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CFOI Reports 117 Work-Related Deaths in 2015

There were 117 fatal work-related injuries recorded in South Carolina in 2015, up 53 from the previous year, according to data from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI).

In previous years, the totals were: 64 in 2014; 75 in 2013; 63 in 2012; 81 in 2011; 69 in 2010; 73 in 2009; 87 in 2008; and 122 in 2007. CFOI is compiled by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with the S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. The report compiles a count of all fatal work injuries occurring in South Carolina during the calendar year. The CFOI program uses diverse state, federal, and independent data sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries.

The census counts every fatal work-related injury, including highway deaths and homicides, which are not covered by OSHA. Thus, any comparison between the BLS fatality census counts and S.C. OSHA counts should take into account the different coverage requirements and definitions used by each agency.

Key findings of the 2015 South Carolina CFOI include:

- By event or exposure type, transportation incidents led the way with 54 fatalities. Both violence and contact with objects and equipment followed with 17 fatalities each; and slips, trips and falls were the third-most-frequent fatal event at 16.
- Deaths among men totaled 103, while women accounted for 14 fatalities.
- Fatalities by race or ethnic origin were led by White, non-Hispanic workers at 69, followed by 33 for Black or African American, non-Hispanic, and 10 for Hispanic or Latino workers.

CFOI records all on-the-job fatalities that happen each year. However, as mentioned above, not all of those fatalities are considered to be work related by S.C. OSHA. In 2015, S.C. OSHA reported and investigated 39 work-related fatalities.