

**SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR**David Martin, *Cabinet Secretary*Butch Tongate, *Acting Deputy Secretary***NEWS RELEASE****OCTOBER 20, 2011**

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Workplace Fatalities Decrease in New Mexico for the year 2010

The New Mexico Environment Department announces today that workplace fatalities in New Mexico decreased in 2010 from 2009, with a preliminary total of 38 work-related deaths in 2010 compared to a total of 42 work-related deaths in 2009, according to the state's Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) study. According to NMED Deputy Secretary Butch Tongate, "While a total reduction in workplace fatalities is good news, it is important that New Mexicans remain vigilant with workplace safety."

The biggest decrease occurred in transportation-related deaths. However, transportation incidents remain the most frequent type of fatal work-related event and accounted for 12 of the 38 fatal occupational injuries to New Mexico workers during 2010. There were 20 transportation incidents out of 42 fatal occupational injuries to New Mexico workers during 2009.

Other causes of workplace fatalities in 2010 include:

- Falls to lower levels – six (6) fatalities
- Exposure to harmful substances or environments – six (6) fatalities
- Assaults and violent acts – ten (10) fatalities

In 2010, the goods producing industry accounted for 21 (55%) of the fatal work injuries while service providing industries accounted for 15 (39%). In the goods producing industry, there were five (5) natural resources and mining fatalities, ten (10) construction fatalities, and six (6) manufacturing fatalities. In the service providing industry, there were seven (7) trade, transportation, and utilities fatalities.

The age category with the highest number of workplace fatalities in 2010 was 35-44 years with ten (10) fatalities, followed by 45-54 years with nine (9) fatalities, 55-64 years with seven (7) fatalities, and 25-34 years with six (6) fatalities.

The source of the data is the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with state and federal agencies.

The CFOI study includes data for all fatal work injuries in New Mexico. The data for 2010 are preliminary.

The fatality census, conducted throughout the nation, is part of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Safety and Health statistics program that provides a nationwide count of fatal work injuries in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

For more information on workplace health and safety, contact the NMED Occupational Health and Safety Bureau (OHSB) at (505) 476-8700.

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