



UNITED STEELWORKERS OF AMERICA
HEALTH, SAFETY and ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
2004 FATALITY REPORT



This report is a summary of fifty-four fatalities reported to the USWA Health, Safety and Environment Department for January 1 through December 31, 2004. USWA fatality reports include members, supervisors, contractors, members of other unions and non-union workers killed at USWA work sites or at sites with active USWA organizing campaigns. This report also includes a young child who apparently entered a plant at night, and was killed when he or his friends activated a forklift. One death at a non-USWA workplace is included, because the union and the employer have initiated a major safety program at other plants represented by the USWA.

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

On September 1, the Industrial, Wood and Allied Workers of Canada merged with the USWA, and became the IWA Council of the USWA. This report contains information on IWA fatalities, both before and after the merger.

USWA 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.

In 2004, 43 members of the USWA and the pre-merger IWA died from traumatic workplace injuries; 26 in the USA, 17 in Canada. Nine of the Canadian deaths involved members of the IWA. In addition, 6 members died in the workplace of what has been ruled to be natural causes, although occupational factors may have played a part. This report also contains information on 11 other fatal accidents: three were non-union workers in a USWA bargaining unit; one was a member of another union in a location partially represented by the USWA; one was a supervisor; one was a child who entered the plant at night; five occurred in non-USWA locations of interest.

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 us at:

USWA Health, Safety and Environment Department
5 Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, PA, 15222
(412) 562-2581; (412) 562-2584 (fax)
safety@uswa.org

1. January 4, **Andy Jarouz**, 55, an employee of **Stelco Inc., Hilton Works** in **Hamilton, Ontario**, was killed at the ladle repair station when he fell 5 metres off a scaffold and was crushed by a steel plate. He was a member of **Local Union 1005 in District 6**.
2. January 6, **Author Quitana**, 58, a control operator for **Grupo Mexico SA DE CV; Asarco Inc.; Hayden Smelter** in **Hayden, Arizona**, was electrocuted. He was a member of **Local Union 886 in District 12**.
3. January 13, **Mickey Hargrave**, 41, a heavy/highway construction worker for **No. Contracting Company (AJ Roman, owner)** in **Reading, Pennsylvania**, was killed when he fell 20 feet from a concrete bridge abutment. He was a member of **Local Union 15253 in District 10**.
4. January 31, a 51-year old member died of a heart attack in a logging camp in **Eclipse Narrows, British Columbia**. Due to restructuring he had been off work for some time, and had returned to a much more physically demanding job. He was a member of **Local Union 2171 of the IWA**. His name has been withheld by request.
5. March 5, **Norman Ogemah**, 46, was killed when he fell off the top of a logging truck at a load check area north of **Thunder Bay, Ontario**. He was a member of **Local Union 2693 of the IWA**.
6. March 8, **Robert Brogan**, 31, an employee of **Leggett & Platt Inc.** in **Mason, Ohio**, was crushed to death when a bedspring compactor failed. He was a member of **Local Union 156U-05 in District 1**.
7. March 19, **Alfonso Castilleja**, 56, became sick at work at the **Alcoa Rockdale Aluminum Smelter** in **Rockdale, Texas**. He was subsequently transported to the hospital, where he died two days later. His death is still under investigation, but is not believed to be occupational. He was a member of **Local Union 4895 in District 12**.
8. March 20, **Greg Neuwirth** was killed when the tree he felled hit a stump and kicked back, crushing him. The accident happened on **Nootka Island** in **British Columbia**. He was a member of **Local Union 1-85 of the IWA**.

9. Also on March 20, **Don Greenley** was killed when the log loader tire he was changing exploded in **Harrison Mills, British Columbia**. He was a member of **Local Union 1-3567 of the IWA**.
10. April 2, **Claude Dewar**, 40, a press technician at **Resco Canada, Inc.**, in **Laurentides, Quebec**, was crushed when a 1500 lb. refractory mold came loose from a press. He was a member of **Local Union 6213 in District 5**.
11. April 12, **Ronald Moyer, Sr.**, 58, an employee of **Exide Technologies Inc.; SLI Plant** in **Reading, Pennsylvania**, was severely burned by sulfuric acid. He died on May 20 from complications. He was a member of **Local Union 6996-23 in District 10**.
12. April 13, **Ed Theriot**, 50, an employee of **Bayou Steel Corp.** in **La Place, Louisiana**, was fatally injured when he was caught between a billet cooling bed and a billet transfer car. He died later that day in the hospital. He was a member of **Local Union 9121 in District 9**.
13. April 26, **Robert Brzezinski**, 43, an employee of **Algoma Steel, Inc.** in **Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario**, was killed when he fell from a charging platform into a pit at the #2 steel-making shop. He was a member of **Local Union 2724 in District 6**.
14. May 27, **Randy Komlance**, 29, an employee of **United Technologies Corp.; Carrier Corp., Sub.**, in **Indianapolis, Indiana**, was fatally injured when a forklift with defective brakes backed into a tow cart he had been driving. He was a member of **Local Union 1999-07 in District 7**.
15. June 4, **Tony R. Parker**, 56, an employee of **LNM Group; Ispat International NV; Ispat Inland Inc. (Indiana Harbor Works)** in **East Chicago, Indiana**, was killed when he fell 18 feet from work platform at the hot metal transfer station. He was a member of **Local Union 1010 in District 7**.
16. June 18, **Matt VonEitzen**, 31, an employee of **Fremont Plastic Products Inc.** in **Fremont, Ohio**, was electrocuted while changing a plastic injection head. He was a member of **Local Union 1915-13 in District 1**.
17. June 28, **Edward Hall**, 52, a hot metal operator for **International Steel Group Inc.** in **East Chicago, Indiana**, was killed by a torpedo car at the hot metal transfer station. He was a member of **Local Union 1011 in District 7**.
18. July 11, **Steve Brunet**, 35, was crushed while making adjustments to equipment at **Columbia Forest Products** in **Hearst, Ontario**. He was a member of **Local Union 2995 of the IWA**.
19. July 21, **David Tarbuck**, 47, a maintenance tech for **United States Steel Keewatin Taconite** in **Keewatin, Minnesota**, was found dead at work. He is presumed to have died of natural causes, but the death is still under investigation. He was a member of **Local Union 2660-02 in District 11**.

20. July 28, **Leonard Dzezinski**, 58, a mobile equipment operator for **Allegheny Technologies, Inc.; Allegheny Ludum Steel Division** in **Brackenridge, Pennsylvania**, was found dead before he had started his shift. He died from complications of lung cancer; it is not yet known whether workplace exposures contributed to the disease. He was a member of **Local Union 1196-01 in District 10**.
21. July 29, **John Horvath**, 52, an employee of **Hempt Brothers Construction** in **Camp Hill, Pennsylvania**, was killed when a semi was speeding through the construction zone where he was flagging, swerved to miss a car, and hit him instead. Brother Horvath was a member of **Local Union 15253 in District 10**.
22. July 30, **Keith Dickinson**, 26, a driver for **CC Canada** in **Windsor, Ontario**, was killed when his truck jackknifed on the highway. He was a member of **Local Union 1976-19 in District 6**.
23. August 4, **Charles Short**, 23, a non-union employee for the **Northrop Grumman Newport News Shipyard** in **Newport News, Virginia**, was working on an air conditioning unit and was electrocuted. **Bargaining unit employees** at Newport News are represented by **Local Union 8888 in District 8**.
24. August 10, **Martin Goudreault**, 29, a mechanic at the **Doyen Mine** in **Rouyn, Quebec**, was killed when a scissors lift collapsed while he was repairing it. He was a member of **Local Union 9291 in District 5**.
25. August 24, **Mike Carney**, 50, an employee of **Allegheny Technologies, Inc.; Allegheny Ludum Steel** in **Vandegrift, Pennsylvania**, suffered fatal injuries when items from an overhead crane fell and struck him. He was a member of **Local Union 1138 in District 10**.
26. August 31, **Lawrence Cochran**, 43, an electrician at **Michelin N.A.; Uniroyal Goodrich Tire Mfg.**, in **Opelika, Alabama**, suffered a high-voltage shock while inspecting an electrical box and died four days later. He was a member of **Local Union 753L in District 9**.
27. September 5, **Roman Gomez**, 21, an employee of **St. Louis Auto Shredding Co.** in **E. St. Louis, Illinois**, was crushed to death by a railroad tank car being cut up for scrap. He was a member of **Local Union 4294-01 in District 7**.
28. September 19, **Andrew Kenmuir**, 30, a welder for **National Steel Car Ltd.** in **Hamilton, Ontario**, was struck and killed by a hydraulic jack that had failed while he was working inside a gondola rail car. He was a member of **Local Union 7135 in District 6**.
29. September 21, **Herbert Tollman**, 40, a crane repairman at **US Steel Corp.** in **Gary, Indiana**, was killed when a crane jack and cribbing dislodged and struck him in the head. He was a member of **Local Union 1066 in District 7**.
30. September 23, **Jeffrey Jackson**, 41, an employee of **Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, Inc.; Mueller Company** in **Chattanooga, Tennessee**, was struck by a rail car. He was a member of **Local Union 3115 in District 9**.

31. Also on September 23, **Bertram (Roy) Marchand**, 58, an employee of **Sydney Steel** in **Sydney, Nova Scotia**, died after being hit in the head by a steel beam during dismantling operations at the former Sydney Steel plant. Zoom Developers of India was the contractor dismantling key parts of the plant, which has been purchased for shipment overseas. He was a member of **Local Union 1064 in District 6**.

32. September 29, **Carl McAdams**, 61, an employee of **Tyson Foods, Inc.** in **Corydon, Indiana**, was killed when the truck he was driving left the road. The preliminary report of the coroner attributes the accident to a heart attack. He was a member of **Local Union 1693-20 in District 8**.

33. October 3, **David Broom**, 11, was killed at **Tyco International; Allied Tube and Conduit** in **Harvey, Illinois**. He and several friends allegedly broke into the plant at night and apparently activated a forklift, which struck David. **Bargaining unit employees** are represented by **Local Union 9777 in District 7**.

34. October 4, **Ronald Powers**, 54, an employee of **Honeywell International, Inc.; Nylon Products & Services (North Section)** in **Hopewell, Virginia**, received severe head injuries from a steel tank collar that separated from the tank during an explosion and flew 60 feet out and down to where he was working. He died two days later. He was a member of **Local Union 12103 in District 8**.

35. Also on October 4, **Bhupinder Dhugga**, 42, an employee of **Interfor Hammond Cedar Mill** in **Maple Ridge, British Columbia**, was killed when he was caught in a tailspool of a conveyor belt. He was a member of **IWA Council Local Union 1-3567 in District 3**.

36. October 7, **David Blogg**, 36, a delivery truck driver for **Boise Cascade Corp.; Grand & Toy**, was critically injured in a motor vehicle accident near **Mississauga, Ontario**. He died November 1. He was a member of **Local Union 9197 in District 6**.

37 & 38. October 13, **Gary Porter** and **Oscar Mance**, 61, were killed by an explosion in a storage bunker at the **Milan Army Ammunition Plant** in **Milan, Tennessee**. They were employed by **American Ordinance**, the contractor that runs the plant. They were members of **Local Union 3006 in District 9**.

39. October 16, **Clark Weber**, 53, was killed when he was caught in machinery at **Glenshaw Glass** in **Shaler Township, Pennsylvania**. He was a member of the **Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastics and Allied Workers International Union**, which represents most workers in the plant. A smaller number are represented by **USWA Local Union 21 in District 10**.

40. October 27, **Doyme D. Sansing**, 43, an equipment operator at **Walter Industries; United States Pipe and Foundry** in **Bessemer, Alabama**, was struck and killed by a cable sling that came loose from an overhead crane. He was a member of **Local Union 2140 in District 9**.

41. November 5, **Garth Moore**, 31, a logger working for **Howe Sound Heli-Riggers** near **Pitt Lake, British Columbia**, was killed when he was struck by a log and thrown into a rock bluff. He was a member of **IWA Council Local Union 1-2171 in District 3**.
42. November 17, **Lyle Hewer**, 55, a worker at the **Weyerhaeuser Sawmill** in **New Westminster, British Columbia**, was killed while cleaning out a storage silo. He was a member of **IWA Council Local Union 1-3567 in District 3**.
43. December 4, **Bruce G. Johnson**, 63, a wheelsman aboard the **M/V Burns Harbor** in **Lake Michigan** and an employee of the **International Steel Group, Inc.**, was found dead in his quarters, apparently of natural causes. He was a member of **Local Union 5000 in District 1**.
44. December 6, **Glen Mair**, was killed when he was trapped in logging machinery that fell through the ice in a frozen bog located in **Cormorant, Manitoba**. He was a member of **IWA Council Local Union 1-324 in District 3**.
45. December 9, **Ron Benavienes**, 46, a non-union contractor working for **BPU Reynolds; Sherwin Alumina Company** in **Gregory, Texas**, was killed while hydroblasting a lime surge tank and became engulfed when the lime broke loose. **Bargaining unit employees** are represented by **Local Union 235A in District 12**.
46. December 10, **William Crosby**, 52, a worker at the **Citation Foundry** in **Browtown, Wisconsin**, died, apparently as a result of a fall suffered sometime in October. He was a member of **Local Union 3245 in District 2**. The accident was not initially believed to be serious, and was not reported to the International Union or the Emergency Response Team. It is still under investigation.
47. December 21, **Karl D. Richards**, 36, a management employee acting as an operating coordinator at **US Steel Corp.** in **Gary, Indiana**, was killed by carbon monoxide while adjusting a water valve above the bustle pipe on the #13 blast furnace. **Bargaining unit employees** in the ironmaking area at Gary are represented by **Local Union 1014 in District 7**. This was the second fatal accident at the Gary Works in 2004.
48. December 28, **Thomas Peek**, 64, a worker at **Waubash Alloys** in **Dickson, Tennessee**, was killed by an explosion in a molten metal pot he was skimming. He was a member of **Local Union 244 in District 9**.
49. Also on December 28, **Arthur Griffiths**, 42, an employee of the contracting company **A3M**, was killed when some scale and slag material he was removing with a vacuum truck collapsed. The incident occurred at the **Bayou Steel Corporation** facility in **LaPlace, Louisiana**. **Bargaining unit employees** are represented by **Local Union 9121 in District 9**.

FATALITIES OF INTEREST IN NON-USWA LOCATIONS

1&2. February 3, **Clement Labonte**, 37, a blaster at the **Agnico-Eagle Laronde Mine** in **Val-d'Or, Quebec**, was killed when a charge exploded prematurely. On March 28, **Daniel Laplante**, 43, was killed when a wire-mesh screen, used to prevent falling rock, came lose while he was scaling. This non-union mine has been the target of several **District 5** organizing drives.

3. February 19, **Timothy J. Blow**, 45, a maintenance worker at **McWane Inc.; Kennedy Valve Plant** in **Elmira, New York**, was crushed to death when he became caught in a conveyor belt in a new sand-collection system. This plant is represented by the IAM and UE unions and is located in **District 4**. The USWA represents workers in seven other locations.

4&5. December 5, **Gary Blackham**, 23, and **Michael J. Squire**, 31, were crushed by the lid of a shovel bucket they were repairing at the **Robinson Mine** in **Ely, Nevada**, owned by Quadra Mining Limited. The men were employees of Washington Group International, which was contracted to work the mine. This non-union operation recovers gold and copper from the former **Kennecott** workings in Ely. Kennecott miners were represented by the USWA in what is now **District 12**.