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Occupational Fatalities in Alaska - 2000

From 1990 through 2000, 701 workers died as a result of work-related injuries in Alaska. The State and NIOSH are investigating worker deaths in Alaska to identify preventive measures that may be implemented to reduce the death toll in Alaska and in other states and countries where workers face similar risks.

The total number of fatalities increased nearly 29% from 42 in 1999 to 54 in 2000. While the number of worker deaths in 2000 was a 4-year high, the overall trend of Alaska fatality numbers and rates has been downward. For the years 1990 through 1999, Alaska averaged 22.0 worker deaths annually for every 100,000 workers. Compared to the 1980s (with an average annual of 34.8 worker deaths per 100,000 workers), the Alaska rate declined nearly 40%.

Of the 54 workers who died on the job in Alaska in 2000, 10 were pilots/co-pilots, 8 were fishers, 4 were loggers, 3 mountaineering rangers, 3 marine vessel crewmen, and 3 heavy equipment operators. Transportation (13 deaths) led all Alaska industries in the number of work-related deaths. Of the 13 transportation-related in 2000, 69% (9/13) were aircraft related, 15% (2/13) were marine, 8% (1/13) were ground, and 8% (1/13) were rail. Other leading industries included commercial fishing, construction, logging, and land management.

Thirty-five workers died during 2000 from injuries that were watercraft-, aircraft-, and motor vehicle-related. These represented 65% of all occupational deaths and 58% of all fatal work-related incidents.

The Section of Epidemiology, Occupational Injury Prevention Program (OIPP) administers the Alaska Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program. The OIPP focuses on preventing workplace fatalities and injuries, especially in construction, skilled trades, logging, and other industrial settings. Reports, flyers, and work-related *Epidemiology Bulletins* are available on the OIPP website at:

http://hss.state.ak.us/dph/chems/injury_prevention/default.htm

The 22nd Annual Alaska Governor's Safety and Health Conference will be held March 18-20, 2002 at the Egan Civic Convention Center in Anchorage, Alaska. This occupational safety conference provides technical and educational information to workers, managers, and owners, with the goal to change the workplace safety culture and ultimately achieve a workplace free from fatality, injury, and illness.

Occupational-related Fatalities in Alaska, 2000, by Occupation (N=54)

Occupational-related Fatalities in Alaska, 2000, by Industry (N=54)

Occupational-related Fatalities in Alaska, 1990-2000

Sources: Alaska FACE Program, NIOSH-Alaska Field Station, Current Population Survey, Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development -Research and Analysis Section.

*Denominator information for the calculation of Year 2000 rates not available at time of publication; rate calculation was based on 1999 census information.