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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARKANSAS WORK-RELATED FATALITIES FOR 2021

Little Rock – There were 74 work-related fatalities recorded in Arkansas in 2021. This data is from 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).

2021 Census Profile

Major findings of the census include:

- There were 74 fatal work injuries in 2021, a 15.6 percent increase from 64 in 2020.
- There were 49 deaths in 2021 involving wage and salary workers in the private sector, up from 41 in 2020. Self-employed worker fatalities accounted for 11, down from 13 in 2020. Fatal injuries among local and state government workers accounted for 13 in 2021, up from 10 in 2020.
- White (non-Hispanic) workers accounted for 58 of the fatalities. Black or African American (non-Hispanic) workers accounted for 10 of the fatalities.
- There were 68 men and 6 women that died in a work-related incident in 2021.

Fatal Event or Exposure

Forty-four (44), or 59.5%, of the 74 work-related fatal injuries in 2021 were the result of transportation incidents.

- Work-related transportation fatality incidents increased from 36 in 2020 and led all fatality events for the 28th year in a row.
- This includes 26 work-related deaths from roadway incidents involving motorized land vehicles in 2021, no change from 2020. Thirteen (13) of these workers died from roadway collisions with other vehicle; 7 workers died from roadway collision with object other than vehicle (struck object or animal on the side of the roadway); and 6 died from roadway non-collision incidents.
- There were also 6 workers killed in pedestrian vehicular incidents; 5 died in aircraft incidents (all were in-flight crashes); 3 workers were killed in animal and other non-motorized vehicle transportation incidents; and 3 died in non-roadway incidents involving motorized land vehicles.

Other Fatality Events

- A total of 10 workers (13.5%) were fatally injured due to contact with objects or equipment in 2021, up from 7 in 2020. This total includes 4 workers who died when struck by object or equipment; and 4 workers who were caught in or compressed by equipment or objects.
- Falls, slips, and trips resulted in 10 work-related fatalities (13.5%) in 2021, up from 7 in 2020.
- A total of 5 workers (6.8%) were killed at work as a result of violence and other injuries by persons or animals in 2021, down from 11 in 2020. All 5 of these fatalities were intentional injury by person.
- There were 4 worker deaths (5.4%) due to exposure to harmful substances or environments in 2021, up from 3 in 2020.

Nationally, a total of 5,190 workers died from a work-related injury in the United States in 2021, an 8.9 percent increase from the total of 4,764 deaths in 2020. A worker died every 101 minutes from a work-related injury in 2021.

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.