



2009 FATALITY REPORT

This report is a summary of 40 fatalities in USW workplaces between January 1 and December 31, 2009 as reported to the USW Health, Safety and Environment Department. Two additional fatalities of interest at other workplaces are also included.

The 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. The reporting is probably better for members than for supervisors, contractors and other non-members.

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, contractor, member of another union, or non-union worker is killed at your facility, or dies of an occupational disease, please notify us as soon as possible. In the United States, that should be done through the USW's 24-hr Emergency Response Hotline, at **1-866-526-3480**. In Canada, please notify both your district director and the Canadian National Office.

ANALYSIS

Three of the 38 deaths listed below are not included in the analysis that follows. One was ruled a suicide; two were from heart attacks not believed to have been caused by events at work immediately preceding the death.

Twenty-seven of the remaining 35 victims were USW members. Seven were contractors. Two were supervisors. Three were Canadian; three were women. The youngest was 23; the oldest, 68.

The distribution by industry is: steel – 6; paper – 6; forestry – 4; transport – 3; miscellaneous manufacturing – 4; public employees – 3; construction – 3; oil – 2; aluminum, nonferrous mining, metals and chemical – 1 each.

By this date last year, 47 people had died from occupational injuries at USW-represented workplaces, compared to 33 this year. Thirty of those 2008 victims were USW members, compared to 25 this year.

Some of these accidents are still under investigation, so this report should be considered preliminary.

1. January 4, **Andrew Hunter**, 46, employed by the **City of Galveston, Texas**, was killed in the city's wastewater treatment plant. He was apparently caught in a conveyor system and dragged into a pit. He was a member of **Local Union 13-1 in District 13**.
2. January 5, **Billy Frank Halford**, 59, an employee of **Chapman Forest Products in Chapman, Alabama**, was struck and killed by a Front-end Loader. He was a member of **Local Union 1406 in District 9**.
3. January 13, **Jose Galindo**, 68, an employee of **Highway Steel, Inc., in Chicago Heights, Illinois**, died from a heart attack while waiting to punch out at the clock house. This death is not considered occupational. He was a member of **Local Union 7234 in District 7**.
4. January 15, **John Grobsmith**, 58, an employee of **Crucible Steel in Syracuse, New York**, died when he fell into a shaft while attempting to connect a water line. He was a member of **Local Union 1277 in District 4**.
5. January 31, **Rodney R. Ballesteros**, 40, a contractor employed by **HydroChem Industrial Services** was fatally injured at **Sherwin Alumina Company in Gregory, Texas**. He was cleaning hydrate that had built up inside a 30-inch pipe in the plant. The victim was using a high pressure water hose when the unrestrained hose end and attachment blew out of the pipe. He was struck by 10,000 PSI. Bargaining unit employees are represented by **Local Union 234-A in District 13**.
6. February 2, **William Drake**, 65, an employee of **International Paper in Augusta, Georgia**, was run over and crushed by a tracked A-frame crane. He was a member of **Local Union 983 in District 9**.
7. February 7, **Carlett McClanahan, Jr.**, 28, an employee of **Felman Production in New Haven, West Virginia**, was killed when his car left the road on his way home from work. The police report states that he fell asleep at the wheel. He had worked 90 hours that week, including the night shift just before he died. He was a member of **Local Union 5171 in District 8**.
- 8-9. February 12, two USW flight attendants, **Donna Prisco** 52 and **Matilda Quintero**, 57, were among the fifty people killed in the crash of Continental Connection Flight 3407. The aircraft was en route from Newark to Buffalo, and went down several miles short of the Buffalo airport. The flight was operated by **Colgan Air Inc.**, which is a subsidiary of **Pinnacle Airlines**. Colgan flight attendants are represented by **Local Union 9535 in District 9**.
10. March 8, **Patric Whittwer**, 24, a contractor employed by **McKinney Drilling**, based in **Fort Worth, Texas**, was fatally injured while working at **Total Petrochemicals USA Inc. in Jefferson County, Texas**, when material fell from a crane, striking him in the head. Bargaining unit employees are represented by **Local Union 13-423 in District 13**.
11. April 3, **Ryan Huxley**, 29, an employee of **Valley Brook Nurseries** located in **Abbotsford, British Columbia**, was fatally injured when he lost control of the ATV he was

operating and collided with the side of a parked semi-trailer. He was a member of the newly merged **Local Union 2009-32**, formerly **1-03567** in **District 3**.

12. April 11, **Nelson Tan**, 50, an employee of **ExxonMobil** in **Carson, California**, was seriously burned over 80% of his body when he was hit with hot water released during a coker deheading operation. He died on April 26. He was a member of **Local Union 675** in **District 12**.

13. April 14, **Richard Ferguson**, 55, an employee of the **City of Shreveport** in **Shreveport, Louisiana**, was emptying garbage into a parked garbage truck and was struck and killed by a motor vehicle whose driver fell asleep at the wheel. He was a member of **Local Union 13-00025** in **District 13**.

14. April 29, **Bill Maddock**, 54, a supervisor employed by **Shell Martinez Refinery** located in **Martinez, California**, was found floating in a water collection tank. Cause of death unknown. Bargaining unit employees are represented by **Local Union 5** in **District 13**.

15. May 4, **Rick Cawston**, 55, an employee of **Olympic Logging** was fatally injured while working on **Louise Island (Queen Charlotte Islands)** in **British Columbia**. He was off-loading a log loader, which slid off the ramp and tipped over on its side, trapping him in approximately 8 feet of water. He was a member of **Local Union 1-01937** in **District 3**.

16. May 8, **Gary Godfrey**, 60, an employee of **DTEE/EES Coke Battery, LLC**, in **River Rouge, Michigan**, was fatally injured while attempting to replace a hydraulic cylinder when the chain jack (lever chain hoist) failed. He was a member of **Local Union 9529** in **District 2**.

17. May 13, **Charlie Knapp**, 60, an employee of **Loren Cook Company** in **Springfield, Missouri**, was killed instantly when a sheet of steel in the spin shop flew off and struck him. He was a member of **Local Union 15485** in **District 11**.

18. May 22, **John Larmond**, 59, was fatally injured while felling timber near **Chamiss Bay** on the west coast of **Vancouver Island in British Columbia, Canada**. He was a member of **Local 1-00085** in **District 3**.

19. May 29, a truck driver of an outside carrier was fatally injured while making a delivery to **Good Humor-Breyers Ice Cream** plant located in **Hagerstown, Maryland**. He struck his head during a fall while checking a load on top of the truck's tank. Bargaining unit employees are represented by **Local Union 9386** in **District 8**.

20. June 3, **Burrell Oughton**, 59, a construction worker for **Brick Wall Corp.**, located in **Forked River, New Jersey**, was fatally injured while working when he was struck by a hit-and-run driver. He died from his injuries 16 days later. He was a Shop Steward for **Local Union 10-00286-08** in **District 10**.

21. June 6, **Alexander Santoyo**, 54, a maintenance foreman at **US Steel** located in **Gary, Indiana**, died after falling 90 feet from a crane at the No. 2 Q-BOP. Bargaining unit employees are represented by **Local Union 1014** in **District 7**.
22. June 13, **Stanley Jones**, 45, an employee of **Evans Dedicated Transportation Company**, located in **Long Beach, California**, was fatally injured when the truck he was driving, carrying 8000 gallons of gasoline, overturned on the freeway and burst into flames. He was a member of **USW Local 1945** in **district 12**.
23. June 24, **Herbert (Herb) Derese**, 58, an employee of **Huntsman Petrochemical Corp.**, in **Port Neches, Texas**, died from a heart attack while at work. His death is not considered occupational. He was a member of **Local Union 00228-01** in **District 13**.
24. June 30, **Otis Collier**, 41 an employee of **MeadWestvaco** in **Evadale, Texas**, burned over 65% of his body in a flash fire. He died 3 days later. He was a member of **Local Union 801** in **District 13**.
25. July 15, **Mike Karkowski** an employee of **Commercial Vehicle Group Inc.** in **Shadyside, Ohio**, was crushed in a trash compactor. He was a member of **Local Union 9419** in **District 1**.
26. July 15, **William Wilson**, 39, a contractor employed by **Crane Pro Services**, based in **Springfield, Ohio**, was fatally injured while working at **Appleton Paper** in **West Carrollton, Ohio**, when a spreader bar fell off a forklift and crushed him. He died shortly after at the hospital. Bargaining unit employees are represented by **Local Union 266** in **District 1**.
27. July 17, a contractor was fatality injured while working at **Smurfit Stone** in **Pasadena, Texas**, when he fell approximately 30ft from a roof. Bargaining unit employees are represented by **Local Union 13-1** in **District 13**.
28. July 26, **Angela Smith**, 37, an employee of **Arcelor Mittal** in **Indiana Harbor, Indiana**, was fatally injured when she was hit by a gantry crane. She was a member of **Local Union 1010** in **District 7**.
29. July 29, **Phillip Cason Hosch**, 29, an employee of **Mueller Copper Tube**, in **Fulton, Mississippi**, was fatally injured in an explosion and fire. He was a member of **Local Union 8420** in **District 9**.
30. August 14, **Michael Grinder**, 40, a contractor employed by **Eastern Industrial Services, Inc.**, was fatally injured while working at **ArcelorMittal LLC** in **Monessen, Pennsylvania** when a large valve fell on him. **Bargaining unit employees** are represented by **Local Union 3403** in **District 10**.

31. August 28, **Peter Uon**, 23, an employee of **Mid-Atlantic Packaging Co. Inc.**, in **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**, was fatally injured when his ponytail was caught in the glue machine breaking his neck. He was a member of **Local Union 375** in **District 10**.
32. September 3, **Nicholas Revetta**, 32, a contractor employed by **Power Pipe**, was fatally injured by an explosion while performing maintenance in a gas cleaning area of **US Steel Clairton Works** in **Clairton, Pennsylvania**. **Bargaining unit employees** are represented by **Local Union 1557** in **District 10**.
33. September 15, **Walter Lowe**, 26, an employee of **Quincy Joist** in **Quincy, Florida**, was fatally injured when he was pinned by 2 metal joists that fell while he was attempting to chain them to a trailer to be moved from the fabricating shop to storage. He was a member of **Local Union 174** in **District 9**.
34. September 27, **Robert Stewart**, 28, an employee of **Asarco** in **Kearny, Arizona**, was fatally injured when the haul truck he was driving rolled over. He was a member of **Local Union 5252** in **District 12**.
35. October 14, **Dennis Woods**, 50, an employee of **Material Sciences** in **Elk Grove Village, Illinois**, was fatally injured when he was crushed by a roll of aluminum. He was a member of **Local Union 7773-05** in **District 7**.
36. October 28, **Peter Lesmeister**, 55, an employee of **Illinois Cement Company** in **LaSalle, Illinois**, was fatally injured when he fell 40 feet. He was a member of **Local Union 675** in **District 7**.
37. October 30, **Brian “Paw” E. Hair**, 50, an employee of **Robinson Industry** in **Coleman, Michigan**, was fatally injured when he fell as he stood up to get off his fork truck landing on his head. He was a member of **Local Union 15-100** in **District 2**.
38. November 5, **Adrian John Flores**, 59, a contractor employed by **International Tanker Services**, was fatally injured when he fell 50 feet while working at **Husky Energy Refinery** in **Lima, Ohio**. **Bargaining unit employees** are represented by **Local Union 624** in **District 1**.
39. November 17, **Will Spaulding**, 51, an employee of **International Paper** located in **Riegelwood, North Carolina**, was fatally injured when a truck backed over him crushing his pelvis and causing additional injuries. He died from his injuries 2/4/10. He was a member of **Local Union 9-738** in **District 9**.
40. December 1, **Chris Stansbury**, 29, an employee of **Infra Source** located in **Independence, Michigan**, was fatally injured when he was struck by a car while working on the road. He was a member of **Local Union 11-348** in **District 11**.

FATALITIES OF INTEREST IN NON-USW REPRESENTED WORKPLACES

These are included because the company employs a large number of USW members at other locations, or because we have attempted to organize the location in the past. However the list is not inclusive; we have not attempted to collect all such fatalities.

41. August 5, **Shay Fanase Jr.**, 21, an employee of **Steel Dynamics** located in **Jeffersonville, Indiana**, was fatally injured when he was overcome by nitrogen while working in a confined space in the plant. He died three days later.

42. September 9, **Toby Lynn Gardner**, 35, a contractor employed by **Zachary Construction**, was fatally injured while performing maintenance at **International Paper** in **Mansfield, Louisiana**, when he fell from a catwalk into a tank of hot recycled water. The USW represents International Paper workers in other facilities.

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