



**UNITED STEELWORKERS**  
**HEALTH, SAFETY and ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**2005 FATALITY REPORT**



This report is a summary of seventy-four fatalities reported to the USW Health, Safety and Environment Department for January 1 through December 31, 2005.

This report does not necessarily include all fatalities at USW workplaces, only those reported to the department. Some employers are required to report by the union contract; in other cases, the information was sent voluntarily by the employer, the USW staff representative, or the local union.

Additional fatalities may also have occurred in non-USW workplaces of employers who employ USW members elsewhere.

USW fatality reports rarely contain information on deaths from occupational disease. These deaths often occur after retirement; many are not recognized as being caused by a condition at work. However, research has shown that for every worker who dies in an industrial accident, eight to ten die from long-term occupational disease.

Accident reports are very important. Other local unions can use them to prevent similar accidents. If a USW member, supervisor or contractor is killed at your facility, or dies of an occupational disease, please notify us as soon as possible, and send the company or local union investigation report when it becomes available.

We have detailed descriptions of some of these accidents, along with a list of recommendations. We have less information on others. If you would like a copy of the available information on any of these accidents, please contact us at:

*USW Health, Safety and Environment Department*  
5 Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, PA, 15222  
(412) 562-2581; (412) 562-2584 (fax)  
[safety@steelworkers-usw.org](mailto:safety@steelworkers-usw.org)

1. January 17, **Kenneth Cesaro**, 54, an employee of **Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel** in **Steubenville, Ohio**, was killed in a railroad accident. He was a member of **Local Union 1190 in District 1**.
2. January 19, **Lymus Jones**, 47, an employee of **Exide Technologies, Inc.** in **Baton Rouge, Louisiana**, was killed when he was caught in a conveyor. He was a member of **Local Union 8394 in District 9**.

3+. January 20, **Allen Followwill**, 27, an employee of the **City of Independence Water Department** in **Independence, Missouri**, was electrocuted (69KV). Stanley Rorrer, 50, also an employee of the same company sustained a severe shock at the same time Brother Followwill was electrocuted and is still living. Brother Followwill was a member of **Local Union 13558-01 in District 11**.

4. Also on January 20, **Thomas Lawlor**, 41, an employee of **McWane Inc.; Atlantic States Cast Iron Pipe Div.** in **Phillipsburg, New Jersey**, was killed when an 800-pound pipe fell on him. He was a member of **Local Union 9404 in District 4**.

5. January 27, **Velma Burnette**, 47, an employee of **Republic Engineered Products** in **Lorain, Ohio**, was killed when steel bars fell on her. She was a member of **Local Union 1104 in District 1**.

6. January 31, **David Wilson**, 33, an employee of **Carmeuse Crd Ctr.; Carmeuse NA Carmeuse Lime & Stone, Inc.** in **Butler, Kentucky**, was crushed by an underground tractor when it turned over. He was a member of **Local Union 162 in District 8**.

7+. February 2, **Larry Dieterich**, 58, and John Kopsicker, 52, were seriously burned in an explosion while working on a furnace at **Matrix Metals LLC; Keokuk Steel Castings, Inc.** in **Keokuk, Iowa**. Brother Dieterich later died. Both were/are members of **Local Union 3311 in District 11**.

8. February 3, **David M. Prengel**, 46, a switchman for **United States Steel Corp.** in **Granite City, Illinois**, was killed when a cargo train crushed him against the wall of a loading dock. He was a member of **Local Union 1899 in District 7**.

9. February 5, **John Novick**, 50, an employee of **Allegheny Technologies, Inc.; Allegheny Ludlum Steel Div.** in **Brackenridge, Pennsylvania**, was killed in a railroad accident. He was a member of **Local Union 1196 in District 10**.

10. February 11, **Joseph Alvarez**, 30, an employee of **International Steel Group, Inc.** in **East Chicago, Indiana**, was killed in a car accident after his work shift was over while driving home. He was a member of **Local Union 1011 in District 7**.

11-14. February 28, **Fabian Bedard**, 32; **Doug Decock**, 38; **Trevor Decock** and **David Stevens** died in a plane crash while flying from **Campbell River** on **Vancouver Island** to remote camps on the mainland when their plane disappeared. They were all former members of **Local 1-2171 of the IWA Council in District 3**.

15. March 1, **Wayne Peet**, 47, mechanic, was fatally injured while working on the tire of a Letourneau log loader at the **Shoal Island** dryland sort near **Crofton, BC**. He was a member of **Local Union 1-80 of the IWA Council in District 3**.

16. March 9, **Nicholas Williams**, 51, an employee of **Caricement USVI Corp.** in **St. Thomas, Virgin Islands**, was killed when he fell into a compounding tank, resulting in death. He was a member of **Local Union 8249-69 in District 9**.

17-31. March 23, an explosion at the **BP Refinery in Texas City, Texas**, killed 15 people and injured about 100. The investigation is still ongoing. The 15 non-union people that were killed were:

<b>Lorena Cruz-Alexander, 32</b>	<b>Glenn Bolton, 50</b>	<b>Rafael Herrera, 27</b>
<b>Daniel Hogan, 58</b>	<b>Jimmy Hunnings, 58</b>	<b>Morris King, 52</b>
<b>Larry Lisenbardt, 58</b>	<b>Arthur Ramos, 59</b>	<b>Ryan Rodriguez, 28</b>
<b>Linda Rowe, 47</b>	<b>James Rowe, 48</b>	<b>Kimberly Smith, 43</b>
<b>Susan Taylor, 33</b>	<b>Larry Thomas, 63</b>	<b>and Eugene White, 53.</b>

**Bargaining unit employees of BP are represented by former PACE Local Union 4-1(now USW Local Union 13-00001-01) in District 12.**

32. April 8, **Steve McEachnie, 41**, an employee of **West Fraser Plywood Division in Williams Lake, BC**, was struck and fatally injured while standing inside a vat when a loader entered to fill it with logs and did not see him. He was a member of **Local Union 1-425 of the IWA Council in District 3.**

33. April 13, **George Bent, 42**, a crafting machine operator for **Globe Spring & Cushion Company Ltd. in Toronto, Ontario**, was killed when he was pulled into the machine. He was a member of **Local Union 3950-46 in District 6.**

34. April 18, **Milos Vojinobic, 33**, welder for **USS Serbia in Smederevo, Serbia**, was fatally injured when he was struck by a passing crane. He was a Serbian trade union member.

35. April 20, **Marc Baron**, an electrician at **Frasier Paper in Madawaska, Maine**, was killed while working on the roof of a tank and fell through the roof into an agitator. He was a member of **Local Union 1-365 in District 4.**

36. April 21, **Rocky Reynolds, 22**, trainee for **Whayne Supply in Pikeville, Kentucky**, was crushed to death while servicing a piece of equipment in a coal mine owned by Central Appalachian Mining in Phelps, Kentucky. He was a member of **Local Union 14581-106 in District 8.**

37. April 23, **Chris Broswick, 34**, logger, was killed when hit by a falling snag in a remote logging camp at **Nepah Lagoon near Port McNeill in British Columbia**. He was a member of **Local Union 1-3567 of the IWA Council in District 3.**

38. May 3, **Les Carin, 64**, an employee of **Western Forest Products, Saltair Division in Ladysmith, British Columbia**, was killed when he was crushed to death while performing maintenance work. He was a member of **Local Union 1-80 of the IWA Council in District 3.**

39. Also on May 3, **Jack Worell, 60**, was killed while working for a non-union contractor at **Harrison Lake, British Columbia**. He was a member of Local Union 1-3567 of the IWA Council in District 3.

40. Also on May 3, **Danny McClintock**, an employee of **Altec Industries, Inc. in Birmingham, Alabama**, was struck and killed when a boom fell off of a truck. He was a member of **Local Union 7740 in District 9.**

41. May 11, **Tony Smith**, 44, was working on a non-union job at the time he was killed while falling timber near Ucluelet, British Columbia. He formerly worked at Franklin River for 23 years and was a member of Local Union 1-85 of the IWA Council in District 3.
42. June 3, **Greg McDowell**, 37, who was working as a log chaser at a sawmill in **High Level, Alberta**, was fatally injured after falling onto a log belt and being crushed in a log catcher. He was a member of **Local 1-207 of the IWA Council in District 3**.
43. June 6, **Eddie Hicks**, an employee of **Arizona Chemical** in **Savannah, Georgia**, was burned over 30% of his body when hot liquid spilled out of a railcar. He died January 16, 2006 due to complications. He was a member of **Local Union 3-0795 in District 9**.
44. June 24, **Manuel DaSilva**, 47, who was working at a sawmill in **Fraser Lake, British Columbia**, was crushed when the oil tank he was working on fell against him, pinning him against the wall. He was a member of **Local 1-424 of the IWA Council in District 3**.
45. June 28, **Joe Chapa**, an employee of **Degussa Carbon Black** in **Aransas Pass, Texas**, was killed while he was working on an elevator when the cable gave way, crushing him to death. He was a member of **Local Union 4-0316 in District 12**.
46. July 9, **Howard Rubel**, 61, a grave digger for **Siena Group; Acacia Park Cemetary** in **Birmingham, Michigan**, collapsed and died while at work. An investigation is ongoing. He was a member of **Local Union 13702-23 in District 2**.
47. July 13, name unavailable, an employee of **Bowater; Lumber Division** in **Albertville, Alabama**, was struck and killed by a forklift. An investigation is ongoing. He was a member of **Local Union 9-01514 (formerly Local Union 3-1514) in District 9**.
48. July 14, **Glenn Riley**, an employee of **Griffin Pipe (Foundry)** in **Florence, New Jersey**, was crushed. He was a member of **Local Union 2040-1 in District 4**.
49. July 18, **Tim Rigby**, an employee of **Johnson Matthey PLC; Johnson Matthey Ltd., Precision Cast** in **St. Catherines, Ontario**, was fatally injured when the grinding disk from the grinder he was operating let go and imbedded in his skull. He was a member of **Local Union 6428 in District 6**.
50. August 3, **Willie Salsbury**, 64, was working non-union as a log truck driver near **Port Alberni, British Columbia**, and sustained fatal injuries when struck by a log while attempting to regain control of his truck. He had formerly worked at Hayes Forest Service and was a member of Local 1-85 of the IWA Council in District 3.
51. August 17, **Ryan Powlett**, 28, an employee of **Welded Tube of Canada, Ltd.** in **Concord, Ontario**, was operating an overhead crane, 19 feet above the floor when he fell from the cab to his death. He was a member of **Local Union 8328 in District 6**.

52. August 25, **Barbara Thacker**, an employee of **Kellogg USA Pikeville** in **Kimper, Kentucky**, was struck and killed by bags that fell off of a forklift. She was a member of **Local Union 9345 in District 8**.
53. August 31, **Radomir Miladinovic**, 55, an independent, over-the-road truck driver, was discovered by a Plant Protection Officer laying unconscious next to his flat bed trailer. He suffered a head injury from an apparent different level fall. He died September 3 from his injuries. The incident took place on the property of **Alcoa, Inc., Warrick, Indiana**, **Local Union 104 in District 7**.
54. September 14, **Francois Bonin**, 33, was fatally injured when he was crushed by logs at a dryland sort in **Port Coquitlam, British Columbia**. He was a member of **Local 1-3567 of the IWA Council in District 3**.
55. Also on September 14, **David Yanez-Plasencia**, 61, contractor employee, hired by Ancon Marine, was fatally injured in a fall during the course of his work in the API Separator Unit at the **ExxonMobile Refinery in Torrance, California**. **Bargaining unit employees** at ExxonMobile are represented by **Local Union 675 in District 12**.
56. September 17, **Jeremy Brown**, a diver for **Glenn Underwater Services**, a contracting firm for Alcoa, Inc. in **Badin, South Carolina**, suffered a fatal injury when he was drawn by current flow feet first into a fill gate while examining the head gates for leaks. **Bargaining unit employees** at Alcoa are represented by **Local Union 303 in District 9**.
57. September 22, **John Harju**, 61, died of a heart attack while helping his co-worker fix his bulldozer at work at **J.F. Thomson Timber**. He was a member of **Local 1-2693 of the IWA Council in District 3**.
58. October 5, **Gerry Beek**, 54, was fatally injured when the bulldozer that he was operating went over the edge of a pit near **Beaver Cove**, just south of **Port McNeill, British Columbia**. He was a member of **Local 1-2171 of the IWA Council in District 3**.
59. November 5, **Ron Smith**, 53, an employee of **Johnson Controls** in **Battlecreek, Michigan**, suffered fatal head injuries after falling approximately 25-feet onto a concrete floor. He was a member of **Local Union 6-332 in District 2**.
- 60-61. Also on November 5, **John Ferguson**, 29, and **John Lattanzi**, 57, boilermakers for Matrix in Tulsa, Oklahoma suffocated at the **Valero Energy Corp.; (Premcor)** refinery located in **Delaware City, Delaware**, after they entered a nitrogen-filled area inside a tank. **Bargaining unit employees** at Valero are represented by **Local Union 4-898 in District 4**.
62. November 6, **Chad Weston**, 28, an employee of **Cleveland Cliffs (Empire Mines)** in **Palmer, Michigan** suffered a fatal head injury while trying to correct a machine jam in the pellet room. He was a member of **Local 4950-01 in District 1**.
63. December 2, **John O'Neill**, 59, supervisor at a logging camp, was killed when struck by a small piece of cedar 12.5 feet long, 5" top 7" butt, that had bounced down the road striking

him. The logging camp is located in Seymour Inlet, which is east of Port McNeil, British Columbia, Canada. The camp is located in **District 3**.

64. December 9, **Daniel Dudding**, an employee of **Alcan Rolled Products** in **Ravenswood, West Virginia**, was killed when he fell from a forklift. He was a member of **Local Union 5668** in **District 8**.

65. December 13, **Bob Strang**, 32, faller, was killed when he was struck by a snag while cutting timber at Marble River, west of Port McNeill on Northern Vancouver Island, British Columbia. He was a member of **Local Union 2171 (Coast Master Agreement)** of the **IWA Council** in **District 3**.

66. December 26, **John Crawford**, an employee of **Mead Westvaco** in **Rumford, Maine**, was fatally injured when he fell from a tank. He was a member of **Local Union 900** in **District 4**.

### **FATALITIES OF INTEREST IN NON-USW LOCATIONS**

1. April 10, **Curtis Eary**, 49, an employee of **Direct Staffing Solutions**, a firm that provides contract labor at the Goodyear plant in **Lawton, Oklahoma**, was found dead with an arm caught up in a piece of equipment. The USW represents workers in 24 other locations. This plant is located in **District 12**.

2. April 30, **Christopher Hemstock**, 35, an employee of **Roanoke Electric Steel** in **Roanoke, Virginia**, was found unconscious on top of the bridge where he was conducting routine maintenance, and later pronounced dead. He died from electrocution. This plant is located in **District 8**.

3. May 6, **William Maffitt**, 45, an employee of **Eagle Service Corp.** in **Valparaiso, Indiana**, was killed when a chunk of debris fell on him from above, slamming his head against the 30-foot high hopper he was working in. This plant is located in **District 7** and may be organized by the Long Shoreman's union.

4. July 22, **Jeremy Boiling**, an employee of **PSC** in **Westlake, Louisiana**, was fatally electrocuted when he stepped out of a temporary building onto a steel deck. This plant is located in **District 9**.

5. September 16, **Dwayne Steinbach**, 41, truck driver, who was driving for a PGTA (Prince George Trucking Association) member, was killed when his loaded truck hit a power pole in **Prince George, British Columbia**, which is located in **District 3**.

6. October 7, **Brian Coldwell**, 58 was fatally injured when the contract logging truck he was driving went off the road and rolled over the bank. The accident happened just north of **Squamish, British Columbia**, which is located in **District 3**.

7. October 10, **Wayne Walker**, 30, an instrumental electrical technician at **Alcoa's** Refinery (Jamalco) in **Jamaica** was fatally burned during contact with ESP dust. The USW represents workers in 32 other Alcoa locations.
8. November 15, name unknown, was crushed to death at the **Jindal United Steel Works** in **Houston, Texas**. This plant is located in **District 12**.