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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARKANSAS WORK-RELATED FATALITIES FOR 2020

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 64 work-related fatalities in 2020.

2020 Census Profile

Major findings of the census include:

- There were 64 fatal occupational injuries in 2020, up from 62 in 2019.
- There were 41 deaths in 2020 involving private sector wage and salary workers, down from 43 in 2019. Self-employed worker fatalities accounted for 13, no change from 2019. Fatal injuries among government workers increased from 6 in 2019, to 10 in 2020.
- White (non-Hispanic) workers accounted for 44 (68.8%) of the fatalities. Black or African-American (non-Hispanic) workers accounted for 13 (20.3%) of the fatalities. Hispanic or Latino workers accounted for 7 (10.9%) of the fatalities.

Thirty-six (36), or 56.3%, of the 64 work-related fatal injuries in 2020 were the result of transportation incidents.

- Work-related transportation fatality incidents increased from 31 in 2019, and led all fatality events for the 27th year in a row.
- This includes 26 work-related deaths from roadway incidents involving motorized land vehicles in 2020, up from 23 in 2019. Thirteen (13) of these workers died from roadway collisions with other vehicle; 6 workers died from roadway collision with object other than vehicle (struck object or animal on the side of the roadway); and 7 died from roadway non-collision incidents, such as jack-knifed or overturned.
- There were 4 private sector work-related pedestrian vehicular incidents (3 of these were pedestrian struck by forward-moving vehicle in a work zone); and 2 private sector aircraft incidents (both were in-flight crashes).

Other Fatality Events

- A total of 11 workers (17.2%) died at work as a result of violence and other injuries by persons or animals in 2020, up from 4 in 2019. Ten (10) of these fatalities were intentional injury by person.
- Falls, slips, and trips resulted in 7 work-related fatalities (10.9%) in 2020, no change from 2019. Six (6) of these were falls to a lower level.
- A total of 7 workers (10.9%) were fatally injured due to contact with objects or equipment in 2020, down from 10 in 2019. This total includes 5 workers who died when struck by object or equipment, down from 7 in 2019.
- There were 3 worker deaths (4.7%) due to exposure to harmful substances or environments in 2020, down from 8 in 2019.

Nationally, a total of 4,764 workers died from a work-related injury in the United States in 2020, a 10.7% decrease from the total of 5,333 deaths in 2019. A worker died every 111 minutes from a work-related injury in 2020.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic and the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

CFOI reports fatal workplace injuries only. These may include fatal workplace injuries complicated by an illness such as COVID-19. Fatal workplace illnesses not precipitated by an injury are not in scope for CFOI. CFOI does not report any illness related information, including COVID-19.

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.

Non-fatal injuries and illnesses for 2020 were not included in this study. A separate publication will be issued in December 2021.