



Fatal Facts



March 12, 2008
Report # 47-15-2008

Truck Driver Fatalities

Driving trucks can be a dangerous occupation. More truck drivers die on the job than any other occupation. In Washington State, 123 truck drivers died on the job between 1998-2007. The vast majority (81 incidents) of these were motor vehicle crashes. However, being struck by freight (14 incidents) and falls (6 incidents) were also frequent fatal incidents.

The Washington Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program has evaluated truck driver fatalities and presents the following summary of facts related to the incidents that occurred between 1998-2007.



Summary of Key Facts

- Eighty-one truck drivers died when their trucks traveling on a public roadway crashed into another vehicle (30 incidents) or left the roadway and crashed (51 incidents).
- Forty-two truck drivers died in non-crash type incidents which included, among others:
 - being struck by falling freight during loading and unloading (14)
 - struck by another vehicle or their own unattended vehicle while out of their truck (10)
 - falls from truck or loading dock (5)
 - electrocution when truck part contacted an overhead power line (3)
- Of the types of trucks driven by the drivers, the most prevalent types included unspecified semi-tractor-trailer (42); log hauling (20); tanker (11); dump (9); and flatbed (9).
- The fatalities were widely distributed among industries with highest numbers in freight trucking (62); construction (12); logging (10); retail trade (9); and wholesale trade (8).
- Truck transportation industry (NAICS 484) had 62 fatalities to truck drivers which broke down to the industry sub-classifications of General Freight Trucking, Long-Distance, Truckload (30); General Freight Trucking, Local (20); Specialized Freight (except Used Goods) Trucking, Local (6); and General Freight Trucking, Long-Distance, Less Than Truckload (5); Specialized Freight (except Used Goods) Trucking, Long-Distance (1) .
- Counties with the highest numbers of fatalities included King (24); Pierce (9); Snohomish (8); Yakima (7); Clark (6); Klickitat (6); Thurston (6).
- The average age of the victims was 46.
- All but one of the 123 victims were males.

	These are brief case descriptions of selected truck driver fatalities that happened in Washington State:
Case 1	On July 11, 2007, the driver of a recycling collection truck was killed when he exited his vehicle without setting the emergency brake and the truck rolled down a slope and over him.
Case 2	On November 2, 2004, a truck driver was watching a forklift operator unload a pallet of lumber from his truck when the pallet fell on him.
Case 3	On February 5, 2004, the driver of a semi-trailer truck carrying a load of potatoes was killed when his vehicle failed to make a curve in the road and crashed through a guardrail and plunged into a river.
Case 4	On November 3, 2000, a truck driver was loosening the chain wrappers from a load of steel beams on a flatbed truck when the beams fell on him.

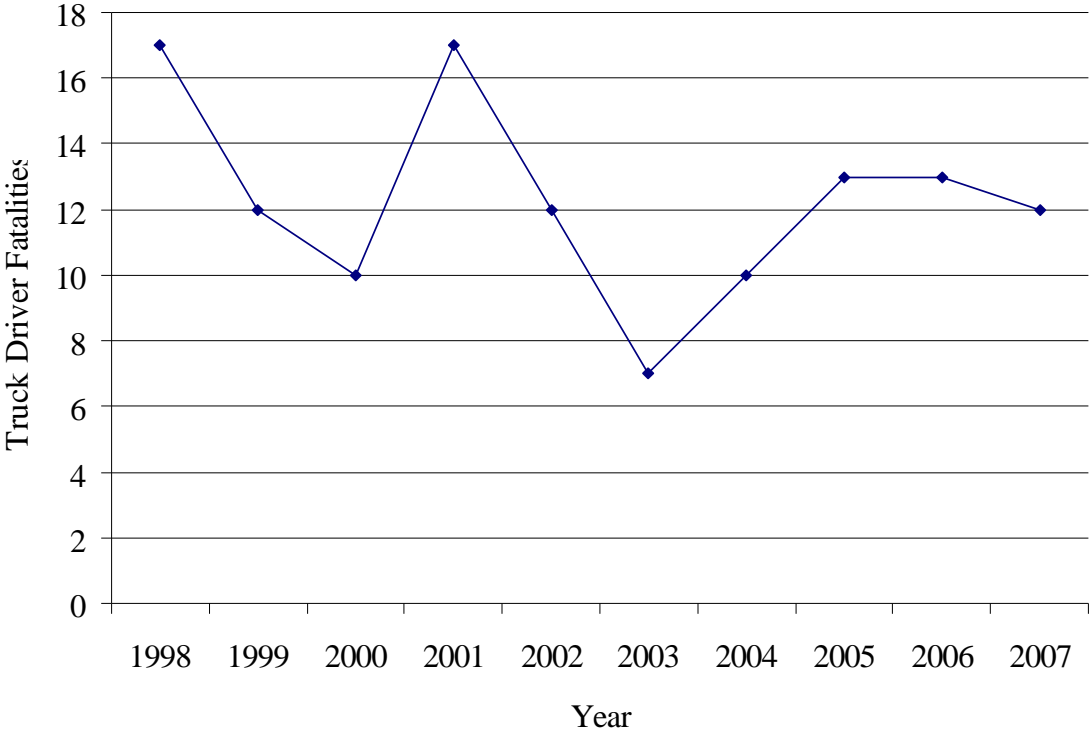


Figure 1. Truck driver fatalities in Washington State by year, 1998-2007.

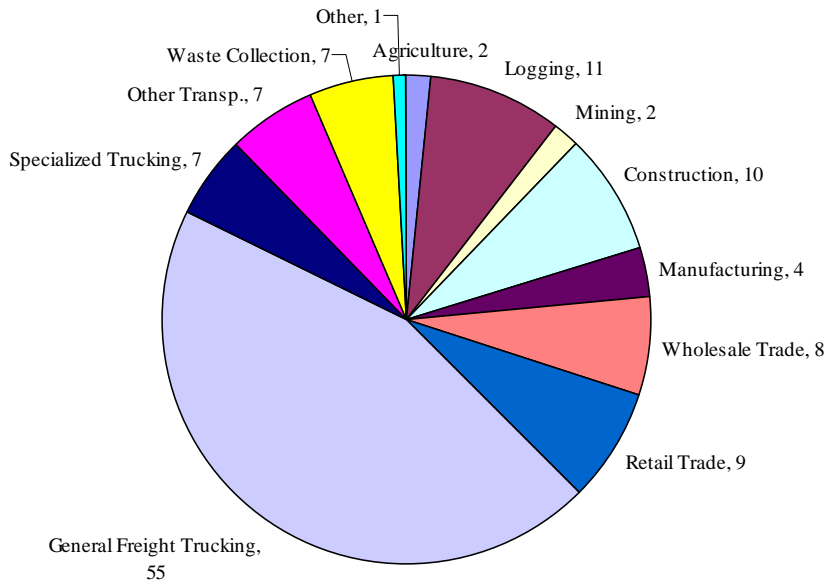


Figure 2. Truck driver fatalities by industry in Washington State, 1998-2007.

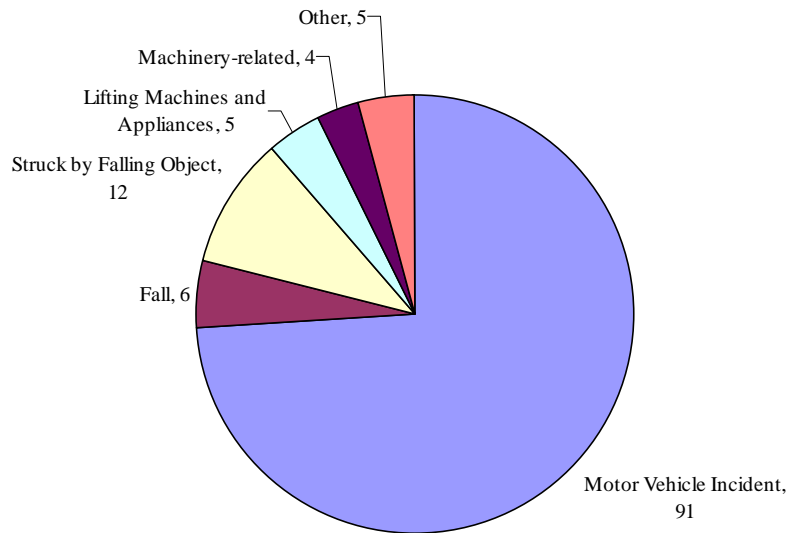


Figure 3. Truck driver fatalities in Washington State by type of incident, 1998-2007. Motor vehicle incidents include both crashes and being struck by a vehicle while on foot.

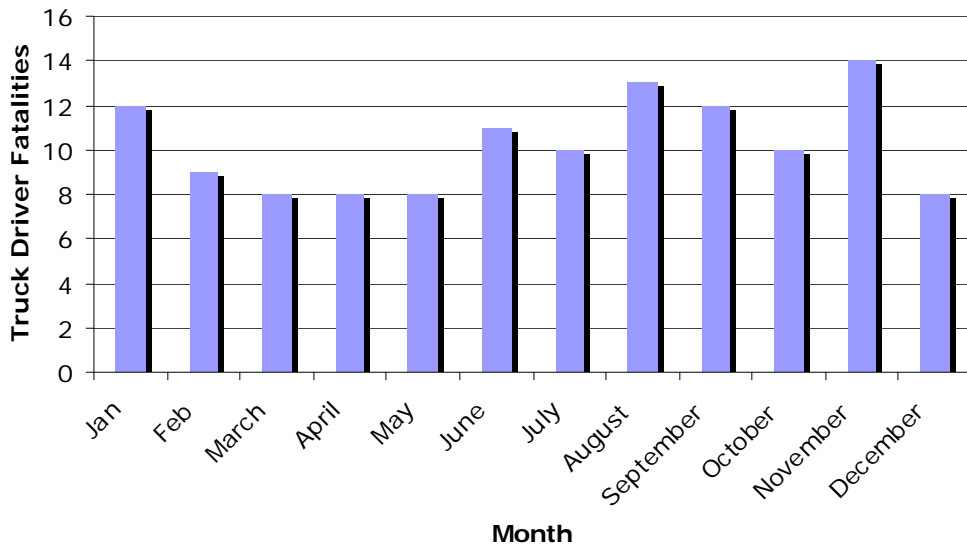


Figure 4. Truck driver fatalities in Washington State by month, 1998-2007.

Table 1. Types of Trucks Involved in Washington Truck Driver Fatalities, 1998-2007

Truck Type	Total
Semi-tractor-trailer	42
Log truck	20
Tanker, fuel, water, other bulk liquids	11
Dump truck or dump trailer	9
Flatbed	9
Van, box and panel	7
Waste hauling and recycling	5
Cement truck	3
Pickup, delivery	2
Street sweeper	1
Tow truck	1
Vacuum truck	1
Straight truck	1
Unknown	11
Total	123

Table 2. Reported Race of Washington Truck Driver Fatalities, 1998-2007

Race	Total
White	112
Black	1
Asian or Pacific Islander	6
American Indian or Alaska Native	1
Unknown	3
Total	123

Table 3. Reported Ethnicity of Washington Truck Driver Fatalities, 1998-2007

Ethnic	Total
Hispanic	9
Not Hispanic	111
Unknown	3
Total	123

Table 4. Count of Truck Driver Fatalities in Washington by County, 1998-2007

County	Incidents
ADAMS	1
BENTON	2
CHELAN	3
CLALLAM	1
CLARK	6
COWLITZ	1
DOUGLAS	1
FERRY	1
FRANKLIN	3
GRANT	7
GRAYS HARBOR	4
ISLAND	1
JEFFERSON	1
KING	24
KITTITAS	5
KLICKITAT	6
LEWIS	6
LINCOLN	2
OKANOGAN	1
PACIFIC	1
PEND OREILLE	1
PIERCE	9
SAN JUAN	1
SNOHOMISH	8
SPOKANE	5
STEVENS	2
THURSTON	6
WAHKIAKUM	1
WALLA WALLA	2
WHATCOM	3
WHITMAN	1
YAKIMA	7
Total	123

Getting Help

DOSH Consultation Program

Washington State Department of Labor and Industries

<http://www.LNI.wa.gov/Safety/KeepSafe/Assistance/Consultation>

Everett (Region 1, Northwest Washington): 425-290-1300

Seattle (Region 2, King County): 206-515-2800

Tacoma (Region 3, Pierce, Kitsap, Clallam, and Jefferson Counties): 253-596-3800

Olympia (Region 4, Southwest Washington): 360-902-5799

East Wenatchee (Region 5, Central and Southeastern Washington): 509-886-6500

Spokane (Region 6, Eastern Washington): 509-324-2600

DOSH Technical Services

Tumwater Central Office – Safety: 360-902-5460

Other Resources

Washington Trucking Injury Reduction Emphasis (TIRES)

<http://www.keeptruckingsafe.org>

Washington FACE Program

Hazards to Truck Drivers Loading and Unloading, Report #47-8-2005

<http://www.LNI.wa.gov/Safety/Research/Face/ReptNarr/FatalFacts>

Oregon Center for Research on Occupational and Environmental Toxicology (CROET)

<http://www.croetweb.com/links.cfm?subtopicID=355>

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/motorvehicle>

FACE Fatal Facts

Produced by the **Washington State Fatality Assessment & Control Evaluation (FACE) Program**, which is managed by the Safety and Health Assessment and Research for Prevention (SHARP) Program.

SHARP Program

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The Safety and Health Assessment and Research for Prevention (SHARP) Program at the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries is funded in part by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to run the Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program in Washington State (Cooperative Agreement No.: 3 U60 OH008487-02S1). The FACE Program collects information on all work-related fatalities in Washington State, investigates select incidents using a safety systems/root-cause approach, and develops reports and other outreach activities. The FACE Program is not compliance-oriented. Its goal is to reduce the number of work-related acute trauma injuries and deaths.