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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARKANSAS WORK-RELATED FATALITIES LOWER IN 2019

Little Rock – The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) conducted by the Arkansas Department of Labor and Licensing, Division of Labor, OSH/CFOI Section, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reveals Arkansas had 62 work-related fatalities in 2019.

2019 Census Profile

Major findings of the census include:

- The 62 fatal occupational injuries in 2019 were 18.4% lower than the total of 76 recorded in both 2018 and 2017.
- There were 43 deaths in 2019 involving private sector wage and salary workers, down from 57 in 2018. Self-employed worker fatalities decreased from 14 in 2018 to 13 in 2019. Fatal injuries among government workers increased from 5 in 2018 to 6 in 2019.
- Men accounted for 58 (93.5%) of the fatal work injuries, while women accounted for 4 (6.5%).
- White (non-Hispanic) workers accounted for 44 (71%) of the fatalities. Black or African-American (non-Hispanic) workers accounted for 10 (16.1%) of the fatalities. Hispanic or Latino workers accounted for 6 (9.7%) of the fatalities.

Thirty-one (31), or 50%, of the 62 work-related fatal injuries in 2019 were the result of transportation incidents.

- Work-related transportation incidents decreased from 40 in 2018, but still led all fatality events for the 26th year in a row.
- This includes 23 work-related deaths from roadway incidents involving motorized land vehicles in 2019, down from 32 in 2018. Ten (10) of these workers died from roadway collisions with other vehicle; 7 died when vehicle struck object on the side of the roadway; and 6 died from roadway non-collision incidents.
- There were 3 pedestrian vehicular incidents; 3 non-roadway incidents; and 1 aircraft incident.
- Thirteen (13) of the 31 deaths were truck transportation incidents, down from 18 in 2018.

Other Fatality Events

- A total of 10 workers (16.1%) were fatally injured due to contact with objects or equipment in 2019, down from 16 in 2018. This total includes 7 workers who died when struck by object or equipment, down from 10 in 2018; and 3 workers who died when struck, caught, or crushed in other collapsing structure, equipment, or material.
- There were 8 worker deaths (12.9%) due to exposure to harmful substances or environments in 2019, up from 3 in 2018. This included 3 electrocutions and 3 heat strokes among the total.
- Falls, slips, and trips resulted in 7 work-related fatalities (11.3%) in 2019, down from 8 in 2018. All 7 fatalities were from falls to a lower level.
- A total of 4 workers (6.5%) died at work as a result of violence and other injuries by persons or animals in 2019, down from 8 in 2018. All 4 cases were homicides.

Nationally, a total of 5,333 workers died from a work-related injury in the United States in 2019, a 2% increase from the 5,250 in 2018.

Background of the Program

In an effort to compile data that is as complete as possible, the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) uses diverse sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries. Source documents, such as death certificates, workers' compensation reports, and Federal and State agency administrative records are cross-referenced to gather key information about each workplace fatality, such as the particular occupation and industry in which the fatality occurred, worker demographics, equipment or machinery involved, and circumstances of the event. The CFOI program compiles the most complete, verifiable count of fatal occupational injuries in the United States.

For additional information, please go to www.bls.gov/iif or www.labor.arkansas.gov.

This is the third release reporting on 2019 data. Another BLS program, the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII), presents the frequency counts and incidence rates by industry, detailed case circumstances, and worker characteristics for non-fatal workplace injuries and illnesses that result in days away from work.

On December 3, 2020, the first release reported the incidence rate or number of injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers. The private sector incidence rate for Arkansas was 2.1 in 2019, compared to 2.2 in 2018. The public sector incidence rate was 3.5, compared to 4.0 in 2018.

The second release was also issued on December 3, 2020 and reported there were 4,490 non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work in the private sector in 2019, compared to 4,940 in 2018. There were 1,300 in the public sector, compared to 1,550 in 2018.