

# NIOSH Agriculture Forestry and Fishing (AgFF) Program

November 2015

## What are our priorities?

The Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (AgFF) Program works on several priority areas with the help of outside partners in industry, labor, trade associations, professional organizations, and academia. We focus on these areas:

- Reduce pesticide exposure in agriculture workers
- Reduce traumatic injuries in fishing workers
- Reduce traumatic injuries in forestry workers

## What do we do?

- Work with the Agricultural Safety and Health Centers on these activities:
  - Research exposure, disease, and injury.
  - Develop and begin educational, outreach, and prevention programs.
  - Develop and evaluate control technologies.
- Use partnerships to promote NIOSH recommendations to prevent injuries, illnesses, and fatalities.
- Encourage outside research in forestry and logging through a cooperative agreement grant.
- Focus research in agriculture, forestry and fishing on health disparities among vulnerable populations in these industries. Vulnerable groups include immigrants, children, and older workers.

## What have we accomplished?

- NIOSH data from the Sentinel Event Notification System for Occupational Risk (SENSOR) was cited by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as it strengthened the Agricultural Worker Protection Standard, which protects farmworkers from pesticide exposures. The EPA used SENSOR findings on the causes of poisonings to justify the new standards and estimate the revised rule's benefits.
- NIOSH recommendations and SENSOR data contributed to the EPA's new proposed rule on training and certifying workers who apply restricted-use pesticides, which the public cannot purchase. SENSOR findings showed the revised rule's benefits outweigh the costs.
- NIOSH piloted emergency stop and winch guarding systems on five vessels in a Gulf of Mexico shrimp fleet. The systems will prevent machine-related injuries on fishing boats.
- The Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center worked with the Northwest Forest Worker Center and Berkeley Labor Center to publish a study on Latin American immigrant forest workers. The study suggests current safety and health laws do not effectively protect these vulnerable workers.
- The Northeast Center for Occupational Safety and Health: Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing began a surveillance system for agriculture and forestry. The system uses existing electronic injury data in Maine and New Hampshire, and it will help health and safety officials develop and evaluate agricultural and forestry programs to prevent injuries.
- The Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education released 21 trainings of 5 minutes each for Logging and Forestry workers.
- The Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety offered to farmers and landowners 21 sessions of the "Game of Logging" class on chainsaw handling, protective equipment use, and safer felling practices. To date, 163 people have been trained, with 145 more on waiting lists for future classes.

## What's next?

- Publish the first report on nationally notifiable non-infectious conditions. The report uses SENSOR data and includes a chapter on acute work-related illness and injury resulting from pesticide use.
- NIOSH will evaluate the Live to be Salty survey data to measure the effect of the campaign on gillnetters and crabbers in Alaska.
- NIOSH will use feedback from Gulf of Mexico shrimp fleet vessels to improve deck winch emergency stop and guarding systems.
- The Pacific Northwest Agriculture Safety and Health Center and partners will do 25 case studies among immigrant Latino forest workers and their employers. The studies will focus on how injuries happened, what motivated the reporting of the injuries, and they may also address safety needs.

## At-A-Glance

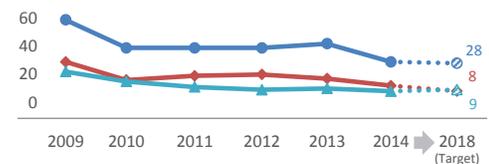
The Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (AgFF) Program provides leadership to prevent work-related injuries and illnesses among the nation's agricultural and forestry workers and fishermen. This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming work.

Acute Pesticide-related Illness and Injury Rate in Agricultural Sub-sector (per 100,000 workers)



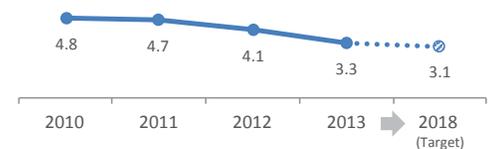
Source: NIOSH Sentinel Event Notification System for Occupational Risk (SENSOR)

U.S. Commercial Fishing Fatalities by Incident Type: Total Fatalities ●, Vessel Disasters ◆ and Falls Overboard ▲



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Work-related Injury and Illness Rate in the Logging and Forestry Sub-sector (per 100 workers)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics