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CFOI Reports 62 Work-Related Deaths in 2012

A preliminary total of 62 fatal work-related injuries were recorded in South Carolina in 2012, according to data from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI).

In previous years, the totals were: 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 fatality census counts every death that is work related, 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 being used by each agency.

Key preliminary findings of the 2012 South Carolina CFOI include:

- By event or exposure, transportation incidents led the way with 28 fatalities, followed by violence at 12, and slips, trips and falls at 8, and exposure to harmful substances or environment, 8.
- Deaths among men totaled 58, while women accounted for 4 fatalities.
- Fatalities by race or ethnic origin were led by White, non-Hispanic workers at 36, followed by 21 for Black, non-Hispanic, and 4 for Hispanic or Latino workers.

According to state OSHA data, of the 57 deaths that were identified or reported to OSHA in 2012, only 21 were determined to be work-related and investigated. The remaining 36 were determined to be non-work related or not in its jurisdiction, such as, 29 natural causes, 3 highway deaths, 2 homicides, and 2 sole proprietors.