



UNITED STEELWORKERS OF AMERICA
HEALTH, SAFETY and ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
2001 FATALITY REPORT



This report is a summary of twenty-five fatalities reported to the USWA Health, Safety and Environment Department for January 1 through December 31, 2001.

- ◆ 20 USWA members died from traumatic injuries that occurred at work, along with two outside contractors and one non-union employee in USWA workplaces. Two workers died in a mine that is the subject of an active USWA organizing campaign.
- ◆ The causes of death were:

7	struck by	5	falls
5	getting caught in or between	1	violence
7	burns		
- ◆ The type of equipment, process or working area that contributed to these accidents was:

9	fixed machinery	5	hazardous substances
1	cranes	1	electrical equipment
3	other mobile equipment	1	walking and working surfaces
4	falls of ground in mining	1	firearms
- ◆ The distribution of these fatalities by industry was:

9	steel (excluding iron ore)	1	fabricated metals
2	foundries	1	industrial gasses
7	mining	1	utilities
1	aluminum	1	air conditioning equipment
2	rubber & plastics		
- ◆ The twenty-five fatalities included twenty-four men and one woman. Their ages ranged from 27 to 63; six were Canadian.

This report does not necessarily include all fatalities at USWA workplaces in 2001, 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 USWA staff representative or the local union.

USWA fatality reports rarely contain information on deaths from occupational disease. These deaths often occur after retirement; many are not recognized as having been 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 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.

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:

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(412) 562-2581; (412) 562-2584 (fax)
safety@uswa.org

1&2. On February 2, **Dan Kado**, 54, a millwright at **Bethlehem Steel Corp.** in **Burns Harbor, Indiana**, and **Mike Davis**, 41, a supervisor with an outside contractor, **Onyx Environmental Services**, were killed in a flash fire, while replacing a defective valve on a dead-end section of old coke gas piping. Brother Kado was a member of **Local Union 6787 in District 7**.

3. On February 8, **Charlie Byrd**, 49, an employee of the **Intermet Corporation Lynchburg Foundry** in **Lynchburg, Virginia**, was killed when he fell 11 feet, landing on his head. Brother Byrd was a member of **Local Union 8270 in District 8**.

4&5. On March 16, **Ronald L. Robinson**, 45, and **Norman L. Brown**, 53, maintenance men for **Ispat-Inland** in **East Chicago, Indiana**, were killed when they mistakenly cut into a high-pressure oxygen line while dismantling old equipment. The line did not appear on plant blueprints. Brothers Robinson and Brown were members of **Local Union 1010 in District 7**.

6. On March 19, **Jose Perez**, 42, an operating engineer for UNNICO, an outside contractor doing work for **Bridgestone/Firestone Inc.** in **Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**, was killed when a cheater bar struck him in the upper chest while he was trying to clear a jam on a rubber mill. He was a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers. Bargaining unit employees at Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. are represented by **Local Union 998L in District 12**.

7. On March 23, **Jerry L. Eichmand**, 46, a maintenance worker for the **Wisconsin Aluminium Foundry** in **Manitowoc, Wisconsin**, was crushed to death when a turntable pulled him into a pinch point. Brother Eichmand was a member of **Local Union 125A in District 2**.

8. On April 10, **Ioan Florin Carut**, 29, a slitter operator at **Kenwal Steel Corp.** in **Dearborn, Michigan**, was killed when struck in the head by a malfunctioning oscillator on the scrap winder. Brother Carut was a member of **Local Union 1358 in District 2**.

9. On May 6, **Brian Peacock**, 38, a mobile equipment operator at **Alcoa, Inc.** in **Warrick, Indiana**, was killed when his loader snagged a loose air line in a potroom aisle. The line stretched, then pulled a metal air pipe off the wall. The pipe struck Brother Peacock in the back of the head. He was a member of **Local Union 104 in District 7**.

10. On May 11, **Guy Jolin**, 63, a heavy-duty mechanic at **Port Colborne Quarries, Ltd.** in **Port Colborne, Ontario**, died from a head injury after falling on a concrete floor. Brother Jolin was a member of **Local Union 5857 in District 6**.

11. On May 25, **Kim Ginther**, 45, an employee at the **Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan's Allan Mine** in **Allan, Saskatchewan**, was killed by a rock fall. Brother Ginther was a member of **Local Union 7689 in District 3**.

12. On June 4, **Kevin Clark**, 40, an employee of **Ingersoll-Rand Co.; Hussman Corp.** in **Bridgeton, Missouri**, was fatally shot in his car when he arrived for work. Brother Clark was a member of **Local Union 9014 in District 11**.

13&14. On June 5, **Wayne Brenner**, 34, and **Perry N. Stack**, 47, miners at **Coeur D'Alene Mines Corporation's Galena Mine** in **Wallace, Idaho**, were killed in a rock burst more than 4,000 feet underground. Brother Brenner had just transferred from the shut-down Sunshine Mine, where he was a member of **Local Union 5087 in District 11**. Most bargaining unit employees at Galena are represented by **Local Union 5114 in District 11**. However, Perry Stack had not joined the union.

15. On June 23, **Gary Johnson**, 34, a raw edge cutter at **Mark IV Industries, Inc.; Armtek Corp.; Dayco Products Inc.** in **Springfield, Missouri**, sustained a fatal skull fracture while cutting a sleeve of rubber belts. His body was discovered between the machine's tail stock unit and a pit. Brother Johnson was a member of **Local Union 662L in District 11**.

16. On June 29, **Kevin Reinhold**, 46, an electric lineman for the **Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO)** in **Angola, Indiana**, sustained severe burns as a result of an electric contact on the job. He died 32 days later. Brother Reinhold was a member of **Local 12775 in District 7**.

17. On July 17, **Jim Duwa**, 54, a gas cylinder delivery person for **Air Products and Chemicals Inc.** in **Earth City, Missouri**, was burned to death at the **Fenster Iron and Metal Company**. The explosions occurred when a tank of liquid oxygen fell from a dolly as he moved it from his truck to a storage area. A spark started a fire that was fed by the oxygen from the tank, causing a series of four explosions. Brother Duwa was a member of **Local Union 6063 in District 7**.

18&19. Also on July 17, **Gerhard Bender**, 33, and **Gregory Wheeler**, 27, construction workers employed by **Supreme Steel of Edmonton, Alberta**, were killed when a manlift tipped over during construction at the **Diavik Diamond Mine**. The mine is located 300 km northeast of **Yellowknife, NWT, Canada**, and is the subject of an active USWA organizing campaign.

20. On July 31, **Jacques Robitaille**, 52, a miner at the **Breakwater Resources Nanisivik Mine on Baffin Island in the Territory of Nunavit, Canada**, was killed in a rock fall while scaling. Brother Robitaille was a member of **Local Union 9446 in District 3**.

21. On September 18, **Reynaldo Mendoza, Jr.**, 44, a pipefitter for **LTV Steel's Indiana Harbor Works in East Chicago, Indiana**, died from injuries sustained from a 20 feet fall into the water pit, while he was installing a small water pipe at the blast furnace. Brother Mendoza was a member of **Local Union 1011 in District 7**.

22. On October 17, **Dale Livingston**, an employee of **New Boston Coke Corp. in Portsmouth, Ohio**, was critically burned when he fell part way into a coke oven after stepping on a loose lid. He died from his injuries four days later. Brother Livingston was a member of **Local Union 2116 in District 1**.

23. On October 22, **Mark Poindexter**, 44, a hand welder for **Metaltec Inc., in Canton, Ohio**, was killed when he was hit in the face by a crane hook that had gotten caught on a piece of equipment. Brother Poindexter was a member of **Local Union 3446-01 in District 1**.

24. On December 6, **J.D. (Jeffery) Turner**, 57, a bar mill bundle packager operator for **Stelco in Hamilton, Ontario**, suffered fatal injuries when he was caught between bundle banding equipment and a vertical support while trying to remove bars from the machine. Brother Turner was a member of **Local Union 1005 in District 6**.

25. On December 17, **Wanda Smith**, 41, a press operator for **Bethlehem Steel in Coatesville, Pennsylvania**, was crushed to death when she was caught between the transfer car peel and plate on the press bed while performing the final flattening of plate products. Sister Smith was a member of **Local Union 1165 in District 10**.