

NIOSH Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing Program

May 2016

What are our priorities?

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing Program works with partners in industry, labor, trade associations, professional organizations, and academia. The program focuses on these areas:

- Reducing pesticide exposure in agriculture workers
- Reducing traumatic injuries in workers within the maritime industry
- Reducing traumatic injuries in forestry workers

What do we do?

- Work with the Agriculture 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.
- 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?

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cited NIOSH data from the Sentinel Event Notification System for Occupational Risk (SENSOR) to guide 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.
- Published the first report on nationally notifiable non-infectious conditions using SENSOR data. It includes a chapter on acute work-related illness and injury resulting from pesticide use
- 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 the Gulf of Mexico shrimp fleet. The systems will aid in preventing machine-related injuries on fishing vessels.
- The Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center and the Northwest Forest Worker Center's study of Latino immigrant forest workers 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 develop and evaluate agricultural and forestry programs to prevent injuries.
- The Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education released 21 safety and health tailgate trainings of 5 minutes each for Logging and Forestry workers.
- The Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety offered to farmers and landowners 66 sessions of the "Game of Logging" class on chainsaw handling, protective equipment use, and safer felling practices. To date, 503 people have been trained, with 166 more on waiting lists for future classes.

What's next?

- NIOSH plans to evaluate the *Live to be Salty* campaign and Personal Flotation Device (PFD) survey data to measure the effect of the campaign on gillnetters and crabbers in Alaska.
- NIOSH plans to 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 plans to 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 address safety and medical needs.

At-A-Glance

The Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing 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.

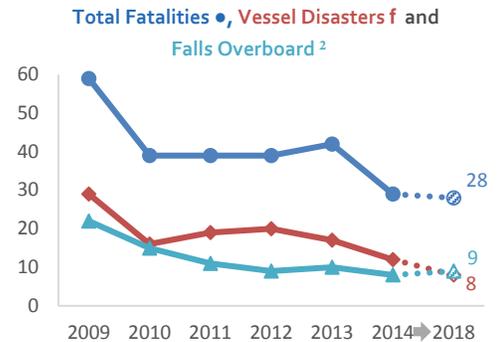
Acute Pesticide-related Illness and Injury Rate in Agricultural Sub-sector (per 100,000 workers)



2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 → 2018

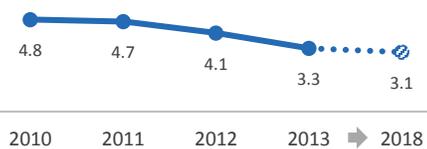
Source: Calvert GM, et al. Acute occupational pesticide-related illness and injury—United States, 2007-2011. In: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Summary of Notifiable Non-infectious Conditions and Disease Outbreaks. In press.

U.S. Commercial Fishing Fatalities by Incident Type:



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