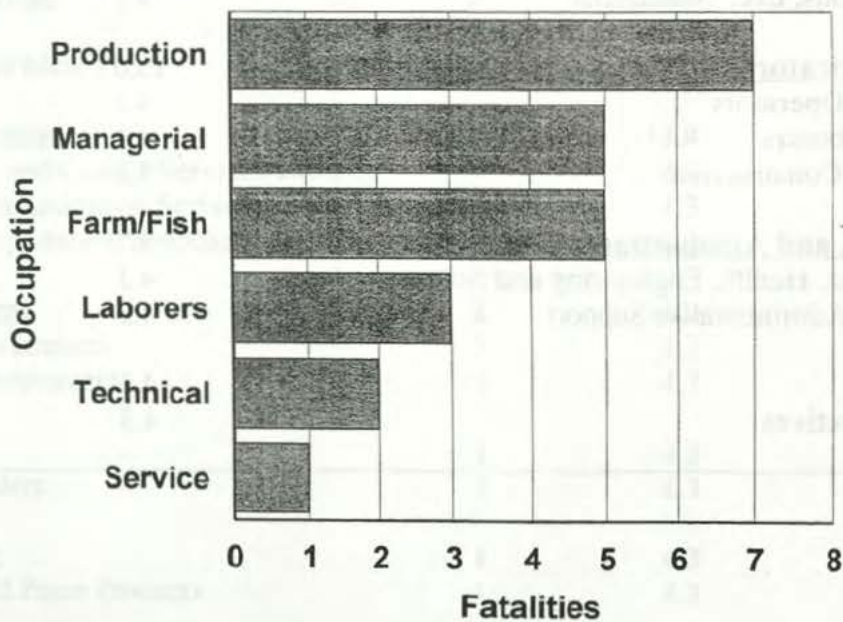
**Table 3. Number and Percent Distribution of Fatal Injuries by Occupation, Maine, 1996**

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b><u>Precision Production, Craft, and Repair</u></b>	<b>7</b>	<b>30.4</b>
Construction Trades, exc. Supervisors	5	21.7
Mechanics and Repairers, exc. Supervisors	1	4.3
Supervisors, Production	1	4.3
<b><u>Managerial and Professional Specialty</u></b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21.7</b>
Social, Recreation, and Religious Workers	2	8.7
Management Related	1	4.3
Architects, Engineers, and Surveyors	1	4.3
Counselors, Educational and Vocational	1	4.3
<b><u>Farming, Forestry, and Fishing</u></b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21.7</b>
Forestry and Logging Operations	2	8.7
Fishers, Hunters, and Trappers	2	8.7
Farm Occupations, exc. Managerial	1	4.3
<b><u>Operators, Fabricators, and Laborers</u></b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13.0</b>
Motor Vehicle Operators	1	4.3
Construction Laborers	1	4.3
Laborers, exc. Construction	1	4.3
<b><u>Technical, Sales, and Administrative Support</u></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8.7</b>
Technicians, exc. Health, Engineering and Science	1	4.3
Miscellaneous Administrative Support	1	4.3
<b><u>Service</u></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4.3</b>
Police and Detectives	1	4.3

**Figure 3. Work-Related Fatalities by Industry, Maine, 1996**



**Figure 4. Work-Related Fatalities by Occupation, Maine, 1996**



## Nature

The Nature identifies what the initial injury is which leads to the fatality. If an injury leads to further complications, the initial injury is coded as the nature (e.g., for a cut leading to infection, the cut is the nature of the injury). Table 4 lists the number and percent distribution of fatalities by the Nature of injury that resulted in the fatality.

**Table 4. Number and Percent Distribution of Fatal Injuries by Nature, Maine, 1996**

<b><u>Industry</u></b>	<b><u>Number</u></b>	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Multiple Intercranial Injuries	8	34.8
Drownings	4	17.4
Internal Injuries to Organs and Blood Vessels of the Trunk	3	13.0
Asphyxiations/Strangulations, Suffocations	2	8.7
Multiple Traumatic Injuries to Bones, Nerves, Spinal Cord	2	8.7
Intercranial Injuries and Injuries to Internal Organs	2	8.7
Intercranial Injuries, Unspecified	1	4.3
Gunshot Wounds	1	4.3
<hr/>		
Blunt Force	1	4.3
Blunt Force	1	4.3
<hr/>		
Firearms, Handguns and Rifles	1	4.3
Firearms, Other (Shotguns, etc.)	0	0.0
Traps, Laps	0	0.0
Machinery	1	4.3
Conveyors, Powered	1	4.3



## Part of Body

The Part of Body identifies the part of the injured person's body directly affected by the injury (i.e. it's Nature). Table 5 lists the number and percent distribution of fatalities by the Part of the Body injured which led to the fatality.

**Table 5. Number and Percent Distribution of Fatal Injuries by Part of Body, Maine, 1996**

<u>Part of Body</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Head</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>39.1</b>
Brain	9	39.1
<b>Body Systems</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>26.1</b>
<b>Trunk</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>17.4</b>
Multiple Trunk Locations	3	13.0
Abdomen, except internal Disease or Disorders	1	4.3
<b>Multiple Body Parts</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13.0</b>
<b>Neck, Including Throat</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4.3</b>
Neck, Except Internal Disease or Disorders	1	4.3

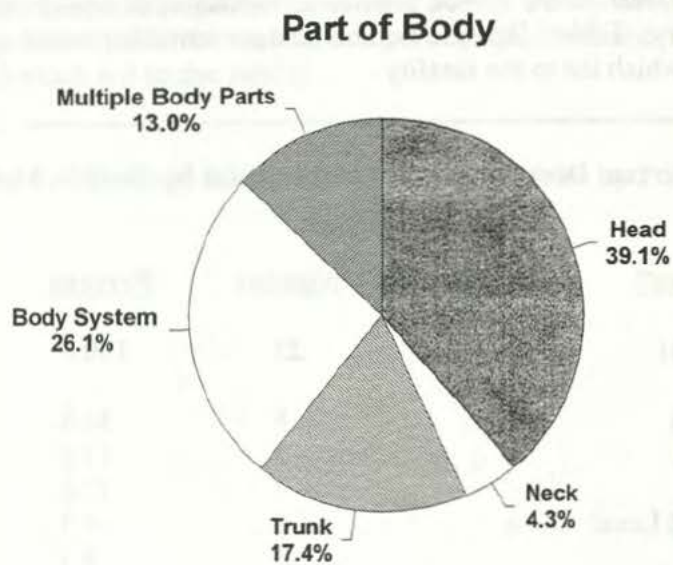
## Source

The Source of an injury identifies the object, substance, exposure, or bodily motion which directly produces an injury. Table 6 lists the number and percent distribution of fatalities by the Source of the injury which led to the fatality.

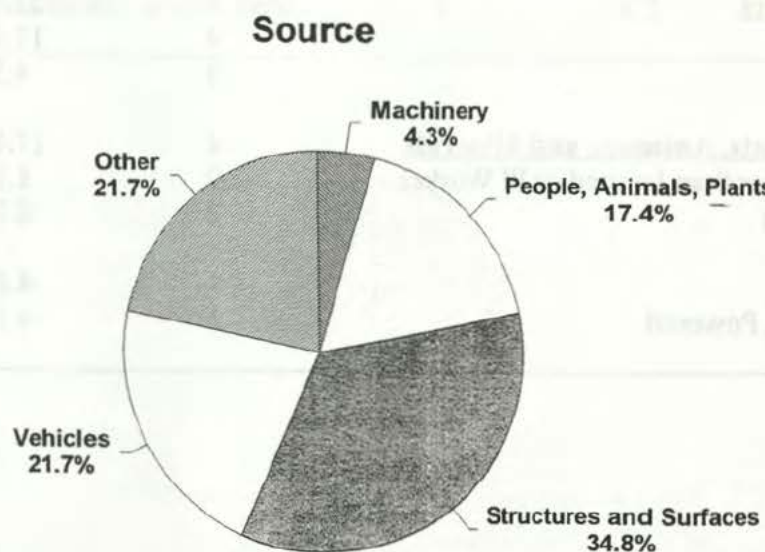
**Table 6. Number and Percent Distribution of Fatal Injuries by Source, Maine, 1996**

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b><u>Structures and Surfaces</u></b>	<b>8</b>	<b>34.8</b>
Floors	3	13.0
Ground	3	13.0
Surfaces Below Ground Level	1	4.3
Other Structures	1	4.3
<b><u>Vehicles</u></b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21.7</b>
Aircraft, Powered Fixed Wing	2	8.7
Automobile	1	4.3
Truck	1	4.3
Forklift	1	4.3
<b><u>Other Sources</u></b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21.7</b>
Liquid	4	17.4
Bullets	1	4.3
<b><u>Persons, Plants, Animals, and Minerals</u></b>	<b>4</b>	<b>17.4</b>
Person, Other than Injured or Ill Worker	2	8.7
Trees, Logs	2	8.7
<b><u>Machinery</u></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4.3</b>
Conveyors, Powered	1	4.3

**Figure 5. Work-Related Fatalities by Part of Body, Maine, 1996**



**Figure 6. Work-Related Fatalities by Source, Maine, 1996**



## Event/Exposure

The Event/Exposure identifies the actual event which directly leads to an injury. Table 7 lists the number and percent distribution of fatalities by the Event/Exposure of the injury which led to the fatality.

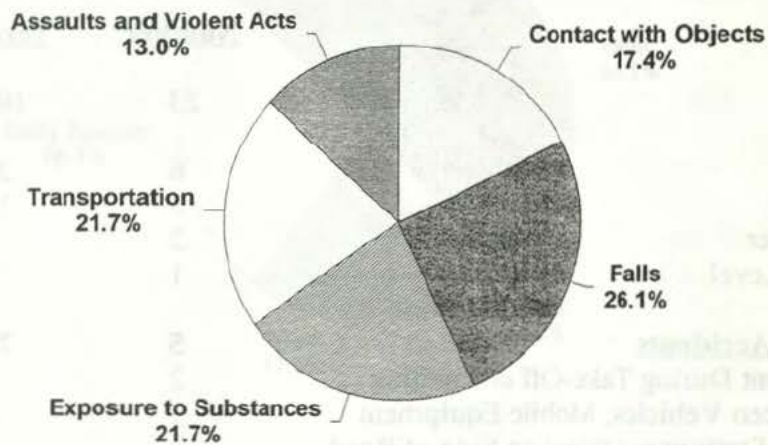
Table 7. Number and Percent Distribution of Fatal Injuries by Event/Exposure, Maine, 1996

<b>Event/Exposure</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Falls</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>26.1</b>
Fall from Roof	3	13.0
Fall from Ladder	2	8.7
Fall to Lower Level	1	4.3
<b>Transportation Accidents</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21.7</b>
Aircraft Accident During Take-Off or Landing	2	8.7
Collision between Vehicles, Mobile Equipment	1	4.3
Vehicle Struck Stationary Object on Side of Road	1	4.3
Noncollision Accident	1	4.3
<b>Exposure to Harmful Substances or Environments</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21.7</b>
Drowning, Submersion	5	21.7
<b>Contact with Objects and Equipment</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>17.4</b>
Struck by Falling Object	2	8.7
Caught in Running Equipment or machinery	1	4.3
Excavation or Trenching Cave-in	1	4.3
<b>Assaults and Violent Acts</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13.0</b>
Homicide - Hitting, Kicking, Beating	2	8.7
Homicide - Shooting	1	4.3



**Figure 7. Work-Related Fatalities by Event/Exposure, Maine, 1996**

### Event/Exposure



## Work Activity

The Work Activity describes what the employee is doing at the time of an incident. Table 8 lists the number and percent distribution of fatalities by the Work Activity.

**Table 8. Number of Fatal Injuries by Work Activity, Maine, 1996**

<u>Work Activity</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Activity, unspecified	4	17.4
Activity, n.e.c.	3	13.0
Construction, n.e.c.	3	13.0
Driving, Operating Automobile	1	4.3
Drining, Operating Aircraft	1	4.3
Driving, Operating Truck	1	4.3
Boarding Public Vehicle	1	4.3
Operating Farm Machinery	1	4.3
Operating Materials Handling Machinery	1	4.3
Logging	1	4.3
Dismantling, Removing	1	4.3
Cleaning, Washing	1	4.3
Constructing, Repairing, Cleaning	1	4.3
Climbing, Descending	1	4.3
Climbing, Descending Ladder	1	4.3
Climbing, Descending, n.e.c.	1	4.3

unspecified = Work Activity not specific

n.e.c. = not elsewhere classified

## Work Location

The Work Location describes where the employee is working at the time of an incident. Table 9 lists the number and percent distribution of fatalities by the Work Location.

**Table 9. Number of Fatal Injuries by Work Location, Maine, 1996**

<u>Location</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Places, n.e.c.	5	21.7
Public Building, n.e.c.	3	13.0
Sea	2	8.7
Home	1	4.3
Farm Land under Cultivation	1	4.3
Industrial Place and Premises, unspecified	1	4.3
Warehouse, Exc. Loading Platform	1	4.3
Construction Site	1	4.3
Industrial Place or premises, n.e.c.	1	4.3
Place for Recreation and Sport	1	4.3
Interstate, Freeway, or Expressway	1	4.3
Other State or U.S. Highway	1	4.3
Street and Highway, n.e.c.	1	4.3
Office Building	1	4.3
Parking Lot, Garage (employers premises)	1	4.3
Unknown place	1	4.3

unspecified = Work Location not specific

n.e.c. = not elsewhere classified

## Industry Division

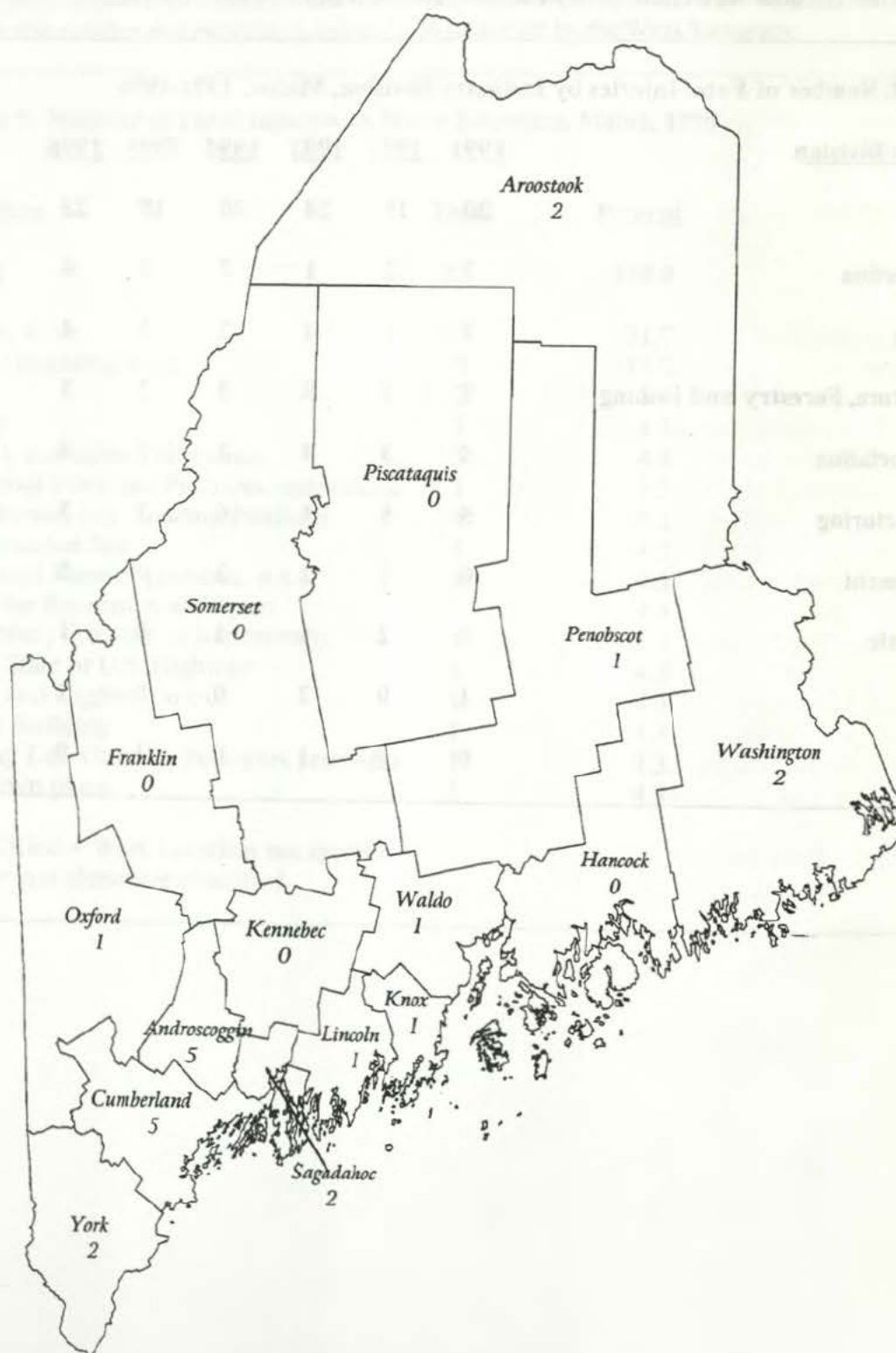
Table 10 lists the number of fatalities by Industry Division from 1991 to the present.

**Table 10. Number of Fatal Injuries by Industry Division, Maine, 1991-1996**

<u>Industry Division</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Services</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Transportation</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Wholesale</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Retail</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>



**Figure 8. Work-Related Fatalities by County, Maine, 1996**



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**Table 11. Description of Work-Related Fatalities by Date of Incident, 1996**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Gender</u>	<u>Industry</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Description</u>
1-27-96	Female	Religious Organization	Religious Worker	Attacked by mentally handicapped assailant
1-27-96	Female	Religious Organization	Religious Worker	Attacked by mentally handicapped assailant
2-2-96	Female	Fuel Oil Dealers	Office Clerk	Shot in parking lot by boyfriend
2-6-96	Male	Trucking	Truck Driver	Vehicle struck guardrail and bridge abutment
2-26-96	Male	Logging	Timber Cutter	Cutting tree when kicked back and struck in head
3-7-96	Male	Marinas	Laborer	Drowned after falling from dock in snowstorm
3-12-96	Male	Paper	Millwright	Fell 23 feet through grate on floor with forklift
3-13-96	Male	Construction	Supervisor	Fell two stories from ladder on building
3-19-96	Male	Commercial Fishing	Fisher	Drowned while submerged to retrieve lost catch
4-15-96	Male	Public Order & Safety	Police Officer	Involved in three vehicle accident & during U-turn
5-14-96	Male	Logging	Timber Cutter	Struck on head by falling tree
5-14-96	Male	Construction	Carpenter	Fell 20 feet from second floor into basement

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**Table 11. Description of Work-Related Fatalities by Date of Incident, 1996 (continued)**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Gender</u>	<u>Industry</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Description</u>
5-24-96	Male	Agriculture	Farm Worker	Farmer strangled when clothes were caught in auger and tighten around neck
6-5-96	Male	Construction	Metal Worker	Fell 15-18 feet from ladder onto guardrail
6-10-96	Male	Management Consulting	Consultant	Passenger in crash of small plane in fog and drizzle
6-10-96	Male	Air Transport	Pilot	Pilot in crash of small plane in fog and drizzle
7-16-96	Female	Social Services	Counselor	Drowned after falling 30 feet over a dam
7-17-96	Male	Metal Manufacture	Metal Worker	Fell through suspended ceiling striking head on concrete floor
7-29-96	Male	Commercial Fishing	Fisher	Missing at sea. Presumed drowned
8-7-96	Male	Construction	Carpenter	Fell 30 feet from rafter in building
8-26-96	Male	Business Consulting	Engineer	Fell from 120 foot chimney prior to attaching safety rope
10-7-96	Male	Construction	Roofer	Fell 20-25 feet through unsecured panel on roof
10-21-96	Female	Construction	Laborer	Suffocated while adjusting water line in ditch





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