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Report of Fatal Occupational Injuries in Maine 1993

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Maine Division of Research and Statistics

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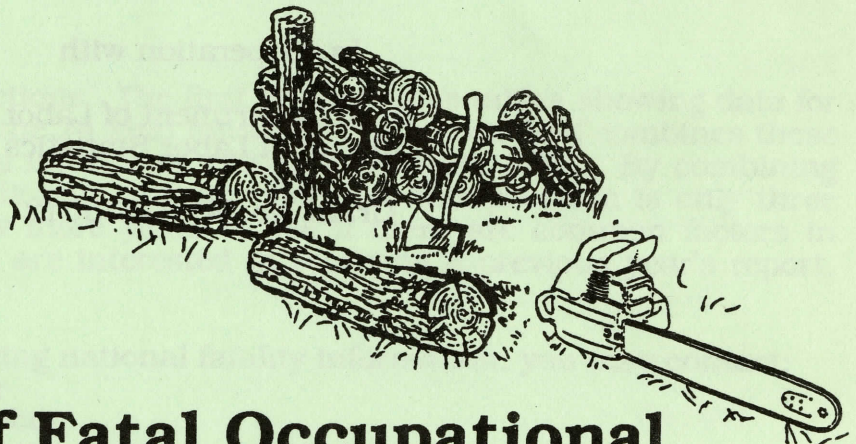
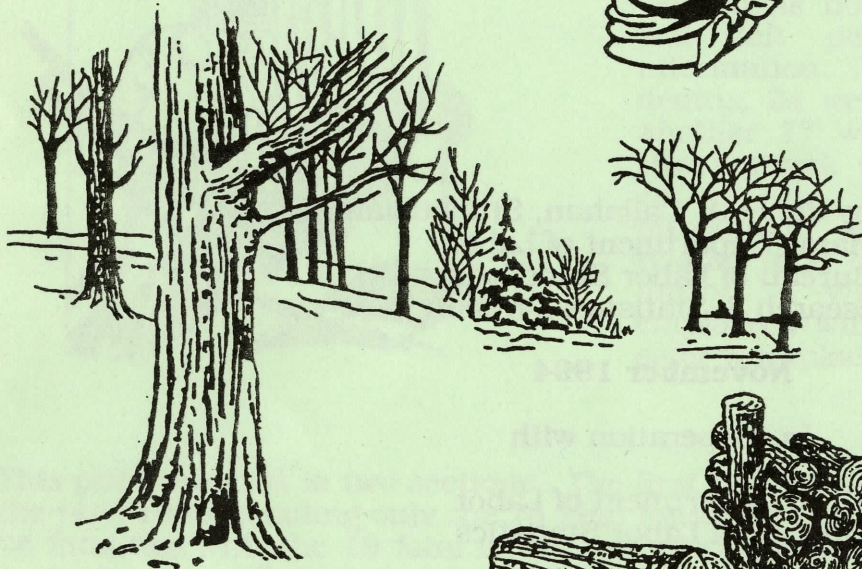
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**Report of Fatal Occupational
Injuries in Maine
1993**

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Report of Fatal Occupational Injuries in Maine 1993

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Maine Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Standards
Research & Statistics Division

November 1994

In cooperation with

U. S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics

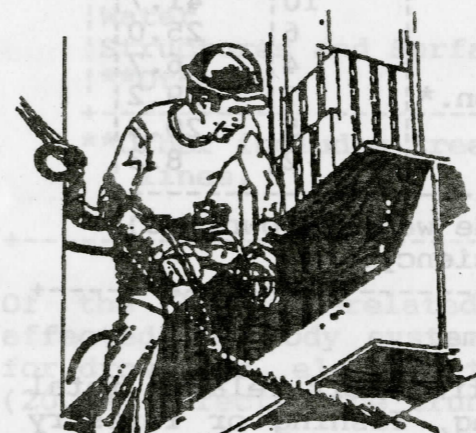
Grant No. W9J3835012

Introduction to Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries Program Maine, 1993

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program compiles the most complete, verifiable account of fatal work-related injuries in the United States. By using multiple data sources to verify deaths, we are able to get a more accurate count. CFOI is a Federal-State cooperative program, with all 50 states and the District of Columbia participating.

The CFOI program provides detailed data on all fatal workplace injuries, including those of workers under 16 years old, the self-employed, lobstermen, fishermen, farm workers, and government employees. These workers have not always been counted in the past as they are hard to identify with only one data source.

Hard Hat Area



For 1993, a total of 48 possible work-related deaths were reported to this office. By using multiple documents to verify a death, 41 cases were confirmed as work-related, 6 cases reported were verified as not work-related. One case was left pending due to lack of information. Of the 41 work-related deaths, 24 were due to an accident, and another 17 were because of an illness. Heart attack was the cause of death in 16 of the 17 illness cases. This publication will use only the work-related fatal cases that were due to an injury. We hope employers and employees will use this data to make a safer workplace.

This publication is in two sections. The first half includes tables showing data for the year 1993 detailing only the 24 fatal injuries. The second half combines these 24 fatalities with the 19 fatal injuries of 1992 and 20 from 1991. By combining multiple years of data, trends may appear. Because this program is only three years old, it may take a few more years to see if there are common factors in work-related deaths. If you are interested in receiving a previous year's report, you may contact this office.

If you are interested in receiving national fatality information, you may contact:

Jim Hart or Jill Taylor
U. S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
1 Congress Street, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02114
TEL: 617-565-2300

Highlights of 1993

Of the 24 work-related fatalities in 1993, there were 10 (41.7%) transportation accidents; six as a result of highway vehicle accidents, four because of a boat, plane or other non-highway accident. Due to confidentiality, events with less than three cases are not revealed.

Table 1. Fatal Occupational Injuries
Distribution by Event/Exposure
Maine, 1993

Event/Exposure	Year of Death	
	1993	
	Number	Percent
Total	24	100.0
Transportation accidents	10	41.7
Highway vehicle accidents	6	25.0
Other transportation accidents	4	16.7
Exposure to harmful substances/envIRON.*	7	29.2
Contact with objects and equipment	5	20.9
Other	2	8.3

Harmful substances/environments include water(drownings), contact with electricity, oxygen deficiency.

Nine (37.5%) of the employees who died from work-related fatal injuries in 1993 worked in either farming, fishing or forestry occupations.

Table 2. Fatal Occupational Injuries
Distribution by Occupation
Maine, 1993

Occupation	Year of Death	
	1993	
	Number	Percent
Total	24	100.0
Farming/Forestry/Fishing Occupations	9	37.5
Transportation & Material Moving Occ.	4	16.7
Managerial & Professional Specialty Occ	4	16.7
Precision Production/Craft/Repair Occup.	3	12.4
Other	4	16.7

In eleven (45.8%) of the 24 work-related fatal injuries in 1993, the source of injury was a vehicle. Six of these 11 deaths were a result of highway vehicle accidents. The six fatalities where water was the source were due to drownings.

Table 3. Fatal Occupational Injuries
Distribution by Source of Injury
Maine, 1993

Source of Injury	Year of Death	
	1993	
	Number	Percent
Total	24	100.0
Vehicles	11	45.8
Highway vehicles	6	25.0
Water/aircraft/tractor	5	20.8
Water	6	25.0
Structures and Surfaces	3	12.5
**Other	4	16.7

**Other includes trees, tires, boring handtools, and power lines.

Of the 24 work-related fatal injuries in 1993, 11 (45.8%) affected the body systems. Body system is coded for body part for drownings, electrocutions, asphyxiation. Another five deaths (20.8%) affected the trunk.

Table 4. Fatal Occupational Injuries
Distribution by Part of Body Affected
Maine, 1993

Part of Body Affected	Year of Death	
	1993	
	Number	Percent
Total	24	100.0
Body Systems	11	45.8
Trunk (back, chest, abdomen)	5	20.8
Head	4	16.7
Multiple Body Parts	3	12.5
Other Body Parts	1	4.2

Table 5 shows that nine (37.5%) of the 24 deaths were due to drownings-four while sea urchin diving. There were another eight fatalities with crushing internal injuries-four each to the trunk and to the intracranial region.

Table 5. Fatal Occupational Injuries
Distribution by Nature of Injury
Maine, 1993

Nature of Injury	Year of Death	
	1993	
	Number	Percent
Total	24	100.0
Drownings	9	37.5
Internal inj. trunk(organs & blood vesl)	4	16.7
Multiple intracranial injuries	4	16.7
**Other	7	29.1

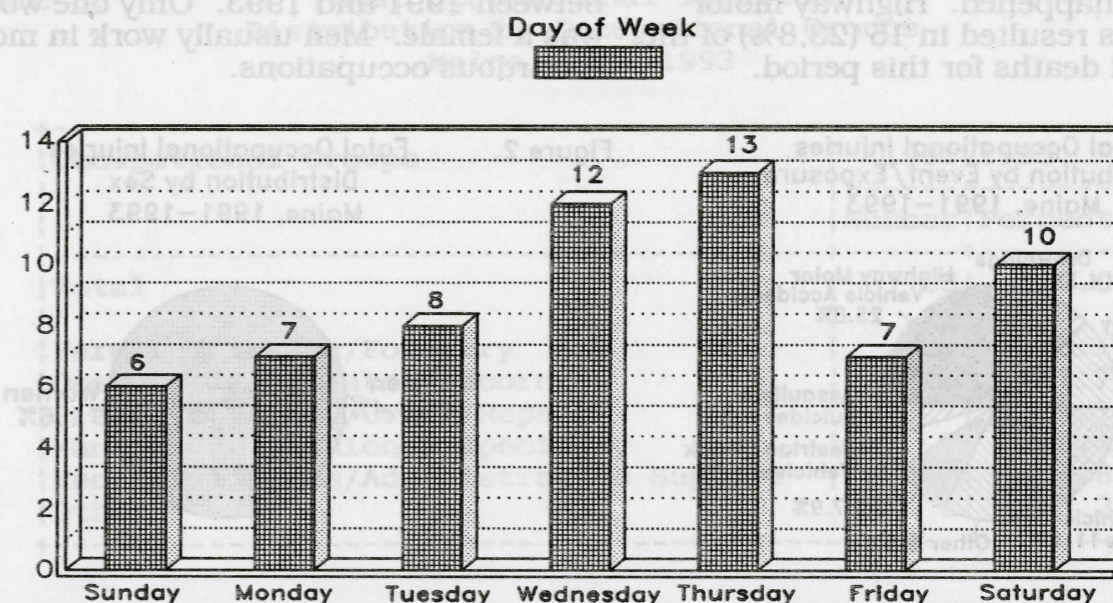
**Other includes asphyxia, electrocution, multiple traumas, & other combinations.

Nine (37.5%) of the 24 work-related fatal injuries in 1993 were employees in the 30-39 year old age group.

Table 6. Fatal Occupational Injuries
Distribution by Age of Worker
Maine, 1993

Age Group	Year of Death	
	1993	
	Number	Percent
Total	24	100.0
Under 30 Years Old	7	29.2
30-39 Years Old	9	37.5
40-49 Years Old	3	12.5
50 Years Old and Older	5	20.8

Figure 3. Fatal Occupational Injuries
Distribution by Day of the Week
Maine, 1991-1993



Thursday was the day of the week with the most fatal injuries. Of these 13 injuries we find:

- 7 were because of a transportation accident;
- 5 came in contact with an object or equipment; 2 were struck by a tree;
- 5 were in Transportation & Material Moving Occupations;
- 4 were in the Farming/Fishing/Forestry Occupations;
- 39 was the average age.

Wednesday was the second most hazardous day of the week with 12 fatalities:

- 6 were because of a transportation accident;
- 7 were in Transportation & Material Moving Occupations;
- 3 were in the Farming/Fishing/Forestry Occupations;
- 37 was the average age; 6 were under 30 years old.

Saturday has traditionally been the day of the week with the second lowest injuries, but for fatalities ranks third highest. Looking at the data for these injuries, we find:

- 6 were because of a transportation accident;
- 4 were due to drownings;
- 7 were in Transportation & Material Moving Occupations;
- 3 were in the Farming/Fishing/Forestry Occupations;
- 27 was the average age; 5 were under 30, all were under 50.

Tuesday ranked fourth with 8 fatalities:

- 4 were drownings;
- 4 came in contact with an object or equipment;
- 45 was the average age.

Monday had 7 injuries that caused a fatality:

- 4 were in the Farming/Fishing/Forestry Occupations;
- 48 was the average age; all were 35 or older.

Friday also had 7 fatal injuries:

- 4 were due to a transportation accident;
- 47 was the average age.

Sunday had the lowest fatal injuries (as expected) with 6:

- 3 were due to a fall;
- 40 was the average age; 5 were between the ages of 38-49.

Highlights of Fatal Injuries, 1991-1993

Figure 1 shows how deaths occurring between 1991 and 1993 happened. Highway motor vehicle accidents resulted in 15 (23.8%) of the 63 work-related deaths for this period.

Figure 2 shows the sex of workers who died between 1991 and 1993. Only one worker was a female. Men usually work in more hazardous occupations.

Figure 1. Fatal Occupational Injuries Distribution by Event/Exposure Maine, 1991-1993

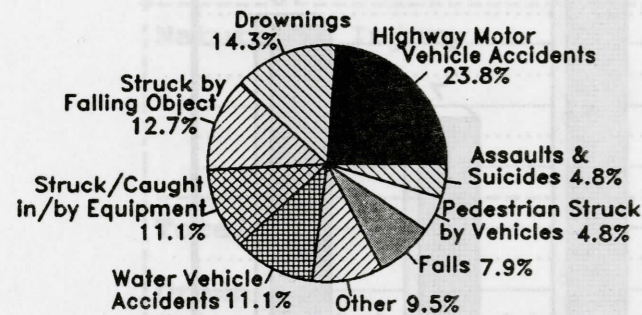
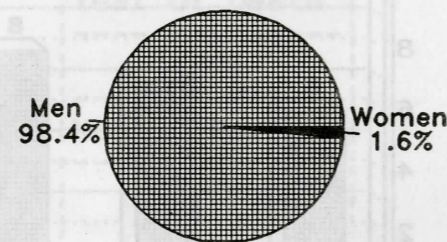


Figure 2. Fatal Occupational Injuries Distribution by Sex Maine, 1991-1993



Of the 15 work-related highway motor vehicle accidents during 1991-1993:

- 1 employee was wearing his seatbelt;
- 5 accidents involved alcohol;
- 2 drivers fell asleep at the wheel according to the police;
- 2 died during pre-dawn;
- 9 died between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.;
- 4 died between 5:00 p.m. and midnight;
- ages ranged from 17 to 66, with an average age of 39.

There were 17 fatalities from 1991-1993 that involved drownings and accidents (boat and plane) that caused drownings:

- 8 were lobstering or deep sea fishing;
- 4 were scuba diving for sea urchins;
- 3 were periwinkle harvesting or clamming;
- 2 were on an aircraft that crashed into the ocean;
- ages ranged from 19 to 66, with an average of 35.

Another 8 employees lost their lives by being struck by a falling object:

- 6 were struck by a falling tree; 2 of these employees had a tree get hung up while cutting, went on to another tree, and were killed by the tree that got hung up;
- ages ranged from 23 to 69, with an average age of 46.

There were 7 employees who were caught in or struck by equipment or objects:

- These objects or equipment include structural metal materials, roof trusses, logs, powered conveyors and augers, tractors, and a collapsing building.

There were 5 fatal injuries because of a fall to a lower level.

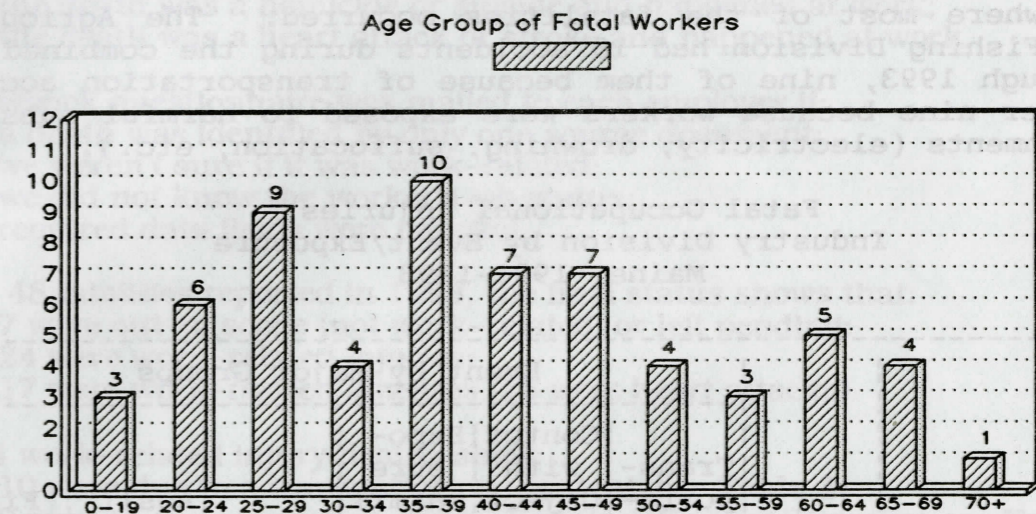
The other category includes aircraft accident, explosions, contact with electric or power lines, and rail accidents.

Of the 63 work-related fatalities during 1991-1993, 24 (38.1%) occurred to farmers, fishers and foresters. Another 20 were machine operators, fabricators and laborers.

Table 8. Fatal Occupational Injuries Distribution by Occupational Groups Maine, 1991-1993

Occupational Groups	1991-1993	
	Number	Percent
Total	63	100.0
Farming/Fishing/Forestry	24	38.1
Operator/Fabricator/Laborer	20	31.7
Precision Prod./Craft/Repair	7	11.1
Manager/Professional Specialty	7	11.1
Technical/Sales/Administrative Support	3	4.8
Other	2	3.2

Figure 5. Fatal Occupational Injuries Distribution by Age Groups Maine, 1991-1993



As shown in the chart above, workers between the ages of 35 and 39 suffered the greatest fatalities with 10. Of this age group we find:

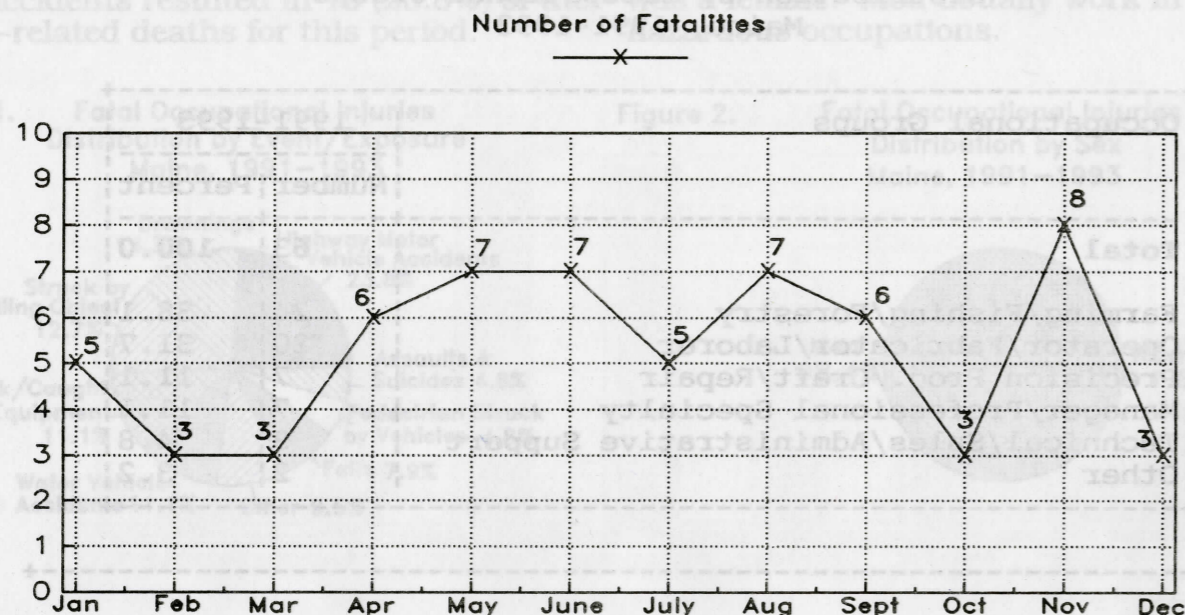
- 5 were in the Farming/Fishing/Forestry occupations;
- 4 were involved in a transportation accident;
- 3 drowned;
- 3 came in contact with an object or equipment; 2 were struck by trees.

The second highest age group to suffer fatalities were the 25-29 year olds.

- 6 were involved in a transportation accident;
- 4 were in the Farming/Fishing/Forestry occupations;
- 2 drowned.

Figure 4 shows the number of deaths by month for 1991 through 1993. The month with the highest number of deaths was November with eight.

Figure 4. Fatal Occupational Injuries
Distribution by Month of Injury
Maine, 1991-1993



By looking at the events leading to the deaths in each industry, we can see where most of the fatalities occurred. The Agriculture/Forestry/Fishing Division had 18 accidents during the combined years 1991 through 1993, nine of them because of transportation accidents and another nine because workers were exposed to harmful substances or environments (electricity, drowning, suffocation, etc.).

Table 7. Fatal Occupational Injuries
Industry Division by Event/Exposure
Maine, 1991-1993

SIC	Event by Major Groups						
	Total	Trans- porta- tion Accid	Contct with Object Equip- ment	Expo- sure Harmfl Subst- ances	Fall	Asslt Violnt Act	Fire Explo- sion
Total	63	28	15	11	5	3	1
Agr/For/Fish	18	9	0	9	0	0	0
Manufacturing	11	2	6	0	2	1	0
Transportation	11	9	0	1	1	0	0
Services	7	0	3	0	1	2	1
Construction	6	2	3	1	0	0	0
Retail Trade	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
Wholesale	3	2	1	0	0	0	0
Public Admin	3	1	1	0	1	0	0
Other	1	0	1	0	0	0	0

Project Summary

In 1993, a total of 153 source documents were received to verify 48 possible work-related deaths. They were:

- Department of Human Services Death Certificate;
- Workers' Compensation First Report of Occupational Injury or Disease;
- State Medical Examiner's Office autopsy, toxicology and medical reports;
- Maine Farm Bureau report;
- Maine Department of Marine Resources Boating/Rafting Incident Report;
- Maine State Police Accident Report;
- Motor Vehicle Accident Division Traffic Accident Report;
- OSHA fatality investigation reports;
- Followback questionnaire sent to employer;
- Newspaper articles and obituaries.

The source documents were reviewed against set standards to see if they met the work-related criteria. They are as follows:

- the injury or illness can happen in any year but the death was in 1993;
- the injury or illness can happen in any state but the death was in Maine;
- the death was during normal working hours on the employer's grounds; or off-site while doing normal work-related activity;
- the death was a homicide or suicide and happened at work;
- the death was a heart attack or stroke and happened at work.

A followback questionnaire was mailed to each employer if:

- a death was identified by only one source document;
- we weren't sure if it was work-related;
- we did not know the worker's job status;
- required data fields were missing.

Of the 48 fatalities reported in 1993, the final status shows that:

- 7 were out-of scope (not work-related) or left pending;
- 24 were work-related injuries;
- 17 were work-related illnesses (16 were heart attacks).

The 24 work-related injury deaths show:

- 10 were due to a transportation accident-see **Table 1**;
- 9 were in the occupation group, Farming/Fishing/Forestry-see **Table 2**;
- 11 were caused by some kind of a vehicle-see **Table 3**;
- 11 affected the body system-see **Table 4**;
- 9 were due to drownings-see **Table 5**;
- 9 were workers 30-39 years old-see **Table 6**.

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Maine Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Standards
Division of Research & Statistics
State House Station #45
Augusta, Maine, 04333-0045

In 1983, a total of 153 source documents were reviewed. They were:

- Department of Human Services Death Certificate
- Workers' Compensation First Report of Occupational Injury or Disease
- State Medical Examiner's Office autopsy, toxicology and medical reports
- Maine State Bureau of Forestry
- Maine Department of Marine Resources Boating Incident Reports
- Maine State Police Accident Report
- Motor Vehicle Accident Division Traffic Accident Report
- Public Health Investigation Reports
- Feedback questionnaire sent to employer
- Newspaper articles and abstracts

The source documents were reviewed and the standards to see if they met the work-related criteria. They are as follows:

- The injury or illness was reported in a report but the death was not.
- The injury or illness can happen in any state but the death was in Maine.
- The death was during normal working hours on the employer's grounds.
- or off-site while doing normal work-related activity.
- The death was a homicide or assault and happened at work.
- The death was a heart attack or stroke and happened at work.

A feedback questionnaire was sent to the employer if the source document was a death was reported by any source document, a death was reported, we went - we did not know the worker's job status, required data table was missing.

Of the 153 fatalities reported in 1983, the final status shows that:

- 7 were out-of-state (not work-related) or job location.
- 14 were work-related injuries.
- 17 were work-related illnesses (16 were heart attacks).

The 24 work-related injury deaths show:

- 10 were due to a transportation accident-see Table 1.
- 8 were in the occupational group "A" (see Table 2).
- 11 were caused by some kind of vehicle-see Table 3.
- 1 affected the body system-see Table 4.
- 2 were due to drowning-see Table 5.
- 8 were workers 50-59 years old-see Table 6.

Category	Count	Percentage
Total	153	100%
Out-of-state	7	4.6%
Work-related injuries	24	15.7%
Work-related illnesses	17	11.1%
Transportation accidents	10	6.5%
Occupational group "A"	8	5.2%
Vehicle-related	11	7.2%
Body system affected	1	0.7%
Drowning	2	1.3%
Workers 50-59 years old	8	5.2%