

Occupational Disease Fatalities Accepted by the Workers' Compensation Board

Year to date, numbers as of December 31, 2011

Occupational disease fatalities are usually gradual in onset and result from exposure to work-related conditions that cause disease resulting in the workers' death. The fatalities listed represent disease claims that have been accepted by the Workers' Compensation Board as recorded by the month accepted.

Occupational disease fatalities consist mostly of recognized occupational disease, meaning disease known to be primarily or exclusively work-related e.g. asbestosis, black lung disease. Occupational diseases are frequently diagnosed many years after the initial or crucial exposure to the toxic substance, and it can often be very difficult to determine when the fatal exposure occurred. *The occupational disease category should not be interpreted to reflect present work site hazardous conditions or exposures.* Occupational disease also includes heart attacks suffered on the job. The most frequent occupational disease fatalities accepted by the Workers' Compensation Board in recent years concern exposure to asbestos fibres.

Industry Descriptions

Industry Sector

Description

Agriculture and Forestry	Includes greenhouses and market gardens, feed lots, timber management, logging and related woodlands operations including the trucking of logs.
Business, Personal and Professional Services	Includes building and grounds maintenance, financial services, restaurants, hotels and recreation facilities, security services, and professional services such as engineering.
Construction and Construction Trades	Includes the construction of houses, apartments, industrial plants, roads, bridges and pipelines, and specialized construction trades (e.g. plumbing, painting, roofing, and bricklaying).
Manufacturing and Processing	Involves manufacturing beyond the raw product: includes saw mills, pulp mills, food and beverages, metal fabrication, petrochemicals, and oil refineries.
Mining and Petroleum Development	Includes underground and open pit mining, oil sands mining and processing, operation of oil and gas wells, drilling and servicing of wells, and related services in the oil fields.
Public Administration, Education and Health Services	Includes the provincial government, all forms of local government, universities, colleges, business schools, libraries, hospitals and long term care facilities.
Transportation, Communication and Utilities	Includes public transportation (air, rail, bus), trucking, radio, television, live theatre, electricity, natural gas and garbage collection.
Wholesale And Retail Trade	Includes food and beverage stores, department stores, home improvement centers, and sale and service of automobiles and equipment.

Industry Sector	2011 Number of Fatalities (Year-to-date)	2010 Number of Fatalities (Year-to-date)
Agriculture and Forestry	0	0
Business, Personal and Professional Services	0	0
Construction and Construction Trades	22	37
Federal Government	0	0
Manufacturing and Processing	12	7
Mining and Petroleum Development	6	3
Public Administration, Education and Health Services	9	8
Transportation, Communication and Utilities	2	3
Wholesale and Retail Trade	1	4
TOTAL	52	62
Delayed Fatalities ¹		

Date of Acceptance	Description
Construction and Construction Trades	
January 2011	An 82-year-old plumber acquired mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace from 1949 to 1986.
January 2011	A 68-year-old insulator died of mesothelioma acquired from exposure to asbestos in the workplace in the 1960s.
February 2011	A 66-year-old former construction labourer died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace in the 1960s.
February 2011	A 50-year-old plumber acquired mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace during the 1970s and 1980s.
March 2011	An 80-year-old cement finisher and mason passed away due to complications arising from COPD and asbestos related pleural plaques resulting from exposure in the workplace from 1953 to 2007.
April 2011	A 62-year-old sheet metal worker died of asbestos-related lung cancer as a result of approximately 45 years of exposure to asbestos and toxic chemicals in the workplace.

¹ Delayed or latent occupational disease fatalities include workers who that did not become a fatality until a much later date, often years later. From 2007, these incidents are to be categorized under the original incident. Delayed fatalities have not been included in the year-to-date total as they do not reflect present hazards or exposures.

Date of Acceptance	Description
May 2011	An 88-year-old former electrician died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos and other toxins in the workplace from 1966 to 1983.
May 2011	An 86-year-old former plumber died of mesothelioma as a result of exposure to airborne asbestos in the workplace from 1966 to 1988.
May 2011	A 67-year-old former mechanic's helper and equipment operator died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace approximately 30 – 40 years earlier.
May 2011	An 82-year-old former painter died due to complications from asbestosis and COPD, acquired from approximately 40 years of exposure to solvents, dust and asbestos in the workplace.
June 2011	A 67-year-old former plumber died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace from 1962 to 2009.
June 2011	A 74-year-old retired construction worker died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace in the 1950s.
June 2011	A 66-year-old former pipefitter died from asbestos-related lung cancer as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace in the 1960s – 1970s.
July 2011	An 80-year-old former pipefitter died from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) as a result of approximately 41 years of exposure to toxins and pollutants in the workplace.
July 2011	An 86-year-old former insulator died from complications of Asbestosis as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace from approximately 1950 to the early 1970s.
September 2011	An 82-year-old retired insulator died from lung cancer as a result of approximately 25 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
September 2011	A 55-year-old insulator died from asbestos-related lung cancer as a result of approximately 34 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
October 2011	An 86-year-old retired pipefitter died of complications relating to asbestosis, acquired as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace from 1953 to 1983.
October 2011	A 64-year-old former plumber/pipefitter died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace in the 1960s and 1970s.

Date of Acceptance	Description
November 2011	A 75-year-old retired plumber/pipefitter died of asbestos-related lung disease as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace from 1952 to 1992.
November 2011	A 66-year-old retired insulator died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace in the 1970s - 1980s.
November 2011	A 75-year-old retired plumber died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace in the 1980s.
Manufacturing and Processing	
January 2011	A 65-year-old welder/inspector died due to complications from asbestosis exposure in the workplace exposure between 1977 and 2007.
January 2011	A 77-year-old welder developed COPD from workplace exposure to smoke, fumes and contaminants in the workplace from 1968 to 1986.
February 2011	A 62-year-old steel worker passed away due to complications from lung cancer acquired from approximately 37 years of exposure to carcinogens in the workplace.
March 2011	An 82-year-old former labourer died of mesothelioma acquired as a result of exposure in the oil and gas industry from 1968 to 1991.
June 2011	A 78-year-old former welder died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
July 2011	A 66-year-old labourer died from complications related to asbestosis as a result of approximately 33 years of exposure to asbestos in construction and in the oil and gas industry.
August 2011	An 86-year-old retired boiler operator died from respiratory failure related to asbestosis, acquired as a result of approximately 37 years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
September 2011	An 87-year-old former chemical plant operator died from complications related to asbestos-related lung disease as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace from approximately 1967 to 1974.
October 2011	An 83-year-old retired cabinet maker died of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease as a result of 22 years of exposure to wood dust in the workplace.
October 2011	A 66-year-old former steel plant worker died from Asbestosis as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace in the 1970s.
November 2011	An 85-year-old retired insulator died of complications relating to Asbestosis and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace from 1958 to 1975.
November 2011	An 84-year-old retired sheet metal worker died from lung cancer as a result of exposure to asbestos and toxic fumes and dust in the workplace from 1949 to 1989.

Date of Acceptance	Description
Mining and Petroleum Development	
May 2011	An 80-year-old former oilfield worker and site operator died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace from approximately 1949 to 1967.
June 2011	A 66-year-old former oilfield operator died from mesothelioma as a result of years of exposure to asbestos in the workplace from 1959 to 1987.
July 2011	An 87-year-old year old former coal miner died from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), acquired form exposure to coal dust in the 1940s.
September 2011	A 64-year-old retired oilfield process operator died from myelogenous leukemia as a result of exposure to benzene in the workplace from 1981 to 2003.
September 2011	An 80-year-old retired electrician died from asbestos-related lung disease as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace from 1968 to 1991.
November 2011	An 87-year-old retired gas/oil plant worker died from mesothelioma as a result of approximately 30 years of asbestos exposure in the workplace.
Public Administration, Education and Health Services	
April 2011	A 55-year-old firefighter of more than 30 years died of complications from colorectal cancer.
June 2011	A 77-year-old retired firefighter died from prostate cancer as a result of 37 years of exposure to toxic smoke and chemicals in the workplace.
June 2011	A 72-year-old retired firefighter died from prostate cancer as a result of 31 years of exposure to toxic smoke and chemicals in the workplace.
July 2011	A 65-year-old retired firefighter died from esophageal cancer as a result of 32 years of exposure to toxins while fighting fires.
August 2011	A 62-year-old retired firefighter died of prostate cancer as a result of exposure to toxins and hazardous chemicals during his 32 year career.
September 2011	A 64-year-old retired firefighter died from brain cancer as a result of exposure to various chemicals and toxins during his 32 year career.
October 2011	A 43-year-old firefighter died from lung cancer as a result of exposure to toxic chemicals during his 23 year firefighting career.

Date of Acceptance	Description
December 2011	A 74 year old retired firefighter died from lymphocytic leukemia as a result of exposure to hazardous chemicals and toxins while fighting fires from 1960 to 1994.
December 2011	An 80 year old retired firefighter died from lung cancer as a result of 27 years of exposure to hazardous chemicals and toxins in the workplace.
Transportation and Utilities	
January 2011	A 73-year-old former baggage handler passed away due to complications from mesothelioma resulting from exposure to asbestos in the workplace from 1970 to 1996.
October 2011	A 79-year-old retired railway switchman died from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in train brakes from 1960 to 1992.
Wholesale and Retail Trade	
October 2011	An 82-year-old retired agriculture worker died of respiratory failure related to complications of peripheral neuropathy, attributed to exposure to pesticides and other toxic chemicals in the workplace from 1976 to 1991.