

# Work-related Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths, Oklahoma, 2007

September 2011

## Oklahoma Occupational Safety and Health Surveillance Program

A total of 5,657 work-related deaths occurred in the United States in 2007. Of these, one fourth (1,141) were highway incidents. In Oklahoma, there were 36 work-related motor vehicle crash fatalities on public roads in 2007 (5% of all traffic crash deaths; 34% of all work-related deaths). Of the 36 fatally injured workers, 75% were drivers, 14% were passengers, and 11% were pedestrians. Fatally injured workers ranged from 18-66 years of age, with a median age of 42 years. Almost all workers were male. Eighty-one percent of fatal crashes involved large trucks, and 69% of fatal injuries were to truck and delivery drivers. Three-fourths of workers were not wearing a seat belt at the time of injury. Almost one-third of workers were not residents of Oklahoma.

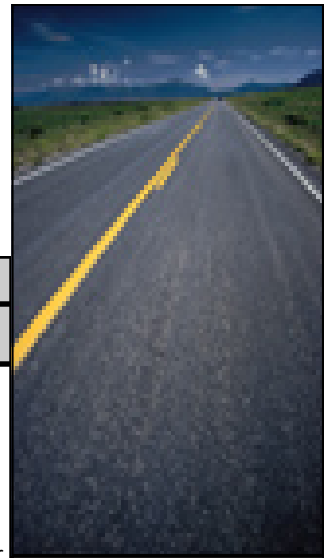
- A 45-year-old male was driving an oilfield truck at an excessive speed on a foggy roadway. He failed to see the intersection of a highway, crossed it, hit an embankment, and overturned.
- A 26-year-old male was driving a water truck for a road construction site, exceeding the legal speed limit on a dark roadway. He ran off the right side of the road, overcorrected, and lost control. The truck flipped two and a half times,

ejected the driver, and rolled over him. A 34-year-old male passenger was also killed in the crash. Neither worker was wearing a seat belt.

- A 66-year-old male propane company owner had been up all night working on generators for oil fields. He was driving a pickup on an unlit roadway and hauling a flatbed trailer with a large compressor. His vehicle left the roadway on the left side, drove through a grassy area, and hit a tree. He was not wearing a seat belt.
- A 32-year-old male was driving a semi-truck hauling timber when he became distracted and failed to stop at a train crossing. The truck left 25 feet of skid marks and hit the lead engine of a train, knocking it off the tracks and derailing two other engines and a railcar. The timbers shifted on impact and pinned the driver in the cab of the truck.

**The Oklahoma Occupational Safety and Health Surveillance Program collects statewide information on 19 occupational health conditions in order to develop and inform occupational injury and illness prevention programs. Oklahoma's occupational surveillance system is a research program of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.**

For detailed reports, please go to the Occupational Injuries section at:  
<http://ips.health.ok.gov>



**Contact Information:**  
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**1000 NE 10th Street**  
**Oklahoma City, OK**  
**73117**  
**405-271-3430 or**  
**1-800-522-0204**

## SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Always wear a seat belt.
- Driving requires your full attention: avoid cell phone use, eating, reading maps, and other distracting activities while driving a vehicle.
- Obey posted road signs including speed limits.
- Drive an appropriate speed for road conditions – this may be less than the posted speed limit.
- Schedule enough time to drive safely and check radio, TV and websites for traffic information before you travel.
- Do not use alcohol or illicit drugs before driving. Avoid medications that may cause drowsiness.
- If tired while driving, stop the vehicle. Taking a short nap or caffeine may temporarily help.
- If driving long distances, stop regularly to walk and stretch briefly.
- Create safe driving programs/guidelines in the workplace, including mandatory seat belt use and prohibiting distracted driving such as talking/texting on a cell phone.
- Secure tools and equipment securely before traveling to prevent movement of materials.