

## **Logging-Related Fatalities, Washington State, 1998-1999 Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program (Reported as of January 4, 2000)**

The following report summarizes logging-related fatalities covered by the Washington State Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program between 1998 and 1999. In 1998, there were 6 logging-related fatalities and in 1999 there were 16 (Table 1). Most of the incidents have been in logging operations, but in 1999 there were numerous log-hauling fatalities.

In Table 2 these fatalities are broken down by incident type and operation. In the heli-logging operations, two of the three incidents were directly related to the fact that a helicopter was being used. In the log-hauling operations, six of the seven victims were actively hauling logs at the time of the incident. In the logging operations, only five out of the eleven victims were struck by objects or caught in something. The three machinery-related incidents involved either skidders or log loaders. The incident designated as an "other" type of operation was an equipment maintenance activity.

Because of the diversity of logging operations, it is difficult to identify them in the data. The data presented here do not match up with data tabulated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) Program. The incidents presented in this report were identified using a combination of SIC codes (2411=Logging), occupation codes (496=Logger) or the text "logging", which would include logging trucks. Table 3 highlights this issue. Only 13 out of the 22 incidents would have been found if only the logging SIC code was relied upon, and less than half of the log hauling incidents would have been identified.

To better understand the trends over time, the CFOI and FACE fatalities in SIC 2411 (logging) were plotted (Figure 1). It can be seen that there are generally between 6 and 10 logging fatalities per year, as defined by SIC code. There appears to be a decrease in fatalities from 1995 to 1998, with a subsequent rise. Because the numbers are so small, they tend to be unstable. Only future years' of data collection will allow us to determine whether the increase in 1999 is normal variability or the beginning of an increase. Without looking at logging employment in conjunction with the number of logging fatalities (fatality rate), it is difficult to describe a trend. The difference between FACE and CFOI data in 1999 comes from differences in how the Programs code a company's industry.

Table 4 lists the type of operation, the date, a brief description, and the county of the incident.

SHARP has completed two logging-related fatality investigation reports, which can be downloaded from our web site at [www.lni.wa.gov/sharp/face/facepubs.htm](http://www.lni.wa.gov/sharp/face/facepubs.htm)

Table 1 Summary of WA logging fatalities by year and type of operation, WA FACE Program.

Year	Type of Operation				Total
	Logging	Log Hauling	Heli-Logging	Other	
1998	4	1	1	0	6
1999	7	6	2	1	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>

Table 2 Summary of logging fatalities by type of operation and type of incident, WA FACE Program.

Type of Operation	Type of Incident	Number
<b>Heli-Logging</b>	Struck by falling object	2
	<u>Flying object/Caught in</u>	<u>1</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Log Hauling</b>	Motor vehicle	6
	<u>Struck by falling object</u>	<u>1</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Logging</b>	Flying object/Caught in	3
	Machinery	3
	Motor vehicle	2
	Struck by falling object	2
	<u>Homicide</u>	<u>1</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Other</b>	<u>Electrocution</u>	<u>1</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Totals</b>	Motor vehicle	8
	Struck by falling object	5
	Flying object/Caught in	4
	Machine	2
	Electrocution	1
	<u>Homicide</u>	<u>1</u>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>22</b>

Table 3 Fatalities by industry (SIC Code), WA FACE Program

<b>Industry (SIC code)</b>	<b>Number</b>
Logging (2411)	13
Local Trucking, without storage (4212)	3
Air Transportation, nonscheduled (4522)	2
Special Product sawmills (2429)	2
Heavy Construction (1629)	1
Industrial Machinery & Equipment (5084)	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>

Table 4 Brief descriptions of logging fatalities, WA FACE Program, 1998-99.

<b>Operation type</b>	<b>Incident Date</b>	<b>Brief description of Incident</b>	<b>County</b>
<b>Heli-Logging</b>	7/9/98	Struck by cedar block falling from sling lifted by helicopter	Pacific
	3/2/99	Struck by log at helicopter landing at logging site	Mason
	11/13/99	Logger crushed between two logs	King
<b>Log Hauling</b>	11/12/98	Logging truck roll over	Klickitat
	1/7/99	Logging truck collided with another logging truck	Lewis
	2/24/99	Logging truck rear-ended causing load of logs to crush cab	Jefferson
	7/6/99	Logging truck roll over	Klickitat
	7/15/99	Crushed by two logs from logging truck	Thurston
	8/3/99	Logging truck ran into a tree	Grays Harbor
	12/29/99	Loaded logging truck left roadway	Snohomish
<b>Logging</b>	4/2/98	Struck by log loader	Lewis
	4/10/98	Tree fell on logger	Lewis
	8/17/98	Cedar salvage worker was shot	Grays Harbor
	11/10/98	Logging skidder rolled down the side of a mountain	Stevens
	1/27/99	Pickup truck collision	Snohomish
	2/26/99	Logging crew truck roll over	Thurston
	3/26/99	Struck by log	Grays Harbor
	3/26/99	Struck by log	Grays Harbor
	10/11/99	Logging skidder roll over	Stevens
	12/9/99	Struck by log	Thurston
12/28/99	Logger struck by tree snag	Pacific	
<b>Other</b>	3/15/99	Logging equipment arced to a 115 KV line, worker electrocuted	Pacific

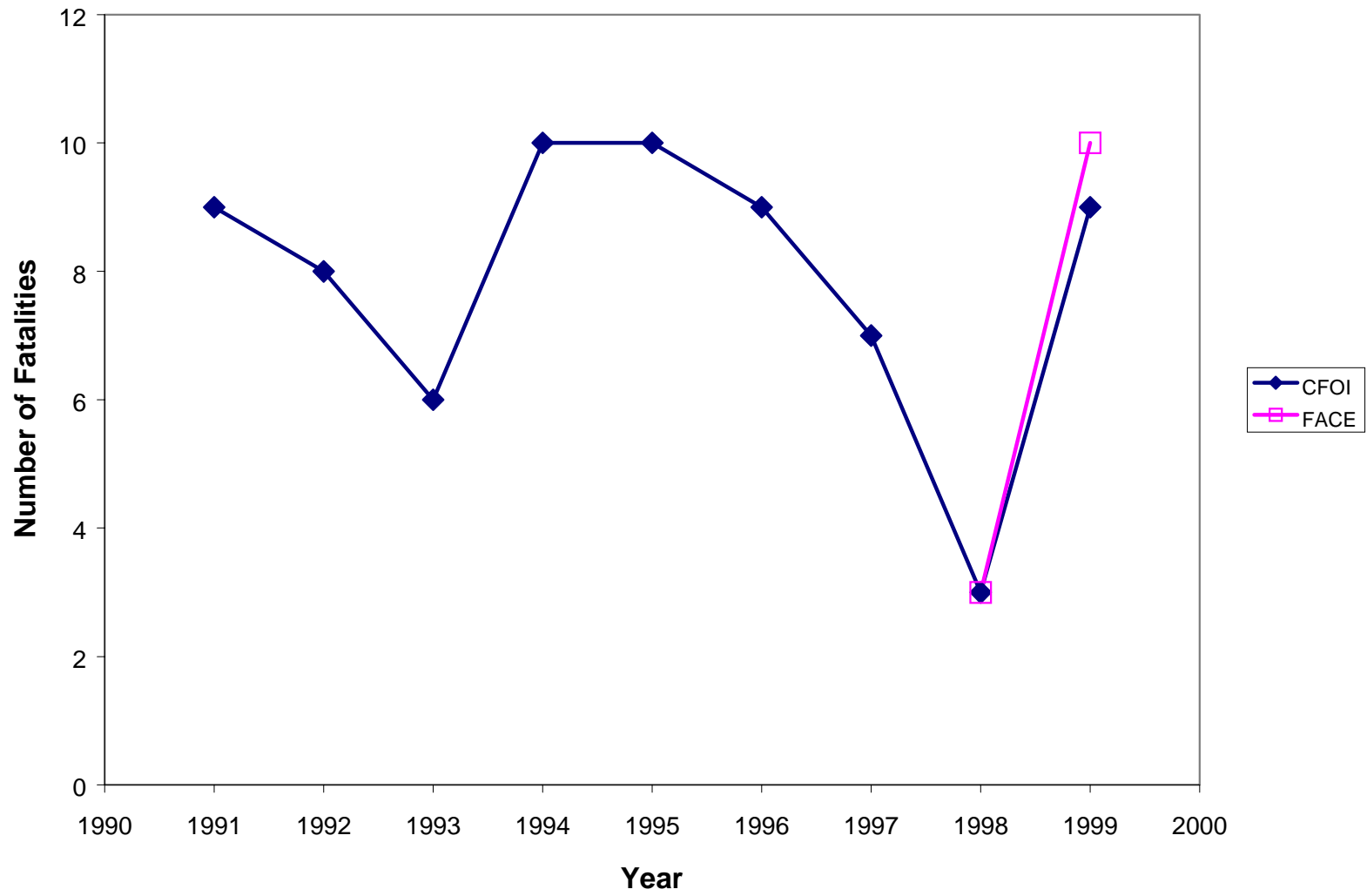


Figure 1 Logging fatalities in WA State, as defined by SIC code (2411=logging).