

# OCCUPATIONAL FATALITIES IN CALIFORNIA 2007 AND 2008



The California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) gather work-related deaths through the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) Program. The CFOI Program was implemented by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to compile data that will be used by safety and health policy analysts and researchers to help prevent fatal work injuries. This function was transferred to DOSH CFOI in 2007.

DOSH CFOI use numerous sources (i.e. death certificates, news articles, Cal-OSHA accident reports, coroners/police reports) to identify and verify work-related fatalities.

This newsletter provides the final overview of occupational fatalities that occurred in California during 2007 and 2008.

## Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2007 and 2008

- A total of 926 fatal injuries at work occurred in California between 2007 and 2008, of which 461 occurred in 2007 and 465 occurred in 2008. These deaths account for approximately 9% (926/10,871) of all work related deaths in the United States between 2007 and 2008.
- Among the deaths in 2007, 436 (94.58%) were men and 25 (5.42%) were women. In 2008, 427 (91.83%) were men and 38 (8.17%) were women.
- The age group with the highest number of fatalities for 2007 was among workers aged 35 to 44 years with 114 deaths. There was a decrease in this age group for 2008 with 106 deaths. The highest number of fatalities for 2008 was among workers aged 45 to 54 years with 120 deaths.
- Approximately 44% of occupational fatalities were among whites, non-Hispanic. Fatal injuries to Hispanic/Latino workers comprised the next largest percentage with 39% of the occupational fatalities recorded over the 2 year period.
- Transportation accidents comprised of 35.36% of all occupational fatalities in 2007 and 36.99% in 2008. Fatal injuries due to Assaults and Violent Acts were the next largest percentage with 21.04% for 2007 and 20.65% for 2008.
- There were 43 deaths caused by exposure to harmful substances or environments in 2007 and 47 deaths in 2008.
- The largest numbers of fatalities for both years were in trade, transportation and utilities with 233 deaths, followed by construction industries with 148 deaths.



## DEMOGRAPHICS

The majority of occupational fatalities for 2007 & 2008 occurred among men (93.2%), with 63 (6.8%) occurring among women. In 2007, there were 436 (94.6%) deaths among men and 25 (5.4%) deaths among women. In 2008, there was a decrease in fatalities among men with 427 (91.8%) and an increase in fatalities among women with 38 (8.2%).

Approximately 83% of fatalities recorded in 2007 and 2008 were among the Wage and Salary worker.

Approximately 44% of occupational fatalities were among whites, non-Hispanic. Fatal injuries to Hispanic or Latino workers comprised the next largest percentage with 39% of the occupational fatalities recorded over the two year period.

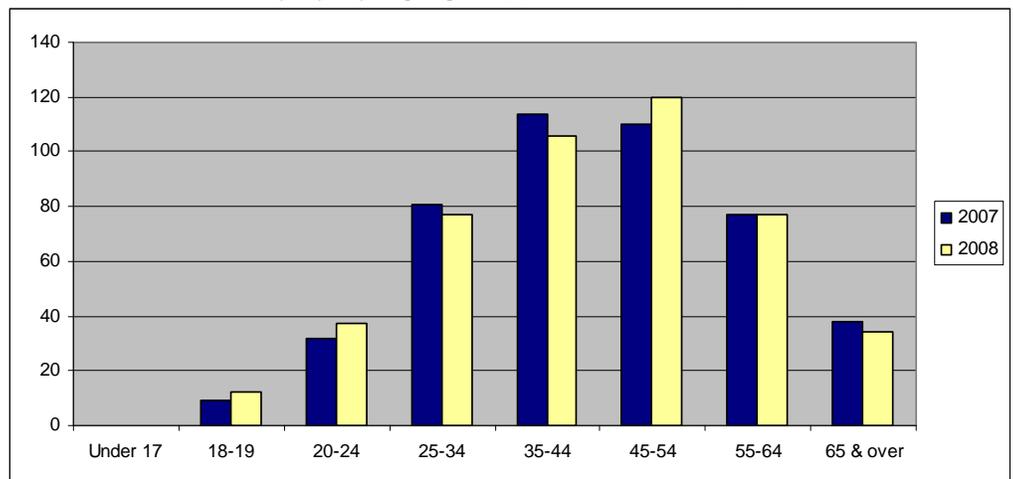
### Fatal Occupational Injuries by Selected Demographics

	2007 (%)	2008 (%)	Total (2007-2008) (%)
<b>Total</b>	461	465	<b>926</b>
Employee Status			
Wage & Salary worker	392 (85.0)	383 (82.4)	<b>775 (83.7)</b>
Self-employed	69 (15.0)	82 (17.6)	<b>151 (16.3)</b>
Gender			
Men	436 (94.6)	427 (91.8)	<b>863 (93.2)</b>
Women	25 (5.4)	38 (8.2)	<b>63 (6.8)</b>
Age			
Under 17 years	0	0	<b>0</b>
18-19	9 (2.0)	12 (2.6)	<b>21 (2.3)</b>
20-24	32 (6.9)	37 (8.0)	<b>69 (7.5)</b>
25-34	81 (17.6)	77 (16.6)	<b>158 (17.1)</b>
35-44	114 (24.7)	106 (22.8)	<b>220 (23.8)</b>
45-54	110 (23.9)	120 (25.8)	<b>230 (24.8)</b>
55-64	77 (16.7)	77 (16.6)	<b>154 (16.6)</b>
65 years & over	38 (8.2)	34 (7.3)	<b>72 (7.8)</b>
*Race or Ethnic Origin			
White, Non-Hispanic	204 (44.3)	205 (44.1)	<b>409 (44.2)</b>
Black, Non-Hispanic	29 (6.3)	31 (6.7)	<b>60 (6.5)</b>
Hispanic or Latino	179 (38.9)	180 (38.7)	<b>359 (38.8)</b>
American Indian or Alaska Native	3 (1.0)	0	<b>3 (&lt;1)</b>
Asian	41 (8.9)	43 (9.2)	<b>84 (9.1)</b>
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	3 (1.0)	<b>3 (&lt;1)</b>

\*Persons identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. The race categories shown exclude data for Hispanics and Latinos.

In 2007, the number of work related fatalities was highest among the 35 to 44 years age group with 114 deaths followed by the 45 to 54 years age group, with 110 deaths. For 2008, there was a decrease in deaths in the 35 to 44 years age group with 106 deaths but an increase in the 45 to 54 age group with 120 deaths.

### Fatal work injury by age group, 2007 and 2008, California

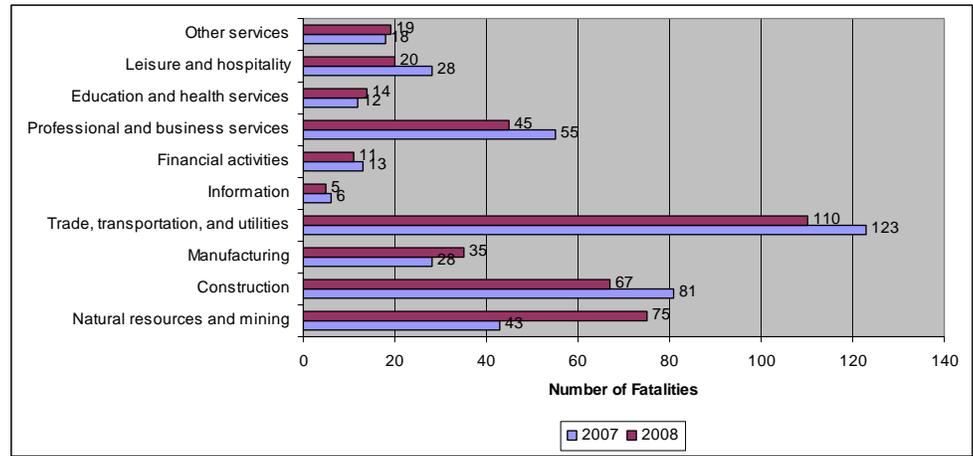


## OCCUPATION/INDUSTRY

### Fatal work injuries in selected industries, 2007 & 2008, California (926 Total fatalities)

The **Trade, Transportation and Utilities industry** had the highest number of fatalities during 2007 and 2008 with 123 and 110 deaths respectively.

The **Construction** industry had the next highest number of fatalities with a total of 148 fatalities (15.98%) for the 2 year period. There were approximately 38% of these deaths resulted from falls. 17 construction workers fell from roof and 9 from scaffolds.



The **Professional and Business Services** industry had 55 deaths in 2007 and 45 in 2008. Workers in this industry include accountants, lawyers, engineers, computer programmers, consultants and researchers. Of these victims in 2007, 14 were involved in transportation accidents and 12 deaths were a result of assault and violent acts while 2008 had 18 and 6 in the same category respectively.

The **Natural Resources and Mining** Industry had 43 deaths in 2007 and 75 in 2008. 12 victims in 2007 died from contact with objects and equipment and 17 for 2008.

The **Manufacturing** industry had 63 fatalities in 2007 and 2008. Of these workers, 13 died from transportation accidents and 14 deaths from contact with objects and equipment.

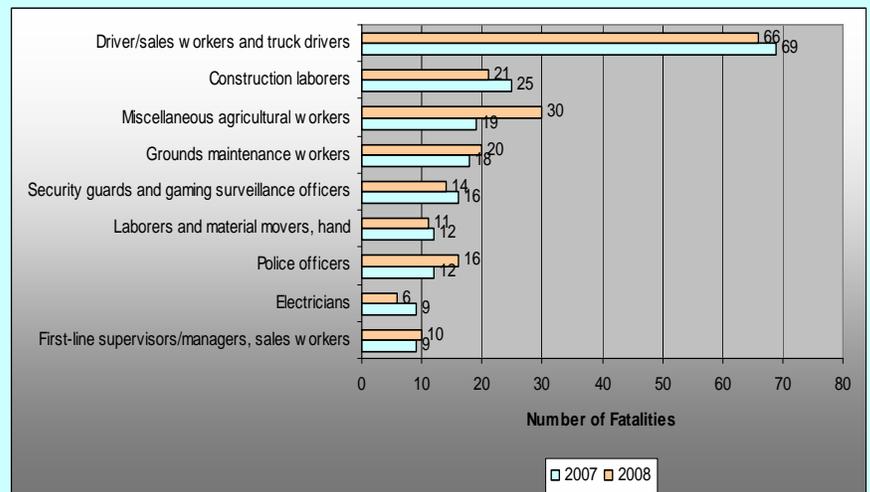
The **Leisure and Hospitality** industry accounted for 48 deaths during the two year period. Among the fatalities, 24 were homicide victims.

The occupation with the highest number of fatality recorded for 2007 & 2008 was for **driver/sales workers and truck drivers**, with 135 deaths. Among the victims, 6 were bus drivers and 14 were taxi drivers/chauffeurs.

There were 46 **construction laborers** killed at work during 2007 & 2008. Among the 46 victims, 15 were killed due to falls, 44 from contact with objects and equipment, 10 from transportation accidents and 8 due to exposure to harmful substances or environments.

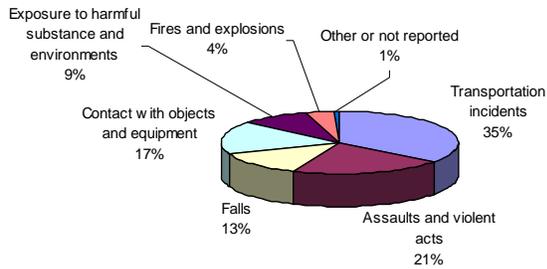
About 5% of the fatalities in both years belong to the **miscellaneous agricultural workers**. 24 out of these 49 fatalities were caused by transportation accidents.

### Occupations with the largest number of worker fatalities, 2007 & 2008 California, all ownerships (926 Total fatalities)



## EVENT/EXPOSURE

**2007 Workplace fatalities by event or exposure  
(461 Total Fatalities)**



Fatal work injuries are caused by a number of different types of events.

**Transportation incidents** are the highest with 35% of total fatalities in 2007 and 36% in 2008.

**Assaults and violent acts** accounted for another 21% of the fatal injuries for both years.

**2008 Workplace fatalities by event or exposure  
(465 Total Fatalities)**



Workers who were fatally injured from **falls** accounted for 13% of all fatal work injuries in 2007 and 15% in 2008, while **contact with objects and equipment** accounted for 17% in 2007 and 15% in 2008.

## Contact Information

For complete fatal occupational injuries reports, please go to our website at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/cfoi/cfoi.htm>

Should you require additional information, send a request to:

Department of Industrial Relations  
Division of Occupational Safety & Health  
**CFOI Program**  
1515 Clay St., Suite 16-22A  
Oakland, CA 94612  
Email Address: DOSHCFOI@dir.ca.gov

Or by calling 510-286-0702