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CFOI Reports 72 Work-Related Deaths in 2013

A preliminary total of 72 fatal work-related injuries were recorded in South Carolina in 2013, according to data from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI).

In previous years, the totals were: 63 in 2012; 81 in 2011; 69 in 2010; 73 in 2009; 87 in 2008; and 122 in 2007. CFOI is compiled by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with the S.C. 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 fatality census counts every death that is work related, including highway deaths and homicides, which are not covered by OSHA. Thus, any comparison between the BLS fatality census counts and S.C. OSHA counts should take into account the different coverage requirements and definitions being used by each agency.

Key preliminary findings of the 2013 South Carolina CFOI include:

- By event or exposure, transportation incidents led the way with 27 fatalities, followed by violence at 14, slips, trips and falls at 13, and contact with objects and equipment at 9.
- Deaths among men totaled 62, while women accounted for 10 fatalities.
- Fatalities by race or ethnic origin were led by White, non-Hispanic workers at 49, followed by 16 for Black or African American, non-Hispanic, and 7 for Hispanic or Latino workers.

According to SC OSHA data, of the 63 deaths that were identified or reported to SC OSHA in 2013, only 28 were determined to be work-related and investigated. The remaining 35 were determined to be non-work related or not in its jurisdiction, such as, 29 natural causes, 3 highway deaths, 2 homicides, and 1 sole proprietor.