

Logging-Related Fatalities, 1998-2001, (Reported as of May 30, 2002)

The following report summarizes logging-related fatalities in the Washington State between 1998 and December 31, 2001. Data are from the WA FACE Program¹, so not all incidents would be covered by WISHA or by workers' compensation insurance. In 1998, there were 6 logging-related fatalities, in 1999, 2000, and 2001 there were 16, 2, and 7, respectively (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, seven of the ten victims were actively hauling logs at the time of the incident. In the logging operations, only nine out of the seventeen victims were struck by objects or caught in something. All five 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 would 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 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes (2411=Logging), occupation codes (496=Logger) or the text "logging truck". Table 3 highlights this issue. Only 20 out of the 31 incidents would have been listed 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 have been between 2 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 variability. Because the numbers are so small, they tend to be unstable. The potential rise reported in our first logging fatality report for 1999² appears to be only normal variability in the data. Without looking at logging employment in conjunction with the number of logging fatalities (fatality rate), it is difficult to describe a trend. The differences between FACE and CFOI data come from differences in how the Programs code a company's industry.

Table 4 lists the types of operations, the date, a brief description, and the county of the incident.

¹ The Washington Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program, <http://www.lni.wa.gov/sharp/face>.

² "Logging-Related Fatalities, 1998-1999", http://www.lni.wa.gov/sharp/face/ind_reps.htm.

Table 1 Summary of WA logging fatalities by year and type of operation

Year	Type of Operation				Total
	Logging	Log Hauling	Heli-Logging	Other	
1998	4	1	1	0	6
1999	7	6	2	1	16
2000	2	0	0	0	2
2001	4	3	0	0	7
Total	17	10	3	1	31

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

Type of Operation	Type of Incident	Number
Heli-Logging	Struck by falling object	2
	<u>Flying object/Caught in</u>	<u>1</u>
	Total	3
Log Hauling	Motor vehicle	7
	Fall	1
	<u>Struck by falling object</u>	<u>2</u>
	Total	10
Logging	Struck by falling object	6
	Machinery	5
	Flying object/Caught in	3
	Motor vehicle	2
	<u>Homicide</u>	<u>1</u>
	Total	17
Other	<u>Electrocution</u>	<u>1</u>
	Total	1
Totals	Struck by falling object	9
	Motor vehicle	8
	Machine	5
	Flying object/Caught in	4
	Electrocution	1
	Fall	1
	<u>Homicide</u>	<u>1</u>
	Grand Total	31

Table 3 Fatalities by industry (SIC Code), WA State

Industry (SIC code)	Number
Logging (2411)	20
Local trucking, without storage (4212)	6
Air transportation, nonscheduled (4522)	2
Special product sawmills (2429)	2
Industrial machinery & equipment (5084)	1
Total	31

Table 4 Brief descriptions of logging fatalities, WA State, 1998-2001, as of October 23, 2001.

Operation type	Incident Date	Brief description of Incident	County
Heli-Logging	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
Log Hauling	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
	4/6/01	Logging truck driver struck head during a fall	Thurston
	10/20/01	Crushed by driverless pickup truck	Kittitas
	11/6/01	Logging truck roll over	Chelan
Logging	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
	9/29/00	Tree fell on skidder operator	Lewis
	11/20/00	Logger struck by falling tree	Skagit
	1/3/01	Crushed by falling logs	Snohomish
	7/16/01	Track log loader backed over logger	Lewis
7/18/01	Logger struck by tree	Pend Oreille	
10/24/01	Logger struck by rolling tree	Cowlitz	
Other	3/15/99	Logging equipment arced to a 115 KV line, worker electrocuted	Pacific

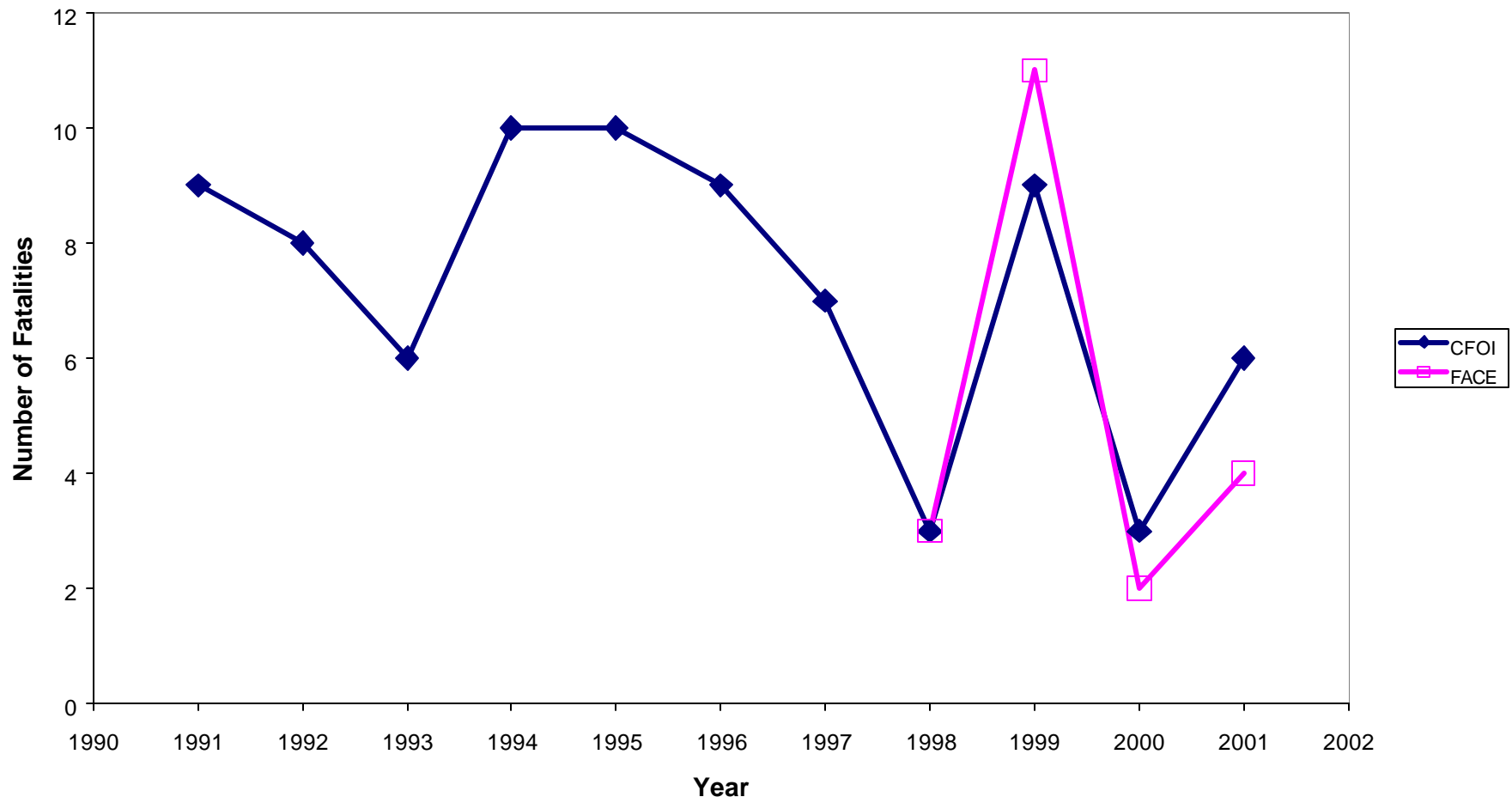


Figure 1 Logging fatalities in WA State, as defined by SIC code (2411=logging).