



# 2011 FATALITY REPORT

January 1<sup>st</sup> – December 7, 2011

This report is a summary of 39 fatalities in USW workplaces between January 1 and December 12, 2011 as reported to the USW Health, Safety and Environment Department.

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 likely 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 (3) of the thirty-nine (39) fatalities in USW workplaces is not included in the analysis that follows. Two heart attacks not believed to have been caused by events at work immediately preceding the death. The other was believed to have been a suicide.

Twenty-nine (29) of the remaining thirty-six (36) victims were members of the USW. Of the other seven, six (6) victims were contractors and one (1) was a supervisor.

Distribution by industry: 6 steel; 2 coke plants; 3 paper; 1 electrical equipment manufacturing; 3 chemical; 3 foundries; 6 nonferrous; 1 transportation; 3 woods; 1 miscellaneous; 1 glass; 1 nonmetallic; 2 oil; 1 private sector; 1 rubber; 1 mining equipment manufacturing.

Distribution by district: District 1 – member 2, other 1; District 2 – members 6; District 3 – members 5; District 4 – member 1; District 5 – member 1; District 6 – members 3; District 7 – other 2; District 8 – member 1, other 1; District 9 – member 2; District 10 – member 1, other 1; District 11 – member 2; District 12 – members 4, others 1; District 13 – members 2.

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

1. February 1, **Samuel Moyers**, 33, an employee of **ArcelorMittal Bayou Steel Plant** located in **Laplace, Louisiana**, was fatally injured resultant from burns over 90% of his body. He was a member of **Local Union 9121 in District 13**.

2. February 10, **Angel Linares**, 51, an employee of **Franklin Empire Company** located in **Montreal, Quebec**, was fatally injured after becoming wedged between a vehicle and the unloading platform while attempting to unload a truck. He was a member of **Local Union 7625** in **District 5**.
3. February 11, **Bruce C. Karau**, 49, an employee of **HB Performance Systems** located in **Mequon, Wisconsin**, was fatally injured when hit his head on a machine. He died due to his injuries 2/17/11. He was member of **Local Union 8149** in **District 2**.
4. February 12, **Paul Benes**, 39, an employee of **Erie Coke Corporation** located in **Erie, Pennsylvania**, was fatally injured when he was struck by a pay loader. He was a member of **Local Union 3199-03** in **District 10**.
5. February 16, **Arthur Smith**, 57, a contractor employed by **SES Inc.**, was fatally injured while working at **Republic Steel** located in **Canton, Ohio**, when he was crushed between a door on a vacuum truck. Bargaining unit employees are represented by **Local Union 1200** in **District 1**.
6. March 8, **Charles Landers**, 43, a contractor employed by **Crane One Services**, was fatally injured while working at **Allegheny Ludlum** located in **New Castle, Indiana** when his elevated scissor lift was pulled over sideways by an unexpected movement of the bridge crane. Bargaining unit employees are represented by **Local Union 8535** in **District 7**.
7. March 27, **Joseph White**, 48, an employee of **ABC Coke** located in **Tarrant, Alabama**, was fatally injured when he was crushed by a piece of equipment. He was a member of **Local Union 12136** in **District 9**.
8. March 31, **Forrest Brent Finley**, 61, a contractor employed by **Dixon Electrical Systems & Contracting** was fatally injured while working at **AK Steel Coke Plant** located in **Ashland, Kentucky**, when he opened a electrical panel creating an arc flash which caused an explosion. Bargaining unit employees are represented by **Local Union 523** in **District 8**.
- 9-10. April 14, **David Roy**, 47, an employee of **Dow Chemical** located in **Midland, Michigan**, was fatally injured when he fell from a fixed ladder. Later that day, **Dannie Garver**, 42, became the second fatality when he was involved in an automobile accident following work. Brother Garver had spent time since Brother Roy's fall leading the local union's accident investigation team. On his way home from work he stopped to meet with a co-worker who had witnessed the earlier fall, the automobile accident occurred as he left his co-worker's home. Both victims were members of **Local Union 12075** in **District 2**.
11. April 15, **Larry Marek**, 53, a miner at **Hecla Mining Company** in **Mullan, Idaho**, was fatally injured in a fall of ground incident at the **Lucky Friday** silver mine. Search and rescue responders located and recovered his body from the mine on April 24, 2011. He was a member of **Local Union 5114** in **District 12**.

12. April 22, **Shawn Dixon**, 31, an employee of **Canton Drop Forge** in **Perry Township, Ohio**, was fatally injured when the machine he was operating malfunctioned. He was either pinned by or thrown into the equipment. He was a member of **Local Union 3446** in **District 1**.
13. April 23, **William Escobar**, an employee of **All American Recycling** in **Jersey City, New Jersey**, was fatally injured when he was backed into by a forklift and pushed into a pile of scrap metal. A piece of the metal punctured one of his kidneys. He died two days later on **4-25-11**. He was member of **Local Union 8228-93** in **District 4**.
14. April 28, **Robert Stubblefield**, an employee of **Republic Special Metals** in **Canton, Ohio**, was fatally injured. He was a member of **Local Union 1124-3** in **District 1**.
15. May 6, **Luke Stoner**, 30, an employee of **Mahatta River** near Port Alice, B. C., was fatally injured while falling timber. He was a member of **Local Union 1-1937** in **District 3**.
16. May 23, **Jeff Lesidic**, a contractor was fatality injured while working at **Monongahela Iron** in **Monongahela, Pennsylvania**, as he sat in his truck at a railroad crossing of plant entrance. Bargaining unit employees are represented by **Local Union 3403** in **District 10**.
17. May 26, **Stacy Hadikin**, 42, an employee of **Pacific Logging** located in **Port Alberni, BC**, was fatality injured while working at **Western Forest Products** when the tree (blowdown attached to the root pad) he was bucking rolled on him. He was a member of **Local Union 1-85** in **District 3**.
18. June 8, **Joseph Christopher Jolley**, 50, an employee of **Libbey Glass** located in **Shreveport, Louisiana**, was fatality injured while working in the warehouse where temperatures were 102 – 112 degrees. He complained of heat stress and was taken to the cafeteria where he collapsed. He later died in route to the hospital. He was a member of **Local Union 711T** in **District 13**.
- 19-20. June 8, **Jason R. Chenier**, 35 and **Jordan Fram** 26, employees of **Vale Stobie Mine** located in **Sudbury, Ontario**, was fatally injured when an unscheduled run of “muck” came down an ore pass and overtook them on the 3000ft level. They were member of **Local Union 6500** in **District 6**.
21. June 16, **Clint Walker**, 35, was an employee of **Cargill Inc., Mosaic** located in **Colonsay, Saskatoon**, was fatally injured in a vehicle rollover which happened underground at the mine. He was a member of **Local Union 7656** in **District 3**.
22. June 21, **Robert Dave Taylor**, 54, a contractor was fatally injured while working at **Chevron Oil** located in **Taft, California**, when he was suddenly swallowed by a sinkhole in the oil fields, possibly caused by the injected steam. Bargaining unit employees are represented by **Local Union 12-00006** in **District 12**.

23. June 22, **William Wise**, 55, an employee of **BP Oil** located in **Carson, California**, was fatally injured when he was crushed between a tank car and a rail stop. He was a member of **Local Union 675** in **District 12**.
24. July 14, **Rick McColl**, 53, an employee of **CN Rail** located in **Toronto, Ontario**, was fatally injured while performing maintenance on the tracks, when he was suddenly struck by an on-coming passenger train. He was a member of **Local Union 2004** in **District 6**.
25. July 19, **Darryl Davis**, 45, an employee of **Goodyear Tire** located in **Topeka, Kansas**, was fatally injured when he collapsed at the site, heat stress may have been a contributing factor. He was member of **Local Union 307L** in **District 11**.
26. August 15, **Robert Robinson**, 47, an employee of **New Page** located in **Wickliffe, Kentucky**, was fatality injured while working on a tank that contained black liquor and sustained burns on his body that resulted in his death. He was member of **Local Union 680** in **District 8**.
27. September 8, **Jeff Smith**, 30, an employee of **Caterpillar Global** located in **South Milwaukee, Wisconsin**, was fatally while in the process of turning a Crawler and while the crawler was in an angled position he was reaching underneath it to release a chain hook off a lifting lug the crawler slipped and rolled a little. A crawler is 72,000 lbs. The impact killed him. He was a member of **Local Union 1343** in **District 2**.
28. October 5, **Lew Sparino**, an employee of **Republic Steel** located in **Canton, OH**, died while sweeping out a ladle. He collapsed and emergency personal were unable to revive him. The cause of death is unknown at this time. He was a member of **Local Union 1200** in **District 1**.
29. October 7, **Greg Leason**, 51, an employee of **Vale T-3 Mine** located in **Thompson, Manitoba**, was fatally injured due to injuries he sustained while operating a scoopt tram when it fell into an open area. He was a member of **Local Union 6166** in **District 3**.
30. October 29, **Gabe Rocha**, 53, a foreman at **ArcelorMittal** located in **Burns Harbor, IN**, was serious injured when a high-pressure steam hose ruptured at the basic oxygen furnace, giving him third degree burns over 55% of his body. He died 11/15/11 from his injuries. Bargaining unit employees are represented by **Local Union 6787** in **District 7**.
31. October 31, an employee of **US Steel** located in **Granite City, IL** was fatally injured while at work details of his death are unknown at this time; it is believed to have been a suicide. He was a member of **Local Union 50** in **District 7**.
32. October 31, **T.J. Berthelot**, 27, an employee of **Terrace Bay Pulp, Inc.**, located in **Terrace Bay, Ontario**, was fatally injured while acting as "fire watch or vessel entry" watch person as two contractors were welding on the outside of a large 12 metre high blow tank (which is used to process pulp) - Brother Berthelot was guarding the 'man hole' entrance area when a massive explosion took

place within the tank - the force of the explosion came out from the open hole area killing Brother Berthelot instantly. He was a member of **Local Union 665** in **District 6**.

33. November 1, **Dale Madison** an employee of **Stillwater Mine** located in **Central Montana** was fatality injured while driving a piece of equipment with an enclosed cab when it went into a ditch and a rock struck him in the neck. He was a member of **Local Union 11-00001** in **District 11**.

34. November 4, **AD Barns**, 55, an employee of **Sun Chemical** located in **Muskegon, Michigan** was seriously injured when a bag of pigment (wet 1,200 lbs.) fell from the second floor onto him severing his spinal cord and brain stem. He died 11/7/11 from his injuries. He was a member of **Local Union 6987** in **District 2**.

35. November 8, **Allen Bangart**, 64, an employee of **Brillion Iron Works** located in **Brillion, Wisconsin**, was fatality injured when he was pinned between the hydraulically powered mold takeoff arms and framework of the BMD machine. He was a member of **Local Union 2-475** in **District 2**.

36. November 14, **Michael McInnes**, 24, an employee of **Hollbrook Dyson Logging Ltd** located in **Woss, British Columbia**, was fatality injured when he was stuck by a vehicle in the marshalling yard. He was a member of **Local Union 1-1937** in **District 3**.

37. November 17, **Brandon Gray**, 26, a contractor employed by **Cementation Company** located in **Salt Lake City, Utah**, was seriously injured while working at **Lucky Friday** located in **Mullan, Idaho**, when he was sucked down muck. He died 11/20/11 from his injuries. Bargaining unit employees are represented by **Local Union 5114** in **District 12**.

38. November 19, **Glenn Morrison**, 56, an employee of **Allegheny Technology Inc.**, located in **Albany, Oregon**, had a heart attack while driving a Powered Industrial Truck. He was a member of **Local Union 6163** in **District 12**.

39. December 2, **Freddy Lewis**, 59, an employee of **DMI** located in **Columbus, Georgia**, was fatality injured when he was struck by a tractor trailer on company property. He was a member of **Local Union 2948-02** in **District 9**.

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