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# Construction Fatalities Supplement, 2008

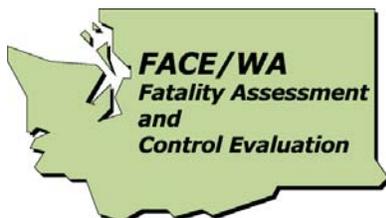
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Construction Fatalities  
Supplement, 2008

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August 19, 2009

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**Washington FACE Program**  
**Construction Fatalities Supplement, 2008**  
August 19, 2009

In 2008 there were 19 construction fatalities in Washington State (defined by the company's NAICS code) as counted by the WA FACE program. There were three fatalities in each of the following industry groups; Commercial and Institutional Building Construction, Framing Contractors, and Highway, Street, and Bridge Construction. There were eight machine-related incidents (double the number from 2007), four motor vehicle incidents (up from two in 2007), and a decrease to two fall incidents in 2007. There were also two related homicides, two struck by, and one caught in incident. The 19 fatalities in construction during 2008 consisted of a higher percentage of carpenters, managers, and operating engineers and a lower percentage of construction laborers compared with 1998-2007. A general trend appears to be that in years where the total number of fatalities increases, there is a higher percentage of younger fatalities. Young workers, ages 18-24, were involved in the same number of machine and motor vehicle related incidents but suffered less than half the number of falls as those ages 25-54 during 1998-2008. Skagit County had the most incidents in 2008 with four and two of these were related homicides. King County had one incident. Workers born in Mexico accounted for one fatality in 2008 and approximately one per year from 1998-2007. The other eighteen fatalities in 2008 were US born. The fatality of the Mexican born worker was due to a fall as were 47% of the fatalities to Mexican workers in construction from 1998-2008. This was in contrast to 30% of US born workers killed in falls in the construction industry from 1998-2008.

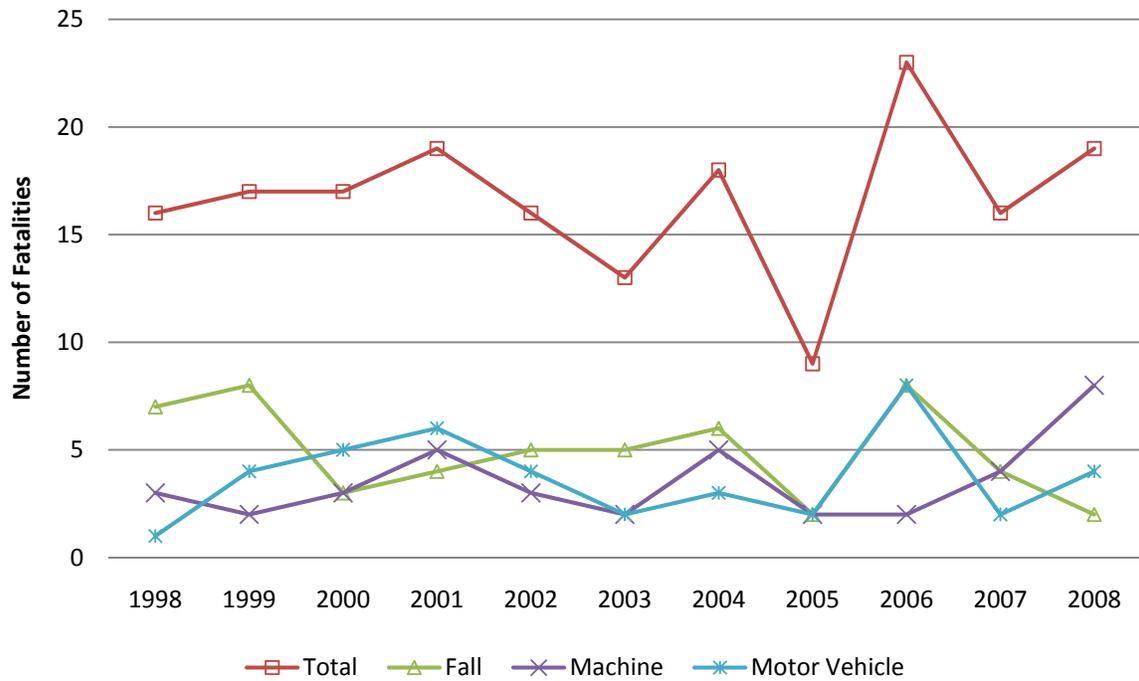


Figure 1. Total and top three incident type (e-code) fatalities WA State, 1998-2008

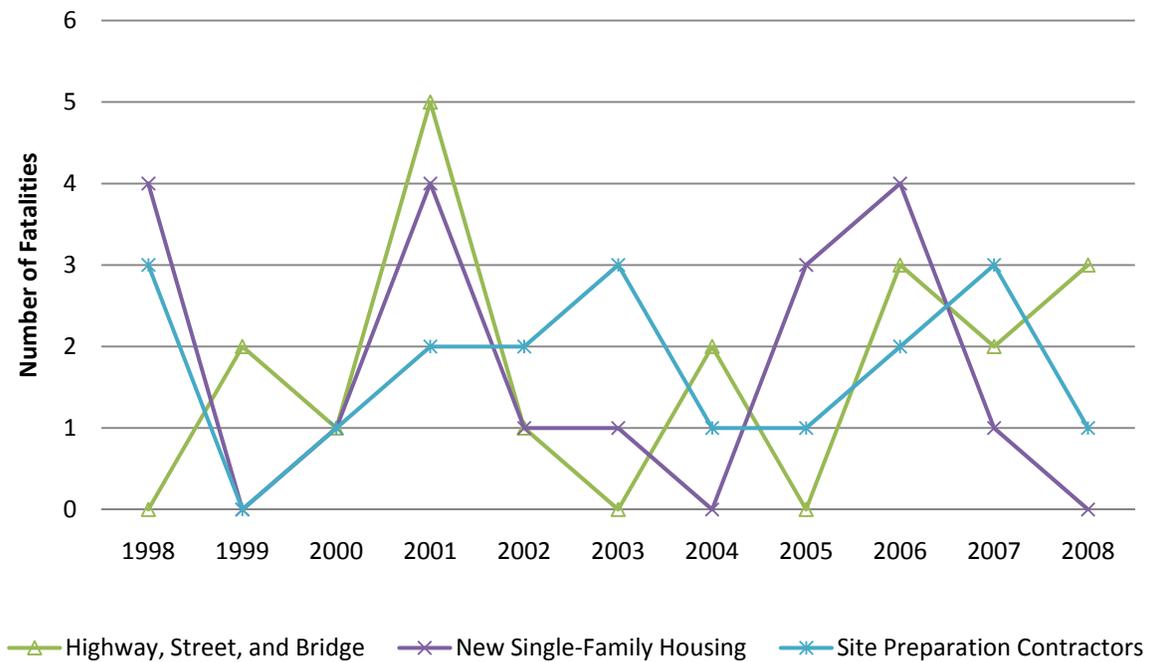


Figure 2. Top three industry groups (NAICS code) fatalities WA State, 1998-2008

<b>Industry</b>	<b>Incident</b>	
<b>Commercial and Institutional Building Construction</b>		<b>3</b>
Machine		2
Flying objects/Caught in		1
<b>Drywall and Insulation Contractors</b>		<b>1</b>
Fall		1
<b>Electrical Contractors</b>		<b>1</b>
Struck by falling object		1
<b>Flooring Contractors</b>		<b>1</b>
Motor Vehicle		1
<b>Framing Contractors</b>		<b>3</b>
Homicide		2
Machine		1
<b>Highway, Street, and Bridge Construction</b>		<b>3</b>
Machine		2
Motor Vehicle		1
<b>Land Subdivision</b>		<b>1</b>
Struck by falling object		1
<b>Power and Communication Line and Related Structures Construction</b>		<b>1</b>
Fall		1
<b>Roofing Contractors</b>		<b>1</b>
Machine		1
<b>Siding Contractors</b>		<b>1</b>
Motor Vehicle		1
<b>Site Preparation Contractors</b>		<b>1</b>
Machine		1
<b>Water and Sewer Line and Related Structures Construction</b>		<b>2</b>
Machine		1
Motor Vehicle		1
<b>Total</b>		<b>19</b>

Table 1. Fatalities by industry group (NAICS) and incident type (e-code) WA State, 2008

<b>Industry</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Incident</b>												
<b>Highway, Street, and Bridge</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>
Motor Vehicle		1	1	3	1				3	1	1	11
Machine		1		2			2				2	7
Other Vehicle										1		1
<b>New Single-Family Housing</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>16</b>
Fall	3			2		1		1	2			9
Motor Vehicle				2				1	1			4
Machine			1						1	1		3
<b>Site Preparation Contractors</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>
Machine	1			1				1		2	1	6
Struck by object	2				1	2				1		6
Motor Vehicle			1	1	1				2			5
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>52</b>

Table 2. Fatalities by top three industry groups (NAICS) and incident types (e-code) WA State, 1998-2008

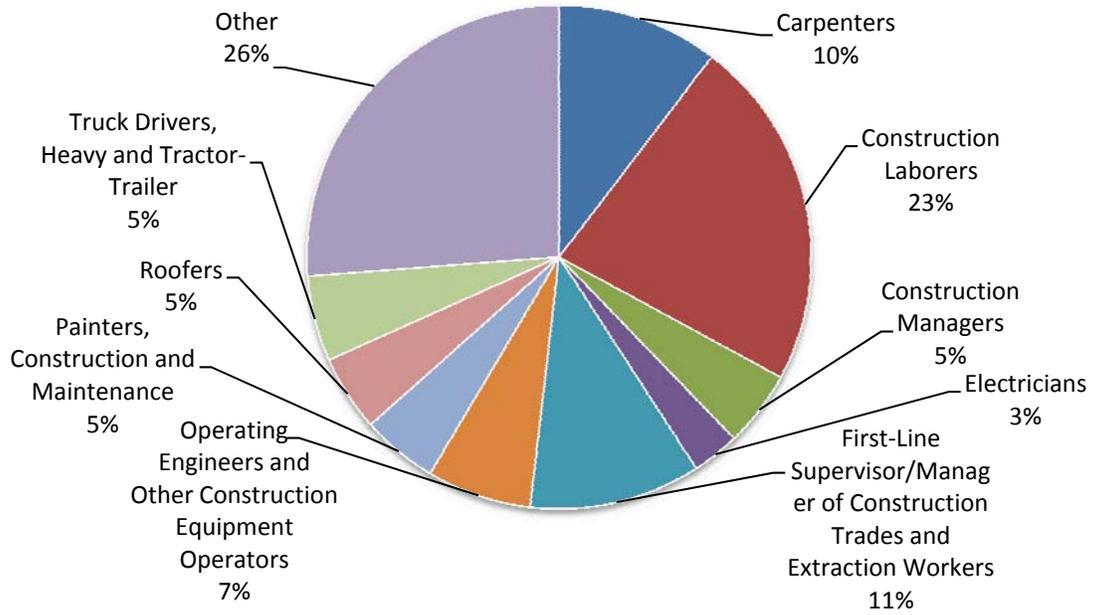


Figure 3. Fatalities by occupation (SOC code), WA State, 1998-2007

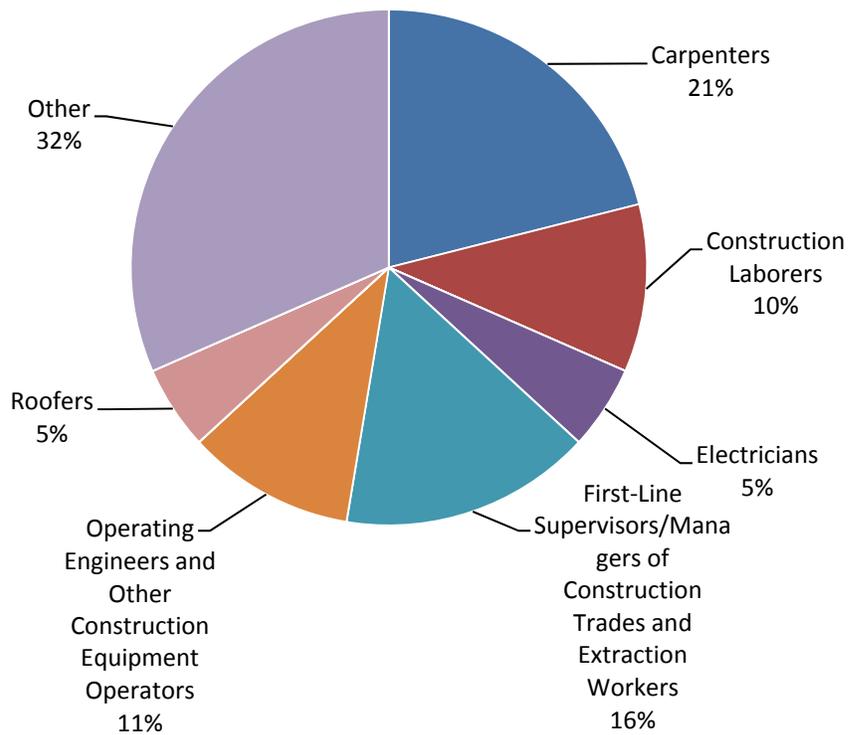


Figure 4. Fatalities by occupation (SOC code), WA State, 2008

Figure 3 shows the distribution of fatalities by occupation in the construction industry for the period 1998-2007 and figure 4 shows the same for 2008. Table 3 contrasts 2008 with the period 1998-2007.

Occupation	Percent Change from 1998-2007 to 2008
Carpenters	↑ 11%
Construction laborers	↓ 13%
Construction managers	↓ 5%
Supervisors/managers of construction trades and extraction workers	↑ 5%
Construction equipment operators/engineers	↑ 4%
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	↓ 5%

Table 3. Percent Change in fatalities from 1998-2007 to 2008

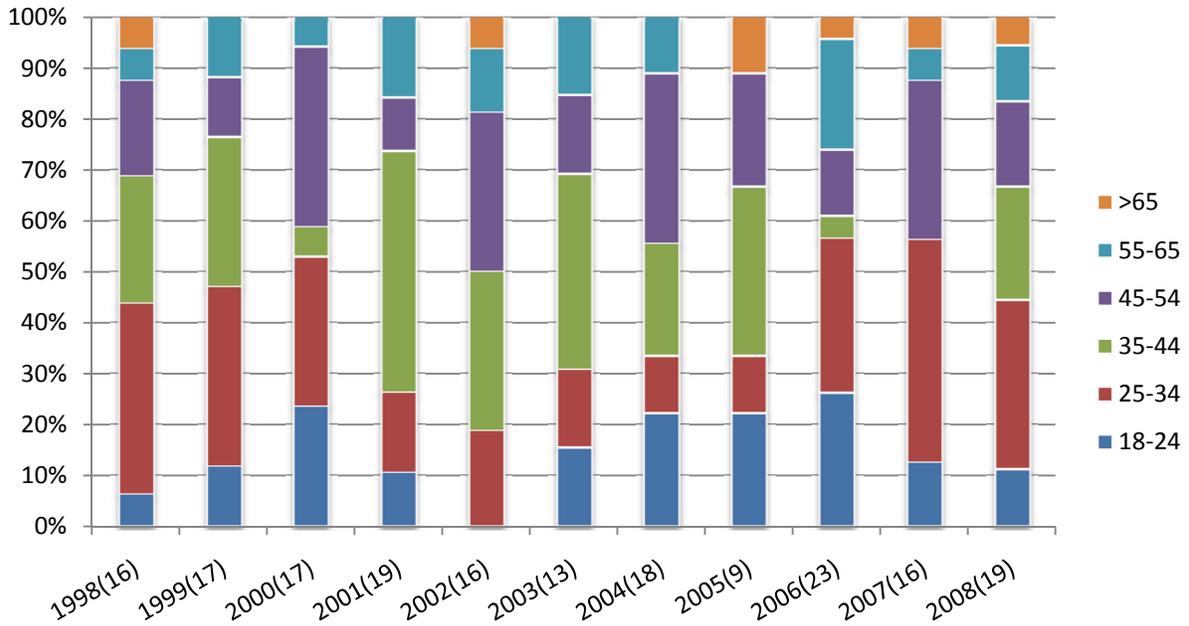


Figure 5. Fatalities by age group, WA State, 1998-2008

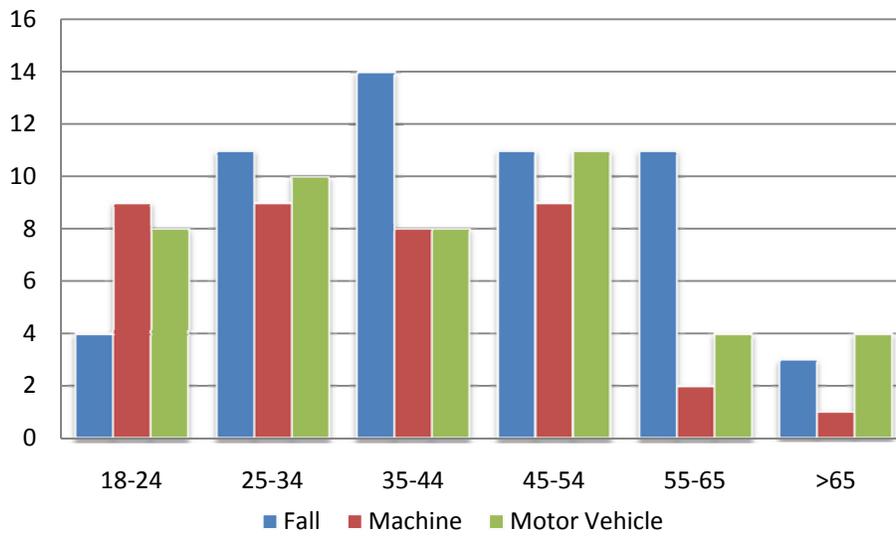


Figure 6. Fatalities by age group and top three incident type (e-code), WA State, 1998-2008

<b>County</b>	<b>1998-2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Adams	2	
Asotin		1
Benton	4	
Chelan	2	
Clallam		1
Clark	5	
Cowlitz	3	
Douglas	4	
Franklin	3	
Grant	6	
Grays Harbor	2	1
Island	1	
Jefferson	3	1
King	47	1
Kitsap	6	2
Kittitas	1	2
Klickitat	2	1
Lewis	3	
Mason	1	
Okanogan	1	
Pend Oreille	2	
Pierce	16	2
San Juan	3	
Skagit	3	4
Skamania	2	
Snohomish	15	2
Spokane	6	1
Stevens	2	
Thurston	5	
Wahkiakum	1	
Walla Walla	2	
Whatcom	7	
Whitman	2	
Yakima	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>19</b>

Table 4. Fatalities by county WA State, 1998-2007, 2008