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CFOI Reports 81 Work-Related Deaths in 2011

A preliminary total of 81 fatal work-related injuries were recorded in South Carolina in 2011, according to data from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI).

In previous years, the totals were: 69 in 2010; 73 in 2009; 87 in 2008; and 122 in 2007.

CFOI is compiled by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with the S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. The report compiles a count of all fatal work injuries occurring in South Carolina during the calendar year. The CFOI program uses diverse state, federal, and independent data sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries.

The fatality census counts every death that is work related, including highway deaths and homicides, which are not covered by OSHA. Thus, any comparison between the BLS fatality census counts and S.C. OSHA counts should take into account the different coverage requirements and definitions being used by each agency.

Key preliminary findings of the 2011 South Carolina CFOI include:

- By event or exposure, transportation incidents led the way with 46 fatalities, followed by violence and other injuries by persons or animals at 12, and slips, trips and falls at 12.
- Deaths among men totaled 74, while women accounted for 7 fatalities.
- Fatalities by race or ethnic origin were led by White, non-Hispanic workers at 49, followed by 20 for Black, non-Hispanic, and 10 for Hispanic or Latino workers.

Of the 81 deaths on the BLS Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries for 2011, 43 of the 46 transportation incidents and 12 violence and other injuries by persons or animals incidents, did not fall under S.C. OSHA's jurisdiction.

According to state OSHA data, of the 47 deaths that were identified or reported to OSHA in 2011, only 21 were determined to be work-related and investigated. The

remaining 26 were determined to be non-work related or not in its jurisdiction, such as, 20 natural causes, 4 motor vehicles, 1 homicide, and 1 sole proprietor.