

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

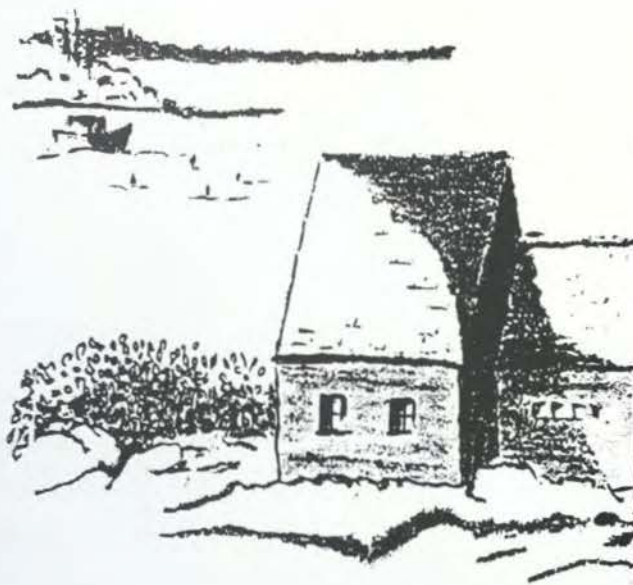
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MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR
Labor Standards

**Fatal
Occupational
Injuries
in Maine
1997**





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MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF OCCUPATIONAL
INJURIES
AND DISEASES
1997

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Maine State Medical Examiner's Office

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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 and includes all 50 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 different 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 people, employees in the lobstering, fishing & farming industries, and government employees. In the past these employees were excluded due to the difficulty in data verification.

This report provides information on the work-related fatalities caused by workplace accidents in Maine during 1997. We hope the information in this report is used to reduce the number of injuries in Maine's workplaces.

For answers to questions concerning the data in this publication or for information on the various safety and health services offered by the Department of Labor, please contact us at:

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Scope of Fatality Data

All work-related deaths due to injuries in 1997 are included in the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI). A death is considered work-related if there was a work relationship. This includes work at an employer's premises whether at an on-site or off-site location. If an event or exposure resulted in an employee death 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 people such as business partners and owners; professional practitioners; 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. 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 event 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 Canada 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.

Summary - Fatal Occupational Injuries in Maine, 1997

- 19 work-related fatalities occurred in 1997
- 19 worked for private places of employment, 0 for public employers
- 12 worked for wages or salary, 7 were self-employed
- 18 were male, 1 was female
- **Industries**
 - 6 occurred in Manufacturing (31.6%)
 - 5 occurred in Transportation (26.3%)
 - 3 occurred in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing (15.8%)
 - 2 occurred in Construction (10.5%)
 - 2 occurred in Wholesale (10.5%)
 - 1 occurred in Services (5.3%)
- **Occupations**
 - 6 occurred in the Farming, Forestry, and Fishing Occupations (31.6%)
 - 6 occurred in the Operators, Fabricators, and Laborers Occupations (31.6%)
 - 5 occurred in the Precision Production, Craft, and Repair Occupations (26.3%)
 - 1 occurred in the Technical, Sales, and Administrative Support Occupations (5.3%)
 - 1 occurred in the Service Occupations (5.3%)
- **Body Parts**
 - 9 involved the head (47.4%)
 - 5 involved the entire internal body system (26.3%)
 - 3 involved multiple trunk locations (15.8%)
 - 2 involved multiple body parts (10.5%)
- **Event**
 - 9 involved transportation accidents (47.4%)
 - 5 involved contact with objects and equipment (26.3%)
 - 3 involved exposure to harmful substances or environments (15.8%)
 - 2 involved falls (10.5%)

Employee Characteristics

Table 1 lists the general characteristics of the 19 employees who were fatally injured in Maine in 1997. The list includes the employer, employment status, gender, age, and race.

Table 1. Number and Percent Distribution of Fatal Injuries by Characteristic, Maine, 1997

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Total</u>	19	100.0
<u>Employer</u>		
Private Industry	19	100.0
Public (state, local & county government)	0	0.0
Federal Government	0	0.0
<u>Employment Status</u>		
Working for Wage or Salary	12	63.2
Self-Employed	7	36.8
<u>Gender</u>		
Male	18	94.7
Female	1	5.3
<u>Age</u>		
15-19	0	0.0
20-24	1	5.3
25-34	6	31.6
35-44	6	31.6
45-54	3	15.7
55-64	2	10.5
65 +	1	5.3
<u>Race</u>		
White	18	94.7
Unknown	1	5.3

Figure 1. Work-Related Fatalities by Age Group, Maine, 1997

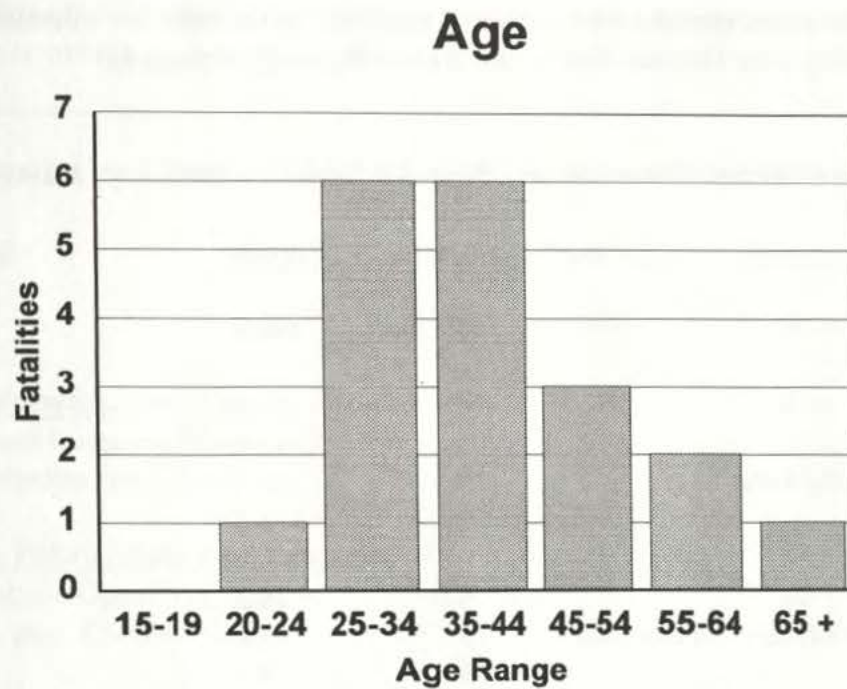
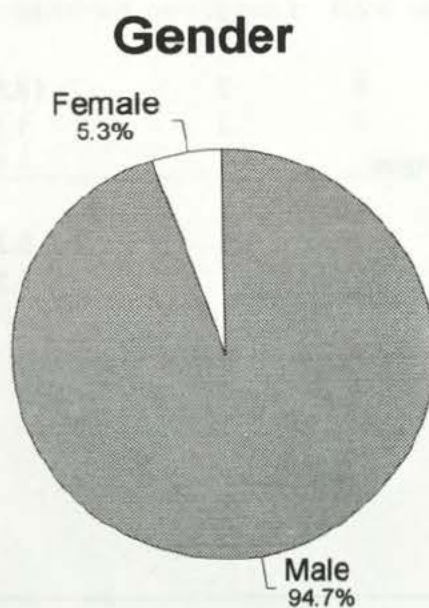


Figure 2. Work-Related Fatalities by Gender, Maine, 1997



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, 1997

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Total</u>	19	100.0
<u>Manufacturing</u>	6	31.6
Logging	3	15.8
Sawmills and Planing Mills	2	10.5
Fabricated Metals	1	5.3
<u>Transportation</u>	5	26.3
Trucking and Courier Services exc. Air	3	15.8
Electric Services	1	5.3
Gas Production and Distribution	1	5.3
<u>Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing</u>	3	15.8
Commercial Fishing	3	15.8
<u>Construction</u>	2	10.5
Roofing, Siding, and Sheet Metal Work	2	10.5
<u>Wholesale</u>	2	10.5
Groceries and Related Products	1	5.3
Beer, Wine, and Distilled Beverages	1	5.3
<u>Services</u>	1	5.3
Residential Care	1	5.3

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, 1997

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Total</u>	19	100.0
<u>Farming, Forestry, and Fishing</u>	6	31.6
Forestry and Logging Operations	3	15.8
Fishers, Hunters, and Trappers	3	15.8
<u>Operators, Fabricators, and Laborers</u>	6	31.6
Motor Vehicle Operators	5	26.3
Laborers, exc. Construction	1	5.3
<u>Precision Production, Craft, and Repair</u>	5	26.3
Construction Trades, exc. Supervisors	3	15.8
Supervisors, Mechanics, and Repairers	1	5.3
Mechanics and Repairers, exc. Supervisors	1	5.3
<u>Technical, Sales, and Administrative Support</u>	1	5.3
Technicians, exc. Health, Engineering and Science	1	5.3
<u>Service</u>	1	5.3
Health Service	1	5.3

Figure 3. Work-Related Fatalities by Industry, Maine, 1997

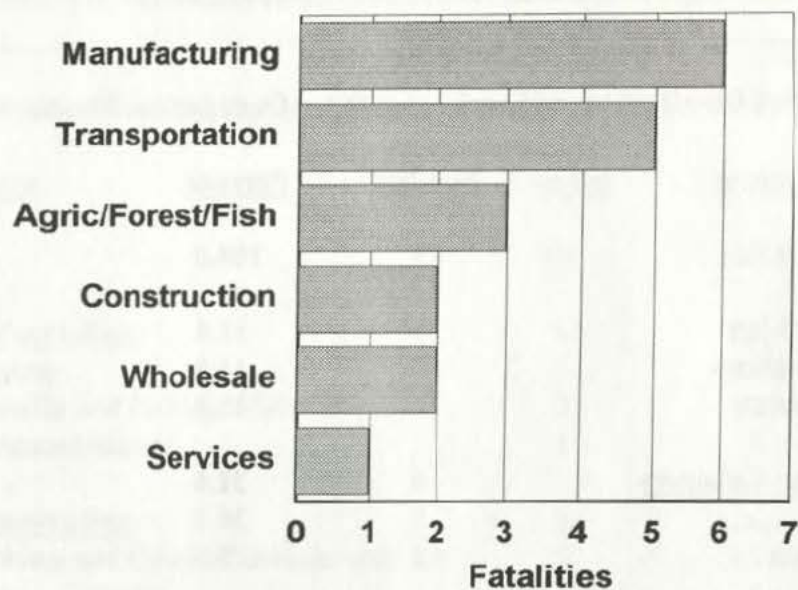
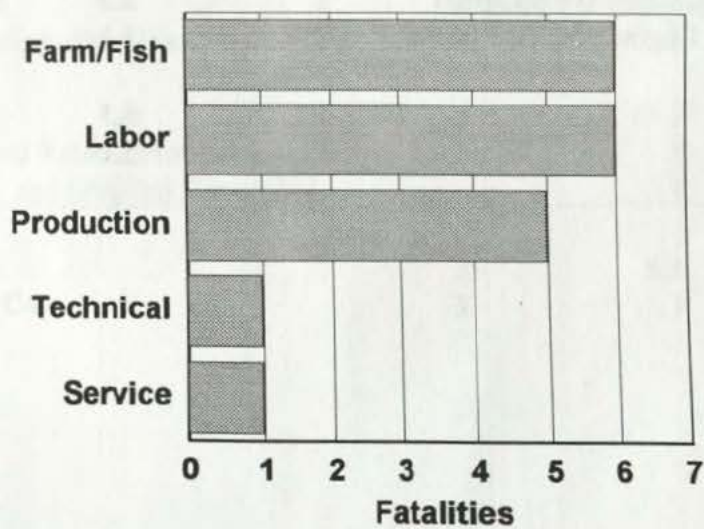


Figure 4. Work-Related Fatalities by Occupation, Maine, 1997



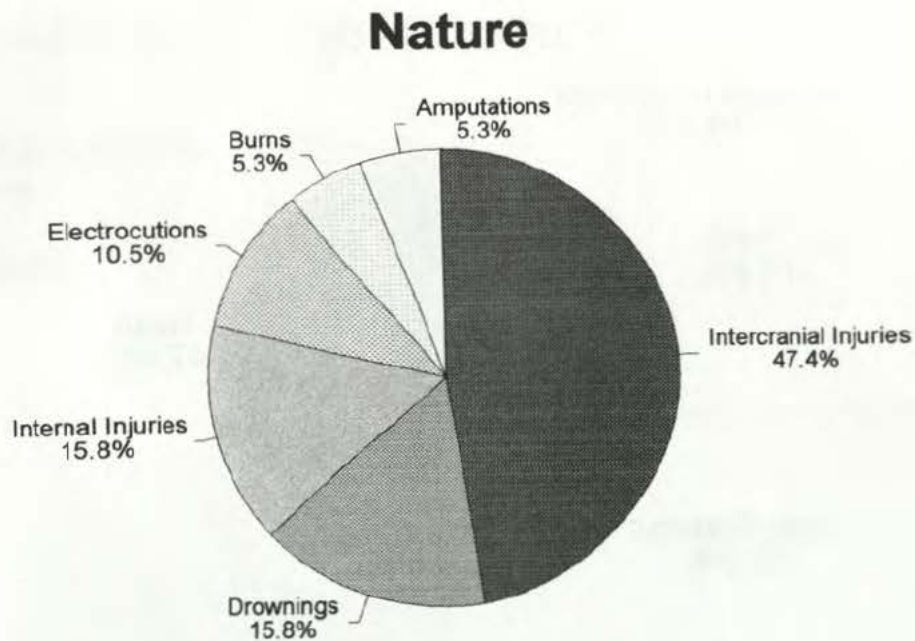
Nature

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, 1997

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Total</u>	19	100.0
Multiple Intercranial Injuries	9	47.4
Drownings	3	15.8
Internal Injuries to Organs and Blood Vessels of the Trunk	3	15.8
Electrocution, Electric Shock	2	10.5
Burns and Other Injuries	1	5.3
Amputation	1	5.3

Figure 5. Work-Related Fatalities by Nature, Maine, 1997



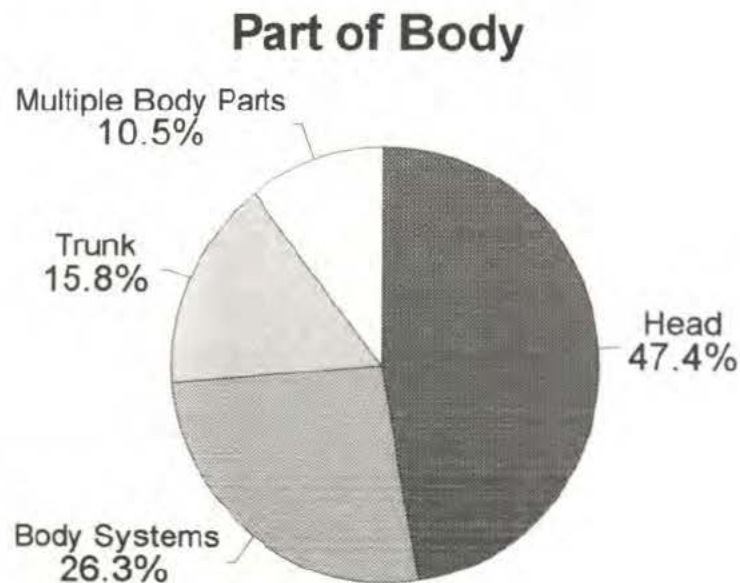
Part of Body

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

Table 5. Number and Percent Distribution of Fatal Injuries by Part of Body, Maine, 1997

<u>Part of Body</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Total</u>	19	100.0
<u>Head</u>	9	47.4
Brain	9	47.4
<u>Body Systems</u>	5	26.3
<u>Trunk</u>	3	15.8
Multiple Trunk Locations	3	15.8
<u>Multiple Body Parts</u>	2	10.5

Figure 6. Work-Related Fatalities by Part of Body, Maine, 1997



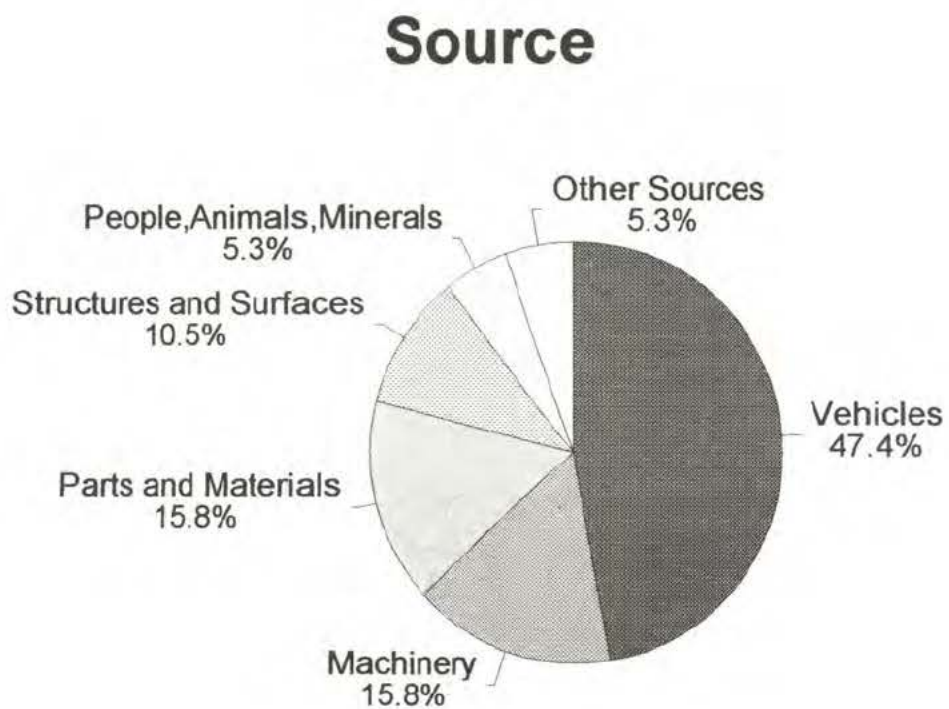
Source

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, 1997

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Total</u>	19	100.0
<u>Vehicles</u>	9	47.4
Truck	6	31.6
Motorboat	2	10.5
Tractor	1	5.3
<u>Machinery</u>	3	15.8
Loaders	1	5.3
Logging and Wood Processing Machinery	1	5.3
Sawing Machinery-Stationary	1	5.3
<u>Parts and Materials</u>	3	15.8
Electric Parts	2	10.5
Bricks, Blocks and Stone	1	5.3
<u>Structures and Surfaces</u>	2	10.5
Ground	2	10.5
<u>Persons, Plants, Animals, and Minerals</u>	1	5.3
Trees, Logs	1	5.3
<u>Other Sources</u>	1	5.3
Liquid	1	5.3

Figure 7. Work-Related Fatalities by Source, Maine, 1997



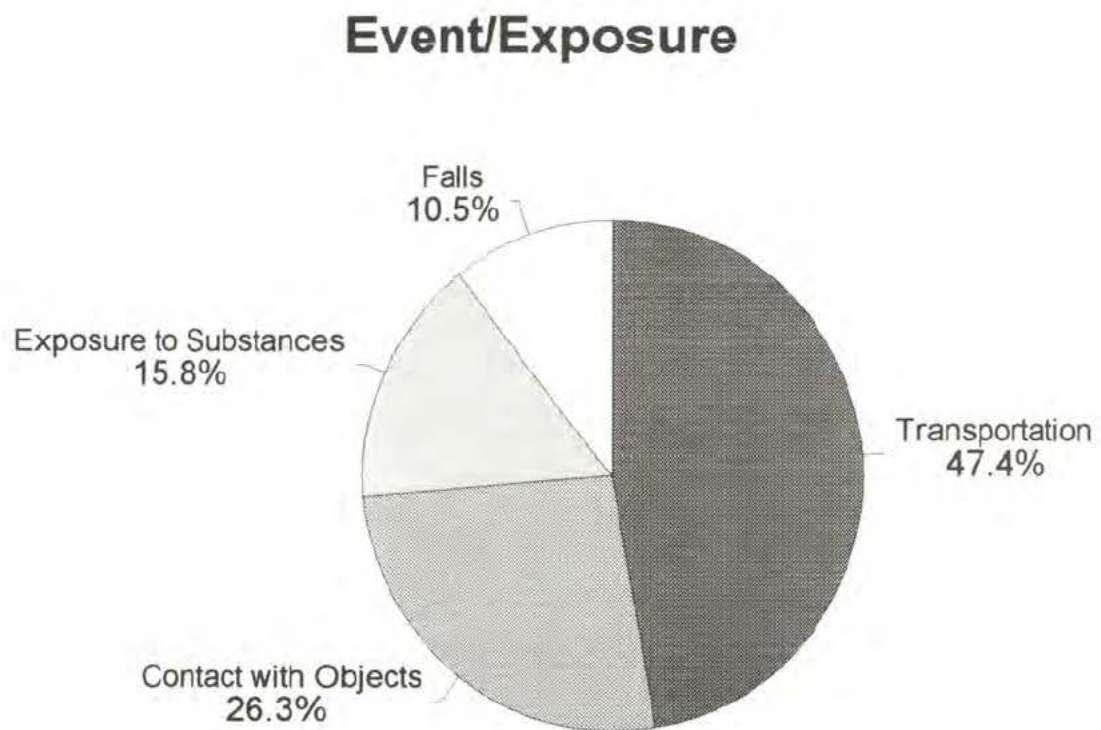
Event/Exposure

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

Table 7. Number and Percent Distribution of Fatal Injuries by Event/Exposure, Maine, 1997

Event/Exposure	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Total</u>	19	100.0
<u>Transportation Accidents</u>	9	47.4
Highway Accident		
Noncollision Accident	3	15.8
Collision between Vehicles, Mobile Equipment	1	5.3
Vehicle Struck Stationary Object on Side of Road	1	5.3
Nonhighway Accident, except Rail, Air, and Water		
Noncollision Accident	2	10.5
Water Vehicle Accident		
Sinking, Capsized Water Vehicle	2	10.5
<u>Contact with Objects and Equipment</u>	5	26.3
Struck by Rolling, Sliding Objects on Floor or Ground	2	10.5
Struck by Falling Object	1	5.3
Struck by Flying Object	1	5.3
Caught in Running Equipment or machinery	1	5.3
<u>Exposure to Harmful Substances or Environments</u>	3	15.8
Contact with Wiring, Transformers, or other Components	2	10.5
Drowning, Submersion	1	5.3
<u>Falls</u>	2	10.5
Fall from Ladder	2	10.5

Figure 8. Work-Related Fatalities by Event/Exposure, Maine, 1997



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, 1997

<u>Work Activity</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Total</u>	19	100.0
Driving, Operating Truck	5	26.3
Riding in, on Boat	2	10.5
Climbing, descending Ladder	2	10.5
Repairing	2	10.5
Driving, Operating Automobile	1	5.3
Operating Industrial/Construction Vehicle	1	5.3
Driving, Operating, n.e.c.	1	5.3
Operating Machinery, n.e.c.	1	5.3
Logging	1	5.3
Construction, n.e.c.	1	5.3
Maintenance	1	5.3
Other Physical Activity	1	5.3

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, 1997

<u>Location</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Total</u>	19	100.0
Sea	3	15.8
Interstate , Freeway, or Expressway	3	15.8
Industrial Place or premises, n.e.c.	3	15.8
Places, n.e.c.	3	15.8
Street and Highway, n.e.c.	2	10.5
Local Road or Street	1	5.3
Other State or U.S. Highway	1	5.3
School	1	5.3
Public Building, n.e.c.	1	5.3
Farm, n.e.c.	1	5.3

n.e.c. = not elsewhere classified

Figure 9. Work-Related Fatalities by Month of Injury, Maine, 1997



Figure 10. Work-Related Fatalities by Day of Injury, Maine, 1997

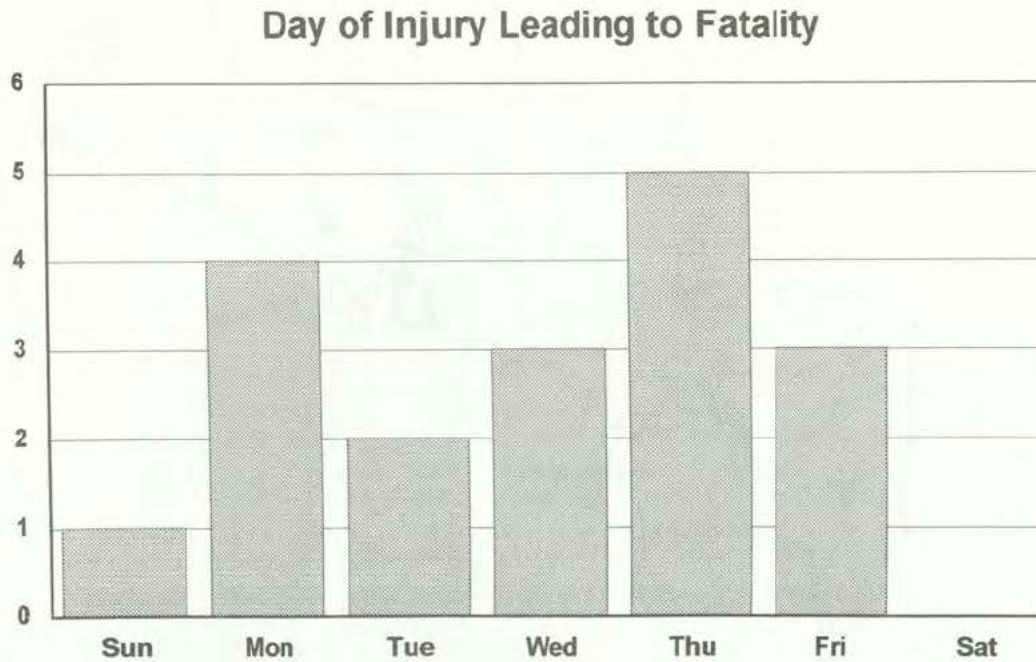
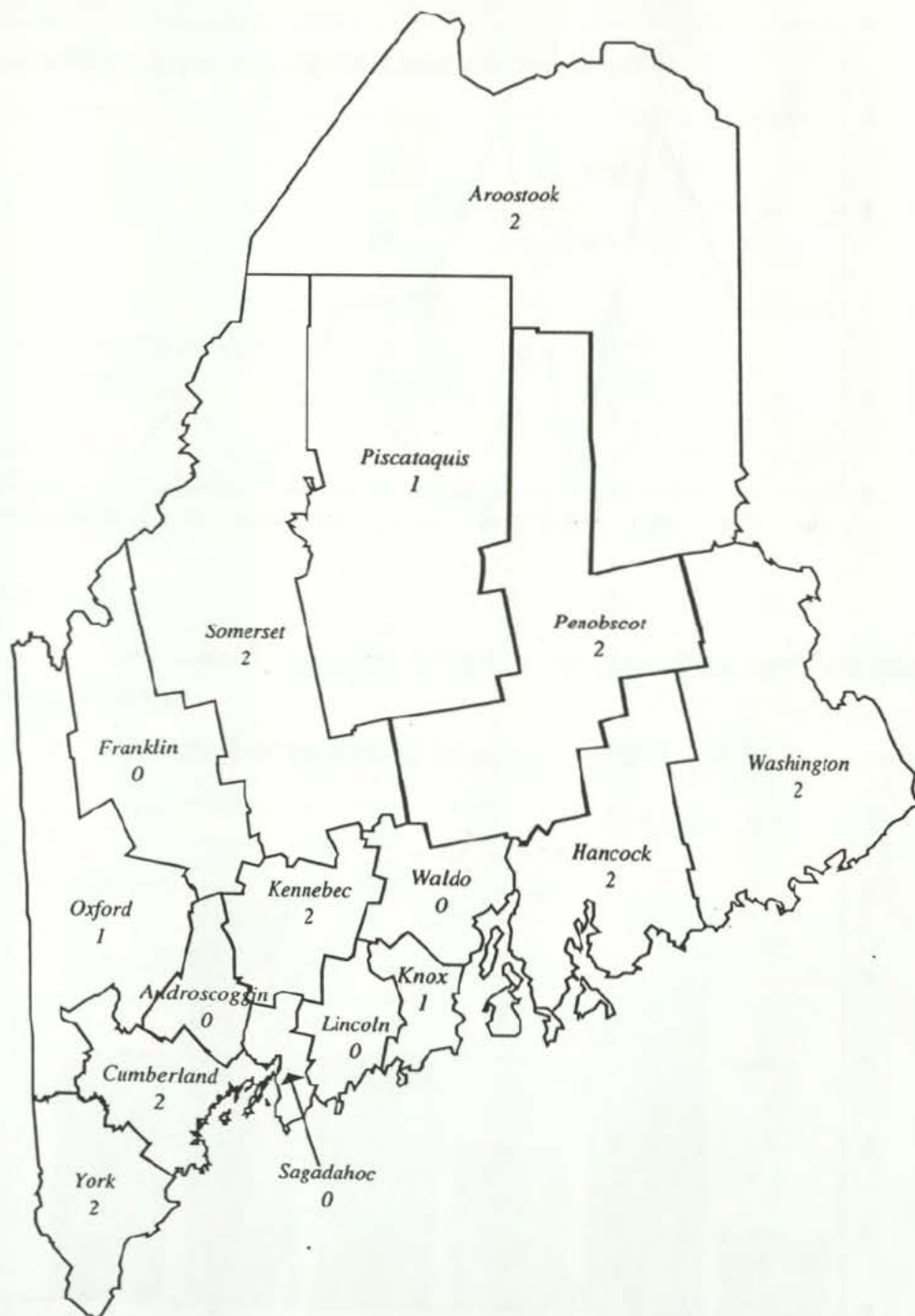


Figure 11. Work-Related Fatalities by County, Maine, 1997



Industry Division

Table 10 lists the number of fatalities by Industry Division from 1991 to 1997.

Table 10. Number of Fatal Injuries by Industry Division, Maine, 1991-1997

<u>Industry Division</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>
<u>Total</u>	20	19	24	20	18	23	19
Manufacturing	5	5	1	6	3	3	6
Transportation	4	3	4	3	7	3	5
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	5	5	8	3	2	3	3
Construction	3	2	1	2	2	6	2
Wholesale	0	2	1	1	0	1	2
Services	2	1	4	2	3	4	1
Government	0	1	2	3	0	2	0
Retail	1	0	2	0	0	1	0
Other	0	0	1	0	1	0	0

Fatal Injuries, Composite Data, Maine, 1991-1997

Pages 20-21 show fatality data compiled since 1991.

Table 11. Number and Percent Distribution of Fatal Injuries by Age Group, Maine, 1991-1997

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
0-24	15	10.5
25-34	33	23.1
35-44	39	27.3
45-54	25	17.5
55-64	18	12.6
65+	13	9.1

Figure 12. Work-Related Fatalities by Age Group, Maine, 1991-1997

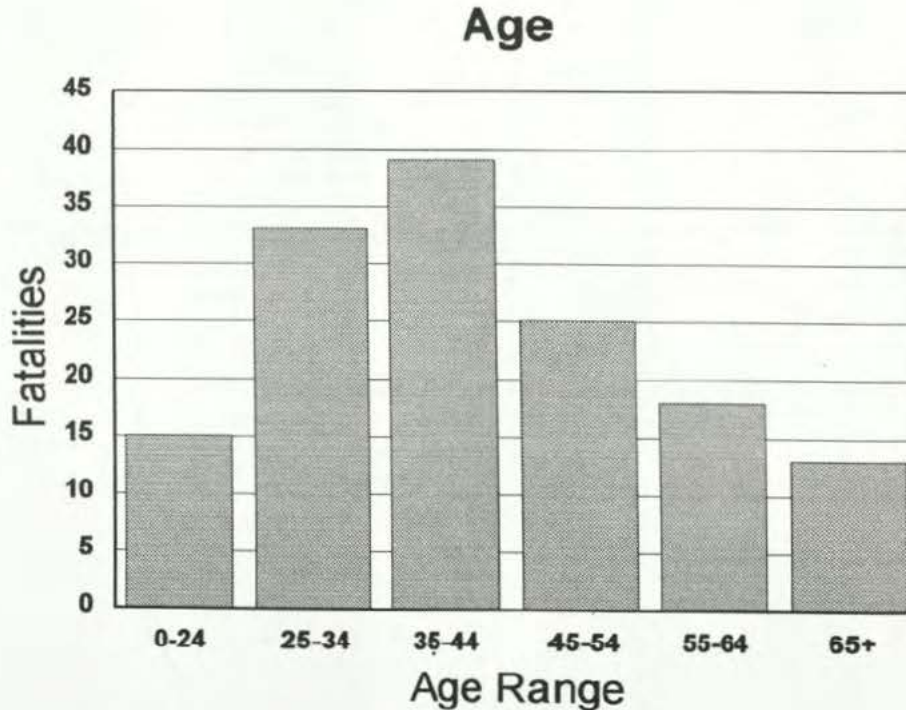


Table 12. Number of Fatal Injuries by Industry and Event/Exposure, Maine, 1991-1997

<u>Industry Division</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Transportation Accidents Highway or Nonhighway</u>	<u>Contact with Objects or Equipment</u>	<u>Exposure to Harmful Substances</u>	<u>Falls</u>	<u>Assaults Suicides</u>	<u>Fire or Explosions</u>
Total	143	58	35	20	18	8	4
Agriculture Forstry & Fishing	29	13	2	13	1	0	0
Transportation & Public Utilities	29	20	2	4	2	0	1
Manufacturing	29	5	19	0	4	1	0
Construction	18	3	4	1	8	1	1
Services	17	4	5	0	2	5	1
Public Admin.	8	5	1	1	1	0	0
Wholesale	7	5	1	1	0	0	0
Retail	4	3	0	0	0	1	0
Other	2	0	1	0	0	0	1

Figure 13. Work-Related Fatalities by Event or Exposure, Maine, 1991-1997

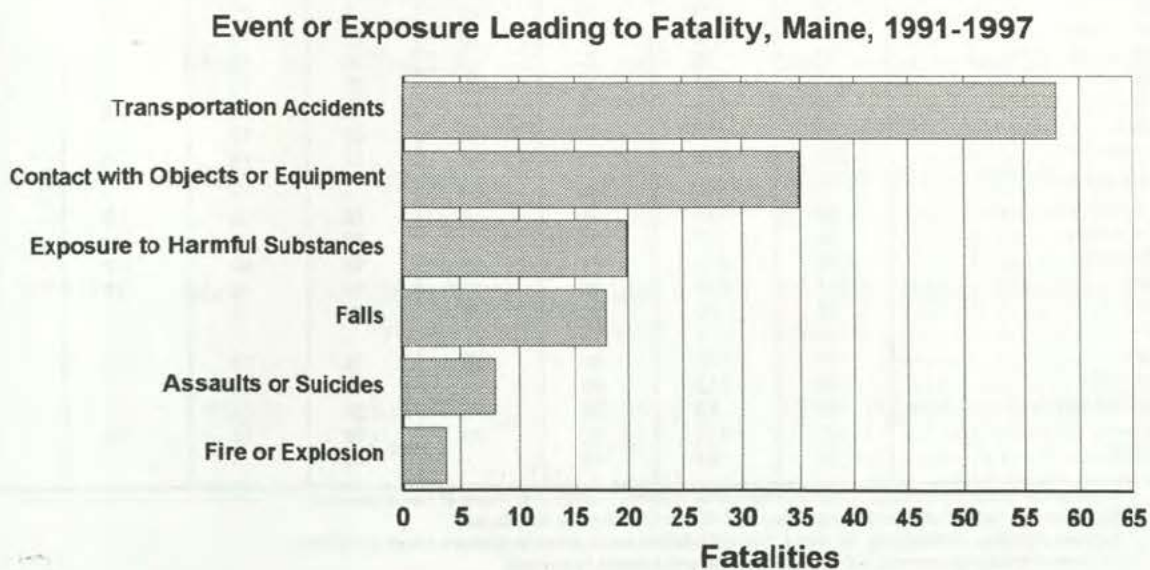


Table 13. Number of Fatal Injuries by State and Event/Exposure, 1996-1997

State of injury	Total fatalities ¹		Event or exposure ² (percent of State total for 1997)					
	1996 (revised)	1997	Transportation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total ⁵	6,202	6,218	42	18	17	11	9	3
Alabama	155	139	50	19	17	6	7	-
Alaska	63	51	65	12	12	-	8	-
Arizona	77	58	36	26	14	12	9	-
Arkansas	88	102	47	15	19	5	10	5
California	641	636	36	26	12	13	8	3
Colorado	90	120	48	14	15	15	6	-
Connecticut	35	32	47	-	16	22	-	-
Delaware	18	17	53	-	-	-	-	-
District of Columbia	19	23	-	52	-	22	-	-
Florida	333	366	39	22	12	13	10	3
Georgia	213	241	43	16	17	12	10	2
Hawaii	27	19	37	-	-	-	21	-
Idaho	62	56	45	9	34	-	-	-
Illinois	262	240	39	21	14	15	8	2
Indiana	143	190	42	19	17	11	6	4
Iowa	70	80	44	5	22	14	11	-
Kansas	85	93	61	5	16	11	-	4
Kentucky	141	143	52	16	15	7	8	-
Louisiana	134	137	41	12	16	12	15	4
Maine	23	19	47	-	26	-	-	-
Maryland	82	82	32	29	12	13	12	-
Massachusetts	62	69	36	19	13	25	6	-
Michigan	155	174	35	18	20	13	7	6
Minnesota	92	72	47	10	21	12	7	-
Mississippi	103	104	40	22	12	14	11	-
Missouri	140	123	44	16	14	10	15	-
Montana	50	56	45	29	14	7	-	-
Nebraska	56	46	48	-	17	11	13	-
Nevada	52	55	38	25	16	13	7	-
New Hampshire	11	23	30	30	26	-	-	-
New Jersey	100	101	31	18	13	16	20	-
New Mexico	60	50	44	10	8	-	24	8
New York (except N.Y.C.)	169	155	43	10	21	8	7	9
New York City	148	109	13	47	9	25	4	-
North Carolina	191	210	43	15	23	10	7	2
North Dakota	23	35	40	-	26	26	-	-
Ohio	201	201	45	13	23	10	6	2
Oklahoma	87	104	46	14	15	12	5	7
Oregon	85	84	49	12	20	12	-	-
Pennsylvania	282	259	43	15	17	13	9	4
Rhode Island	6	10	80	-	-	-	-	-
South Carolina	109	129	36	36	16	5	5	-
South Dakota	32	23	52	-	30	-	-	-
Tennessee	152	168	41	18	18	10	7	5
Texas	514	460	46	14	16	9	12	4
Utah	64	66	50	8	27	6	-	-
Vermont	7	9	78	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia	153	166	40	16	19	13	8	-
Washington	128	112	46	13	18	11	10	-
West Virginia	66	53	38	-	34	-	15	-
Wisconsin	108	114	40	10	19	13	13	4
Wyoming	28	29	41	-	14	-	-	-

¹ Includes other events and exposures such as bodily reaction, in addition to those shown separately.

² Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structures.

³ Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, and rail fatalities and fatalities to workers struck by vehicles.

⁴ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injuries, and assaults by animals.

⁵ Includes fatalities that occurred outside the territorial boundaries of the 50 States.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding. Dashes indicate less than 0.5 percent or data that are not available or that do not meet publication criteria.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, in cooperation with State and Federal Agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 1996-1997.

Table 14. Description of Work-Related Fatalities by Date of Incident, Maine, 1997

<u>Date</u>	<u>Gender</u>	<u>Industry</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Description</u>
1-29-97	Male	Wholesale Distributor	Truck Driver	Vehicle struck tree
1-31-97	Male	Saw/Planing Mills	Supervisor	Struck by front-end loader
2-10-97	Male	Trucking	Truck Driver	Head-on collision
2-25-97	Male	Wholesale Distributor	Electrician	Electrocuted
3-01-97	Male	Saw/Planing Mills	Laborer	Caught in running machinery
3-27-97	Male	Construction	Roofer	Fell 25 feet from ladder
3-31-97	Male	Commercial Fishing	Fisher	Drowned after skiff capsized
3-31-97	Male	Commercial Fishing	Fisher	Drowned after skiff capsized
5-12-97	Male	Trucking	Truck Driver	Vehicle overturned attempting curve
5-21-97	Male	Trucking	Truck Driver	Vehicle overturned attempting curve
5-27-97	Male	Sheet Metal Work	Truck Driver	Struck by rolling unattended vehicle
5-30-97	Female	Residential Care	Nursing Aide	Struck in head by falling brick

Table 14. Description of Work-Related Fatalities by Date of Incident, Maine, 1997
(continued)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Gender</u>	<u>Industry</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Description</u>
6-12-97	Male	Logging	Logger	Run over by tractor after falling from it
6-26-97	Male	Construction	Roofer	Fell 12 feet from ladder to the ground
7-27-97	Male	Gas Production and Distribution	Technician	Vehicle overturned after driver fell asleep at the wheel
7-30-97	Male	Logging	Logger	Struck by falling tree
9-11-97	Male	Electric Services	Electrical Installer	Electrocuted after touching wire with 20,000 volts
10-15-97	Male	Marine Products	Fisher	Drowned in 30 feet of water while diving for sea urchins
10-23-97	Male	Logging	Logger	Skidder overturned

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