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CFOI Reports 88 Work-Related Deaths in 2017

There were 88 fatal work-related injuries recorded in South Carolina in 2017, down 8 from the previous year, according to data from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI).

In previous years, the totals were: 96 in 2016; 117 in 2015; 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 2017 South Carolina CFOI include:

- By event or exposure type, transportation incidents led the way with 42 fatalities. The categories of violence and other injuries by persons or animals, and slips, trips and falls, and contact with objects and equipment followed at 12 each. Exposure to harmful substances or environments accounted for 9 deaths.
- Deaths among men totaled 79, while women accounted for 9 fatalities.
- Fatalities by race or ethnic origin were led by White, non-Hispanic workers at 64, followed by 14 for Black or African American, non-Hispanic, and 9 for Hispanic or Latino workers.

In 2017, S.C. OSHA reported and investigated 28 work-related fatalities.