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VIRGINIA WORKPLACE FATALITIES IN 2010

RICHMOND – The Virginia Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) reported a preliminary total of 104 occupational fatalities in the Commonwealth in 2010, down by 13 percent from the revised total of 119 fatalities reported in 2009. (See Chart 1.) The 2010 total represented the lowest level recorded since the Virginia CFOI program began in 1992. Workers from the prime working age group (age 25 to 54) accounted for 54 percent of the fatalities. Eighty-eight percent of the fatalities were men. In addition, 64 percent of those who died from a workplace injury were white, non-Hispanic.

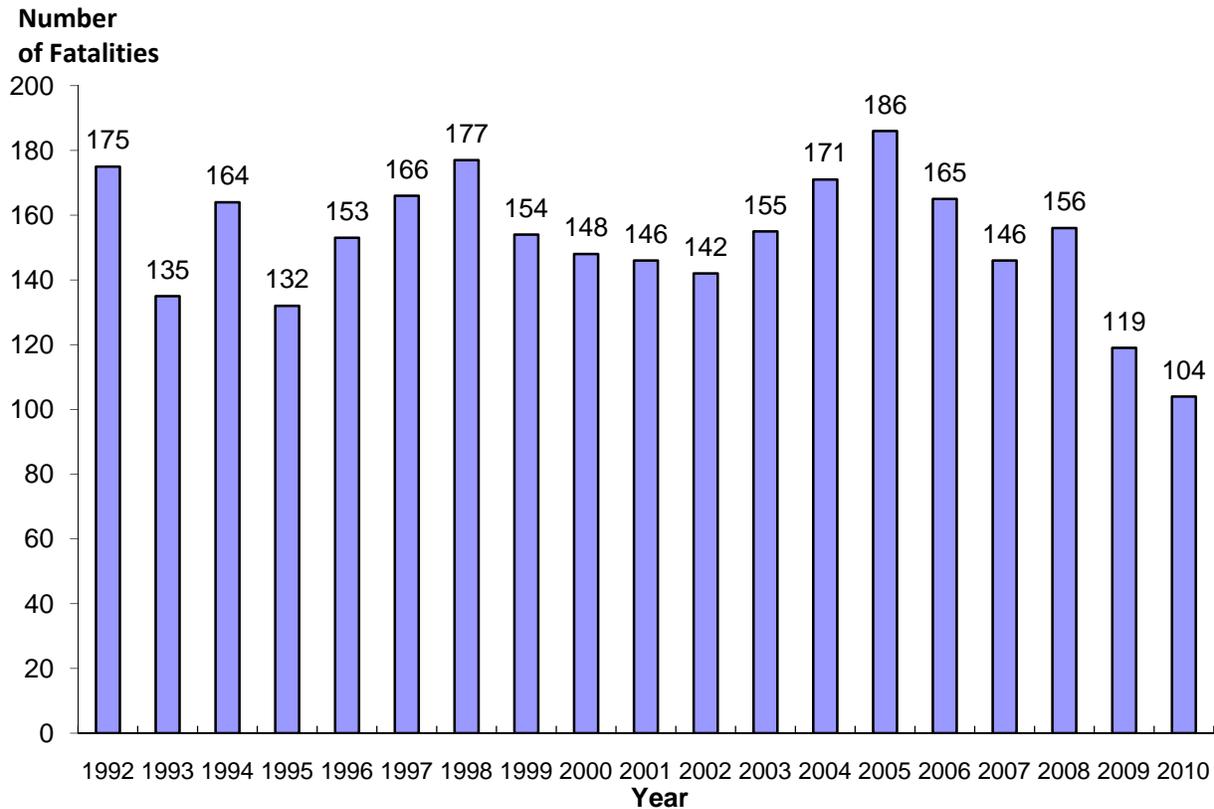
Transportation incidents, which include highway, non-highway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail fatalities, accounted for 54 fatal occupational injuries in 2010, an increase of 10 over the year. Transportation incidents represented more than half of all work-related deaths in Virginia and continued to be the leading cause of workplace fatalities. Assaults and violent acts accounted for 17 fatalities; 9 of these were suicides and 8 were homicides. Assaults and violent acts decreased by 14 from 2009 when 31 fatalities occurred. The number of on-the-job fatalities resulting from contact with objects and equipment (13) accounted for 13 percent of work-related deaths in 2010, a decrease of 8 fatalities from 2009. Sixty-two percent of the contact with objects and equipment cases resulted from workers being struck by an object or equipment (8). Work-related deaths due to falls, all as a result of falls to a lower level, accounted for 9 deaths in 2010, a decrease from the 16 reported in 2009. There were nine work-related fatalities resulting from exposure to harmful substances or environments in Virginia in 2010, five of which were caused by contact with electric current. (See Chart 2.)

“We encourage all Virginia employers and employees to remain alert to the dangers of workplace hazards even though our fatalities are at the lowest number since the program’s beginning in 1992,” said Courtney Malveaux, Commissioner. “Our goal is for all workers to return home safely at the end of the day.”

Private sector wage and salary worker fatalities (59) decreased in 2010 from the previous year, while fatalities among the self-employed (27) remained unchanged. Transportation incidents were the leading cause of death for both of these groups in 2010.

Four detailed occupations accounted for 38 percent of the Virginia’s workplace fatalities in 2010: truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer (21 fatalities); farmers and ranchers (8); laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand (6); and police and sheriff’s patrol officers (5). Thirty-five percent of fatal work injuries occurred on streets and highways and 14 percent occurred at industrial places and premises.

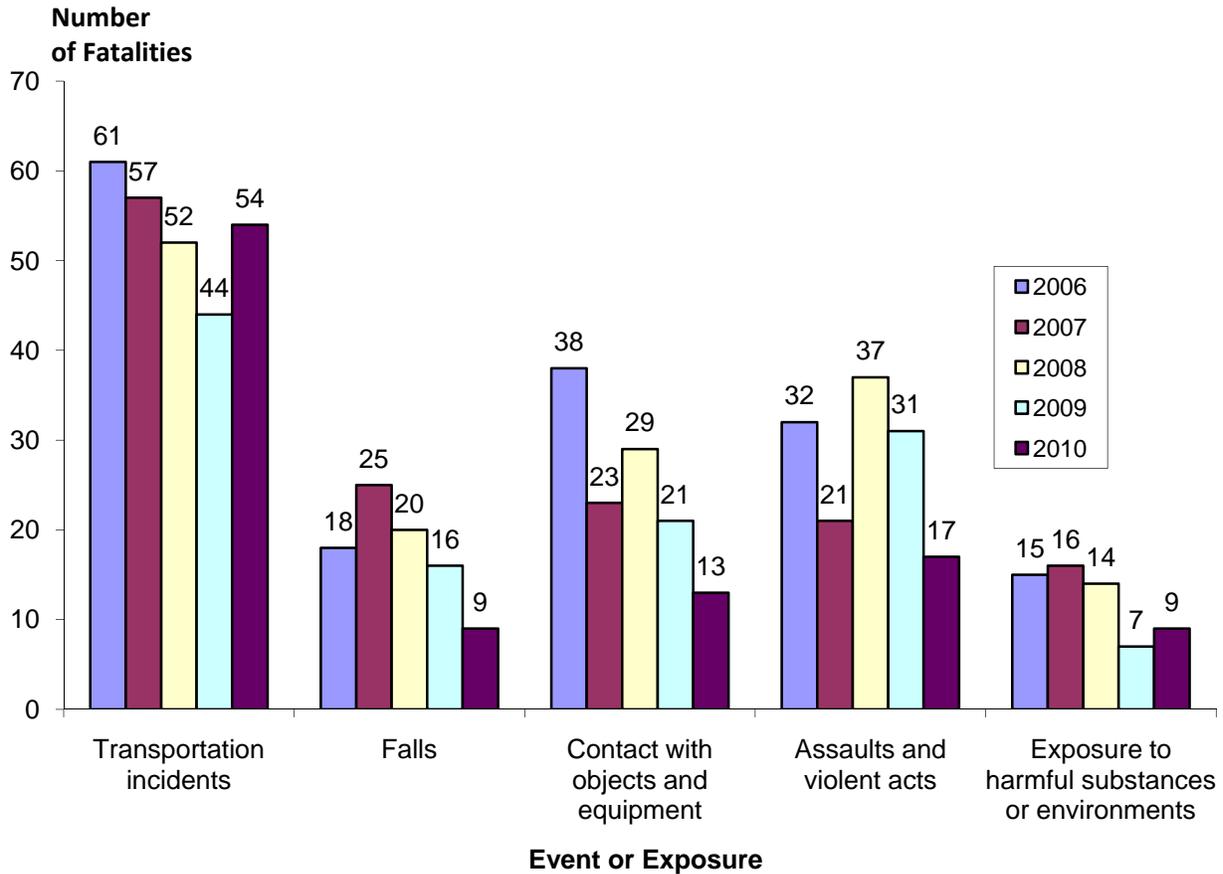
Chart 1. Total work-related fatalities, Virginia, 1992-2010



NOTE: The numbers from 2001 exclude the fatality cases from the September 11 terrorist attack at the Pentagon. Totals for 2009 are revised and final. The BLS national news release issued August 19, 2010, reported a total of 118 fatal work injuries in Virginia for calendar year 2009. Since then, one additional job-related fatality was identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 2009 to 119. Totals for 2010 are preliminary.

“Although workplace fatalities have declined, we urge everyone, especially those in high-hazard industries, to remain vigilant,” said Courtney M. Malveaux, Commissioner. “Employees and employers need to remain mindful of the hazards they encounter every day.”

Chart 2. Work-related fatalities by selected event or exposure, Virginia, 2006-2010



NOTE: Totals for 2009 are revised and final. The BLS national news release issued August 19, 2010, reported a total of 118 fatal work injuries in Virginia for calendar year 2009. Since then, one additional job-related fatality was identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 2009 to 119. Totals for 2010 are preliminary.

Nationwide

A preliminary total of 4,547 fatal work injuries were recorded nationally in 2010, down slightly from a final count of 4,551 fatal work injuries recorded in 2009, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Final national and state 2010 CFOI data will be released in Spring 2012.

Additional information on the national Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) can be found by accessing the following web link: <http://www.bls.gov/iif/>.

Additional Statewide Information

For detailed statistical tables on the Virginia CFOI program, go to the agency website: <http://www.doli.virginia.gov>. Information can also be requested by contacting the Department at (804) 786-1035 or by sending an email to Thomas.Sheppard@doli.virginia.gov.

Technical Notes

The Virginia Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) was conducted by the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The CFOI program, part of the BLS Occupational Safety and Health Statistics (OSHS) program, compiles a count of all fatal work injuries occurring in the U.S. during the calendar year. The CFOI program uses diverse state, federal, and independent data sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries. This assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible.

For technical information about and definitions for the CFOI program, please go to the BLS Handbook of Methods on the BLS web site: http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch9_a1.htm.

Federal/State Agency Coverage

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether the decedent was working in a job covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or other federal or state agencies or was outside the scope of regulatory coverage. Thus, any comparison between the BLS fatality census counts and those released by other agencies should take into account the different coverage requirements and definitions being used by each agency.