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Bulletin No. 22

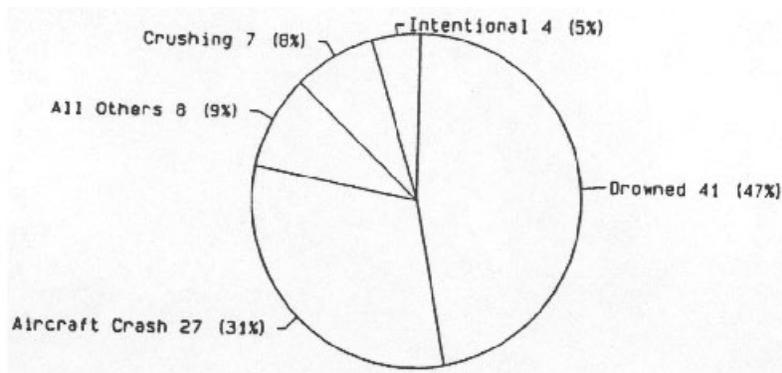
June 18, 1993

## Occupational Fatalities in Alaska - 1992

The Alaska Division of Public Health, Section of Epidemiology, Occupational Injury Prevention Program, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Division of Safety Research, Alaska Activity, worked cooperatively to collect and analyze occupational fatality data for 1992.

Commercial fishing led all Alaskan industries in the number of workplace deaths in 1992. Of 87 workers who died on the job in Alaska in 1992, 35 were employed in the commercial fishing industry. Of the fishers who died, 33 either drowned or are presumed to have drowned, and 87.5% of those who drowned were not wearing a personal flotation device.

Traumatic Occupational Fatalities, Alaska 1992  
by Circumstance  
N=87



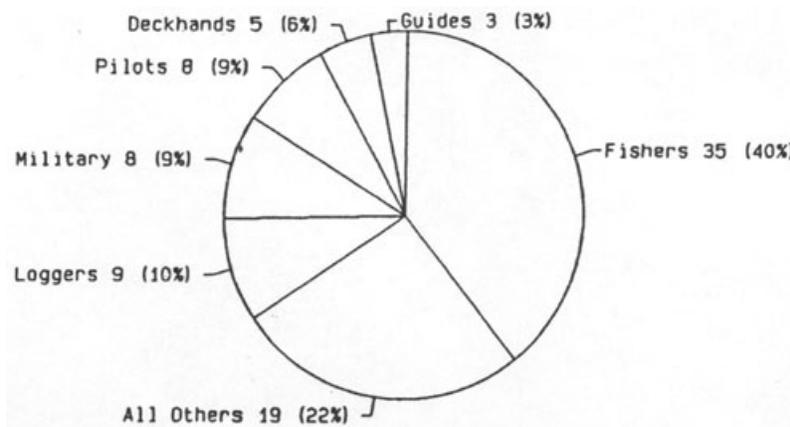
Another 27 workers died in aircraft crashes in Alaska, including eight workers employed in the air transportation industry and 19 workers employed in other industries. Among the 19 workers were eight Army National Guardsmen who died in a single airplane crash, and five loggers who died in a single helicopter crash. The logging industry had four additional workers who died on the job in 1992 in separate, unrelated incidents. In addition to these 87 worker deaths, three individuals died in 1992 while subsistence fishing.

NIOSH established a research activity in Anchorage, Alaska, in 1991 after identifying Alaska as the highest risk state in the U.S. for traumatic worker fatalities. The Division of Public Health, Section of Epidemiology established the Occupational Injury Prevention Program in 1992 to focus on preventing workplace fatalities and injuries, especially in construction, skilled trades, petrochemical, and other industrial settings.

For the years 1980 through 1989, 34.8 worker deaths occurred for every 100,000 workers employed in Alaska. This workplace death rate is almost five times the U.S. rate (7.0 deaths per 100,000 workers) for the same period. NIOSH and the State are investigating worker deaths in Alaska to identify preventive measures that may be implemented to reduce the toll in Alaska and in other states where workers face similar risks.

Due to the frequency of deaths related to commercial fishing, NIOSH is focusing research efforts on this dangerous employment sector. A National Fishing Industry Safety and Health (FISH) Workshop was sponsored by NIOSH in Anchorage in October 1992, to help meet this need.

Traumatic Occupational Fatalities, Alaska 1992  
by Occupation  
N=87



### **Update - Malaria Chemoprophylaxis**

In Epidemiology Bulletin No. 10 (March 5, 1993) information on malaria chemoprophylaxis was presented. The discussion (paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Bulletin) on chloroquine, mefloquine, and Fansidar® does not apply to Thailand and none of these drugs are recommended for travelers to Thailand. Persons traveling to malarious areas in Thailand (forested areas along the borders with Cambodia and Myanmar) should use doxycycline for prophylaxis. Additional information can be obtained from sources listed in the Bulletin, or from the Section of Epidemiology.