



UNITED STEELWORKERS OF AMERICA

HEALTH, SAFETY and ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

FATALITY REPORT - 2000

January 1 – December 31, 2000

This report is a summary of thirty-eight fatalities reported to the USWA Health, Safety and Environment Department for January 1 through December 31, 2000.

- ◆ 27 USWA members died in accidents that occurred in 2000, along with two supervisors, four outside contractors, and one non-union miner.
- ◆ This report also includes two members of the UFCW International Union, which represent some workers at a steel plant.
- ◆ We have documented two additional USWA members who died of a heart attack at work.
- ◆ The causes of death in these incidents were as follows:

13	struck by	5	falls
11	getting caught in or between	2	heart attack
7	burns		
- ◆ The type of equipment, process or working area that contributed to these accidents was:

11	fixed machinery	2	conveyors
10	other mobile equipment	2	fixed rail equipment
6	cranes	2	walking and working surfaces
3	falls of ground	2	other

Since some accidents have more than one cause, the number may be larger than thirty-eight.
- ◆ The distribution of these fatalities by industry was:

11	steel (excluding iron ore)	1	structural steel
6	foundries	1	cutlery tools
6	mining	1	utilities
3	aluminum	1	construction
3	transportation	1	railroad terminals
2	rubber & plastics	1	public relation services
1	refractories		

- ◆ Of the thirty-eight fatalities, there were thirty-five men and three women. Their ages ranged from 25 to 62; seven were Canadian.
- ◆ This report does not necessarily include all fatalities at USWA worksites in 2000, only those reported to the department. Some employers are required by the union contract to report fatalities; in other cases, the information was sent voluntarily by the employer, the staff representative or local union. This report also does not 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.

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 write to:

UNITED STEELWORKERS OF AMERICA
HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
FIVE GATEWAY CENTER
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222
412-562-2581; 2584 (Fax)
email: safety@uswa.org

Accident reports are very important. Other local unions can use them to prevent similar accidents. If a USWA 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.

1. On January 7, **Dave Courtney**, 37, a truck driver at **RVM Industries, Inc.; Albex Aluminum** in **Canton, Ohio**, was crushed to death when his hydraulic trailer collapsed while dumping about 40,000 pounds of aluminum. Brother Courtney was a member of **Local Union 1046-02 in District 1**.
2. On January 12, **Reginald Livingstone**, 52, a crane operator at **Cameron Corp. Ltd.; Maritime Steel & Foundries, Ltd.** in **New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, Canada**, was killed when he was struck by a 13-ton piece of steel which shifted while he was operating a pendulum crane. Brother Livingstone was a member of **Local Union 3172 in District 6**.
3. On January 21, **David Gauthier**, 52, a site superintendent for **Phillips Services Corporation**, an outside contractor doing demolition work at **Alcoa's Bauxite, Arkansas** plant, was fatally injured when he was hit by falling debris. **Bargaining unit employees** at Alcoa Bauxite are represented by **Local Union 4880-01 in District 12**.
4. On January 24, **Tony Desa**, 38, an employee at **Philip Enterprises, Inc.; Canadian Ferrous Div.** in **Hamilton, Ontario, Canada**, was killed instantly when a steel rail

fell off a magnetic crane striking him in the head. Brother Desa was a member of **Local 6920-01 in District 6**.

5. On January 31, **Jose Villanueva**, 58, a miner at **Asarco, Inc.; Mission Mine in Sahuarita, Arizona**, was killed when he was struck by falling rock. Brother Villanueva was a member of **Local 937-02 in District 12**.

6. On February 23, **Thomas Bernal**, 42, a mobile equipment operator at **Rocky Mountain Steel Mills**, a division of **Oregon Steel Mills, Inc.** in **Pueblo, Colorado**, was burned to death when super-heated steel bars crashed through the cab of his vehicle while he was transporting a load of billets on one of the mill's roadways. He was a replacement worker hired to replace the locked-out members of Local Union 2102. **Bargaining unit employees** at RMSM are members of **Local Union 2102 in District 12**.

7. On February 25, **Barry Nixdorff**, 48, a miner at **Tantalum Mining Corp. of Canada in Lac Du Bonnet, Manitoba, Canada**, was fatally injured when 70 tons of rock fell and the force of the impact threw Brother Nixdorff from an elevation of 30 feet. Brother Nixdorff was a member of **Local Union 7499 in District 3**.

8. On February 28, **Edward L. Kathcart**, 49, an electrical technician at **LTV Steel in Indiana Harbor, Indiana**, was killed when he fell into a cooling water sluiceway in the basement of a continuous caster. Brother Kathcart was a member of **Local Union 1011 in District 7**.

9. On March 1, **James Howard**, 62, a ladle crane operator at **Worthington Industries, Inc.; Buckeye Steel Castings Co. Div.** in **Columbus, Ohio**, was fatally injured while attempting to board an operating ladle crane, and was caught between the crane and the catwalk. He died two days later from his injuries. Brother Howard was a member of **Local 2342 in District 1**.

10-11-12. On March 5, **Karen Hamilton**, 35, core machine operator; **Debbie Sheppard**, 37, core machine operator; and **Curtis Grooms**, 29, knockout operator at **New River Castings in Radford, Virginia**, were killed when a gas explosion destroyed their auto-parts foundry. Sister Hamilton and Brother Grooms were members of **Local Union 9336 in District 8**.

13. On March 7, **Robert W. McQueen, Jr.**, 29, a senior laborer at **Cincinnati Bulk Terminal in Cincinnati, Ohio**, was killed when a cable snapped, knocking him into the water. Brother McQueen was a member of **Local Union 1858-23 in District 1**.

14. On March 20, **Guy Morin**, 45, a miner at **Mines McWatters, Inc.; Kiena Mine in Val D'Or, Province of Quebec, Canada**, was killed when rocks fell on him while he was installing grating. Brother Morin was a member of **Local Union 4796-09 in District 5**.

15. On March 20, **James VanWagnen**, 45, an inspector at **Republic Technologies Inc.** (formerly U.S. Steel/Kobe) in **Lorain, Ohio**, was killed when he was struck by a forklift truck. Brother VanWagnen was a member of **Local Union 1104 in District 1**.

16. On March 24, **Alfred Coxe**, 47, a supervisor at **McWane Inc.; Atlantic States Cast Iron Pipe Co. Div.** in **Phillipsburg, New Jersey**, was killed when he also was struck by a forklift truck. **Bargaining unit employees** at Atlantic States are represented by **Local Union 9404 in District 4.**

17. On May 9, **David Abston**, an employee of **Morris Bean & Company** in **Yellow Springs, Ohio**, died of a heart attack while at work. Death was from natural causes. Brother Abston was a member of **Local Union 6931 in District 1.**

18. On June 9, **Sid Stepp**, 43, an employee of **Frank W. Hake, Inc.**, an outside contractor working at **Bethlehem Steel Corp.; Bethlehem Lukens Plate** in **Coatesville, Pennsylvania**, was killed when he fell through a hole to the floor approximately 100 feet below. **Bargaining unit employees** at Bethlehem Steel are members of **Local Union 1165 in District 10.**

19. On June 29, **Horace Rolan Hoskin**, 48, an employee at **Ransom Industries Inc.; Tyler Pipe Company** in **Tyler, Texas**, was killed when he was crushed between a conveyer belt and the pulley. Brother Hoskins was a member of **Local Union 1157L in District 12.**

20. On June 29, **Perry M. Rubner, Jr.**, 46, a set-up man at **Channellock, Inc.** in **Meadville, Pennsylvania**, was crushed to death while reaching into interior of machine he was working on in order to obtain dropped replacement blade. Brother Rubner was a member of **Local Union 1917-03 in District 10.**

21. On July 22, **David J. Taylor**, 41, an employee at **Phoenix Services Management Corp.**, a medical waste disposal company, in **Baltimore, Maryland**, was crushed to death while trying to free a conveyor belt, when the machine suddenly started and pulled him inside. Brother Taylor was a member of **Local Union 9116-18 in District 8.**

22. On August 12, **Phil Flowers**, 42, a construction flagman at **West Virginia Contractors Bargaining Association** in **Convoy, West Virginia**, was killed when he was hit by a car in a construction zone. Brother Flowers was a member of **Local Union 14614 in District 8.**

23. On August 15, **Ivan Laus**, 46, an electrician at **National Steel Car, Ltd.** in **Hamilton, Ontario, Canada**, fell to his death from a crane while he was performing maintenance during the scheduled shutdown of the plant. Brother Laus was a member of **Local Union 7135 in District 6.**

24. On August 16, **Steve Ewing**, 33, an employee of **Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting in Fin Flon, Manitoba, Canada**, died of burns he suffered when a furnace he was working on experienced a hot metal and water explosion. Brother Ewing was a member of **Local Union 7106 in District 3**.
25. On August 17, **Jerry Nelson**, 56, an employee of **Geneva Steel in Provo, Utah**, died when a blast furnace scale car dropped a load of pellets on him. Brother Nelson was a member of **Local Union 2701 in District 12**.
26. On August 22, **Nathaniel Payne**, 43, a general mechanic at **Alcoa Aluminum in Davenport, Iowa**, was killed when a cable broke on an overhead crane, causing the block to fall and strike him. Brother Payne was a member of **Local Union 105 in District 11**.
27. On September 2, **Charles Smith**, 46, a tire builder at **Bridgestone Corp.; Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc. in Des Moines, Iowa**, was injured when he was caught in a tire building machine, which recycled unexpectedly. He died 33 days later. Brother Smith was a member of **Local Union 310L in District 11**.
28. On September 4, **Gary Stoudt**, 44, a welder instructor at **Dana Corp.; Parish Division in Reading, Pennsylvania**, was killed when an overhead gantry descended, striking the victim on the head. Brother Stoudt was a member of **Local Union 3733 in District 10**.
29. On September 8, **David Jones**, 25, a coke oven benchman at **NKK Corp. (Japan); National Steel, Subsidiary; Granite City Steel Division in Granite City, Illinois**, was seriously injured when he was caught between the hot car and a handrail. He died on October 8 from his injuries. He was a member of UFCW Local Union 50, which represents workers in the coke and ironmaking areas of the plant. The remaining **bargaining unit employees** at Granite City Steel Division are members of **USWA Local Union 67 in District 7**.
30. On October 13, **Clarence Brant**, 59, a tractor operator at **Cleveland-Cliffs, Inc.; Pick Mather, Subsidiary in Hibbing, Minnesota**, was seriously burned in a hydraulic oil fire which got into the cab of the cat-dozer tractor he was operating. He died November 2. Brother Brant was a member of **Local Union 2705 in District 11**.
31. On October 22, **Kirk Steinhagen**, 50, a maintenance man at **Allegheny Technologies, Inc.; Allegheny Ludlum Steel Division in Brackenridge & Natrona, Pennsylvania**, was killed when he fell from a ladder. Brother Steinhagen was a member of **Local Union 1196-01 in District 10**.
32. On October 31, **William Tipton**, 60, a truck driver for **Overpeck Trucking**, an outside contractor working at **Martin Marietta Materials, Inc.** magnesia plant in **Woodville, Ohio**, was killed when a tractor-trailer overturned on him. **Bargaining unit employees** at Martin Marietta are represented by **Local Union 12965 in District 1**.

33. On November 9, **John Virgil Neeley**, 54, a truck driver for **Landstar Inway Co.**, an outside contractor at **AK Steel Holding Corp.; AK Steel Sawhill Tubular** in **Sharon, Pennsylvania**, was killed when five lifts of pipe fell on him. **Bargaining unit employees** at AK Steel Sawhill Tubular are members of **Local Union 1016 in District 10**.

34. On November 19, **Gary Riddick**, a maintenance mechanic for **UNICCO Service Co.**, an outside contractor working at a non-union **Bridgestone/Firestone** plant in **Wilson, North Carolina**, was killed when he was crushed in a tire stacker machine when it started up unexpectedly.

35. On November 22, **Thomas Schwartzkopf**, 39, a laborer at **NKK Corp. (Japan); National Steel, Subsidiary; Granite City Steel Division** in **Granite City, Illinois**, was killed when he was caught between a coal hopper and a Larry Car in the coke plant. Brother Schwartzkopf was a member of UFCW Local Union 50. The remaining **bargaining unit employees** at Granite City Steel Division are members of **USWA Local Union 67 in District 7**.

36. On November 22, **Phillip Fisher**, 38, a crusher operator at **Goldcorp Inc., Red Lake Mine** in **Red Lake, Ontario, Canada**, was killed when he was caught in a surface ore conveyor. The USWA formerly represented Red Lake miners, but after a forty-six month dispute and shutdown, and the active collusion of the right-wing Ontario government, the mine reopened non-union in May of 2000. The mine is located in **District 6**.

37. On November 30, **Sandra Thomas**, 57, a school bus driver at **Laidlaw Inc.; Laidlaw Transit Inc. d/b/a National School Bus Service** in **Boston, Massachusetts**, was a victim of road rage. She was struck and killed by a moving vehicle when she stopped her bus to exchange insurance information after a minor fender bender. Sister Thomas was a member of **Local Union 8751-04 in District 4**.

38. On December 26, **Charles Potter**, 60, a lift truck operator at **RHI AG (AUS); RHI Refractories America; Harbison-Walker Refractories** in **Vandalia, Missouri**, died of a heart attack while at work. Brother Potter was a member of **Local Union 853 in District 11**.