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CFOI Reports 107 Work-Related Deaths in 2021

There were 107 fatal work-related injuries recorded in South Carolina in 2021, up 5 from the previous year, according to data from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI).

In previous years, the totals were: 102 in 2020, 108 in 2019; 98 in 2018; 88 in 2017; 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 US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with the South Carolina 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 SC OSHA counts should take into account the different coverage requirements and definitions used by each agency.

Key findings of the 2021 South Carolina CFOI include:

- By event or exposure type, transportation incidents remained the most frequent occupational fatality at 49. Violence and other injuries by persons or animals followed at 17, falls, slips and trips at 16, exposure to harmful substances or environments at 13, and contact with objects and equipment at 11.
- Deaths among men totaled 96, while women accounted for 11 fatalities. Transportation incidents accounted for the majority of the fatalities to men and women at 42.7% and 72.7%, respectively.
- Fatalities by race or ethnic origin were led by White, non-Hispanic workers at 57, followed by 29 for Black or African American, non-Hispanic, and 19 for Hispanic or Latino.

In 2021, SC OSHA reported and investigated 42 work-related fatalities.