

HEALTH, SAFETY and ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT 2007 FATALITY REPORT

This report is a summary of forty-nine (49) fatalities reported to the USW Health, Safety and Environment Department for January 1 through December 31, 2007.

This report does not necessarily include all fatalities at USW workplaces. only those reported to the department. Some employers are required to report by the union contract; in other cases, the information was sent voluntarily by the employer, the USW staff representative, or the local union. Additional fatalities may also have occurred in non-USW workplaces of employers who employ USW members elsewhere.

USW fatality reports rarely contain information on deaths from occupational disease. These deaths often occur after retirement; many are not recognized as being caused by a condition at work. However, research has shown that for every worker who dies in an industrial accident, eight to ten die from long-term occupational disease.

Accident reports are very important. Other local unions can use them to prevent similar accidents. If a USW member supervisor or contractor is killed at your facility, or dies of an occupational disease, please notify us as soon as possible, and send the company or local union investigation report when it becomes available.

1. January 2, John Dorton, 37, an employee of Alcoa Inc. in Point Comfort, Texas, was exposed to hydrogen fluoride gas during a procedure, inhaling the gas. He died later that day. He was a member of Local Union 4370-01 in District 13.
2. January 16, Benjamin Butler, 60, an employee of Cooper Tire & Rubber Company in Texarkana, Arkansas, was killed at work when a conveyor fell on him He was a member of Local Union 752L in District 13.
3. January 29, Louvia Stembridge, 60, an employee of Thomas H. Lee Equity Fund; Simmons Bed; Simmons Mfg. Co. LLC in Mableton, Georgia, died while at work of what appears to be natural causes. Investigation is still ongoing. She was a member of Local Union 2401-13 in District 9.
4. February 1, Stacy Stogner, 30, an employee of Temple Inland in Bogalusa, Louisiana, was killed when he got strap banded to a large roll of paper. He was a member of Local Union 13-00189 in District 13.
5. February 3, Jason Conley, 28, an employee of Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company in Union City, Tennessee, was fatally injured as a result of a workplace injury. He died the next day. He was a member of Local Union **878L in District 9.**
6. February 14, Maurice Douglas, 33, an employee of Tembec International in St. Francisville, Louisiana, was fatally injured when he was pinned in a machine. He was a member of Local Union 752 in District 13.

7. February 15, Eric Whitehouse, 34, an employee at Transformateur Delta DU Canada Ltee. in Granby, Quebec, died following the collapse of the smoking room roof on him, which may have been due to weight of the accumulated snow on the roof. He was a member of Local Union 9414-54 in District 5.
8. March 13, Robert Gray, 53, an employee of Meadville Forging in Meadville, Pennsylvania, died of a heart attack after fighting a fire. He was a member of Local Union 191701 in District 10.
9. March 13, Ronald Hackett, 45, an employee of IPSCO, Koppel Tubular in Baden, Pennsylvania, was killed when a piece of heavy equipment fell on him during maintenance. He was a member *of* Local Union 9305 in District 10.
10. March 27, Nan Wallace, 50, after working the night shift at Simonds Industries in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, was found dead of apparent natural causes in her car in the parking lot. She was a member of Local Union 7896 in District 4.
11. April 8. Mark Wilkinson, 43, an employee of Sybron Chemical in Pemberton, New Jersey, died of an apparent heart attack He was a member of Local Union 12238 in District 4.
12. April 18, Deane Driscoll, 51, an employee of United Taconite Cleveland Cliffs in Eveleth, Minnesota, was fatally injured while working in the pit. He was a member of Local Union 6860 in District 11.
13. April 18, Jim Lovely, 37, an employee of Georges Harms Construction in Howell, New Jersey. He died when the overloaded barge he was on flipped over in the demolition of Rt. 70 bridge over the Manasquan River. He was a member of Local Union 15024 in District 4.
14. April 21. Bob Rogers, 51. an employee of Mittal Steel in Cleveland, Ohio, was killed in a car accident outside the workplace where four co-workers tried unsuccessfully to remove him from the burning vehicle. He was a member of Local Union 979 in District 1.
15. April 23, Tim Watson, 48, an employee *of* Bush-Burchett, Inc. in Harrodsburg, Kentucky, was fatally crushed when a section of the crane fell on him He was a member of Local Union 14581 in District 8.
16. May 1, Roberto Carlos Sandoval Cruz, 31, an employee of Spiniello Construction Company located in the state of New Jersey was fatally injured on a job site located in Pennwynne, Pennsylvania, when he was pulled into a piece of equipment. He was a member of local Union 15024 in District 4.
17. May 7, Victor Kingery, 48, an employee of Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company in Danville, Virginia, received burns while repairing equipment at the plant. He died November 15 (6 months, 8 days later). He was a member of Local Union 831 L in District 8.
18. May 11, Gary Baker, 53, an employee of Waste Corporation of Missouri in Rolla, Missouri, died of injuries after a head-on collision. He was a driving a front-loader trash truck when he veered across a bridge roadway into another truck of equal size. He was a member of Local Union 15485-01 in District 11.
19. May 16, Katrina Coffman, 21, an employee of Pinnacle Airlines in Dayton, Ohio, was fatally injured when a vertical reciprocating conveyor (VRC) fell on her. She was a member of Local Union 00736 in District 9.
20. May 26, John Winski, 45, an employee of Mittal Steel in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, was fatally injured in an explosion. He was a member of Local Union 1165 in District 10.

21. May 27. Roger Stevens, 48, an employee of Specialty Metal Corp. in Huntington, West Virginia, was fatally injured when a hydraulic valve blew and ball bearings went into his chest. He was a member of Local Union 40 in District 8.
22. June 6, Richard Liening, 44, an employee of Amex Electrical Services (an IBEW represented company), working at BP Refinery in Texas City, Texas, was electrocuted while working on a lighting circuit. Bargaining unit employees of BP are represented by USW Local Union 13-00001-01 in District 13.
23. June 8, Donovan Dunblazier, 49, an employee of Mittal Steel in Virginia, Minnesota, was fatally injured while he was operating a crane when the crane fell over and a piece of equipment crushed him. He was a member of Local Union 6115 in District 11.
24. June 21, Bryan Valleau, 60, an employee of Elaho Transport, Inc. in Squamish, B.C., succumbed to injuries he received when the logging truck he was preparing for loading shifted on a slope and ran over him. He was a member of Local Union 1-2171 in District 3.
25. June 22, Lucktakoun "Lucky" Vongphakdy, 24, student working his third summer at Ball Container in Elgin, Illinois, was killed when he fell through a roof skylight at the plant. He was a member of Local Union 7495 in District 7.
26. June 22, April Wexler, 30, a manufacturing technician at Pilkington Automotive North America, Inc. in Rossford, Ohio, was fatally injured when hit by a fork truck. She was a member of Local Union 9 in District 1.
27. June 27, Joe Ardoin, 43, an employee of Louisiana Pigment Company in West Lake, Louisiana, received 2nd and 3rd degree burns over 40% of his body when a pump ruptured and he was sprayed with titanium chloride. He died from his injuries on July 9 (12 days later). He was a member of Local Union 500 in District 13.
28. July 14, Tammy Tingler, 47, an employee of Quanex Corp MacSteel; Michigan Division in Jackson, Michigan, was killed when rods from a packing machine fell on her. She was a member of Local Union 8339 in District 2.
29. July 17, Michael T. Martin, 49, a contractor employed by One Source, who was working at the Alcoa Inc., Massena, New York site, was found non-responsive, in the face down position, on the asphalt of the courtyard located west of building #402 in the area of pot #2451246. He was transported to Massena Hospital where he later passed away. He may have had a heart attack. Bargaining unit employees are represented by Local Union 420 in District 4.
30. August 4, name unknown, a contractor working for Glatfelter Co. (P.H.) in Chillicothe, Ohio was electrocuted while working. Bargaining unit employees are represented by Local Union 731 in District 1.
31. August 12, Robert Carriage, an employee of U.S. Steel in Granite City, Illinois, died of an apparent heart in the locker room just as he went in to work. He was a member of Local Union 1899 in District 7.
32. August 14, Ron LaCoax, 47, an employee of Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. in Granite City, Illinois, died after a fall at the plant. He was a member of Local Union 6063 in District 7.
33. August 30, Frank Rowberry, 54, an employee of Simplot (J.R.) Company in Pocatello, Idaho, was fatally injured after receiving sulfur burns while working. He was a member of Local Union 632 in District 12.
34. September 14, Eric Allan Leischner, 43, on layoff from Cattermole Timber was working for a contractor near Harrison Hot Springs, British Columbia, spotting for a grapple yarder when he was fatally injured. He was a member of Local Union 1-3567 in District 3.

35. September 19, Carter Allan Largent, Jr., 41, an employee of FMC; Trona Mine in Green River, Wyoming, was killed when his mobile transport unit turned over. He was a member of Local Union 13214 in District 11.

36. September 21, Kevin Wilson, 26, an employee of Atlas Holdings FRM LLC; Michigan Seamless Tube located in South Lyon, Michigan, was fatally injured when he was caught between the wall and a device used to pull tubing through an extruder. He was a member of Local Union 1900 in District 2.

37. October 25, Jose Chirino, 24, an employee of Zachry Construction working at TX1Riverside in Oro Grande, California, was fatally injured when he fell down an air duct shaft (approximately 60 feet) while working construction. He died at the hospital shortly after the accident. Bargaining unit employees are represented by Local Union 12-00192 in District 12.

38. November 12, Brian Smith, 34, an employee of International Paper Co. in Hartford City, Indiana, was fatally injured when he was pinned between the tractor and a trailer. He was a member of Local Union 7-00182 in District 7.

39. November 20, Ron Hall, 56, an employee of Mittal Steel in E. Chicago, Indiana, was fatally injured when struck by a mill roll and died January 30, 2008 (2 months, 11 days later). He was a member of Local Union 1011 in District 7.

40. November 27, Jeffrey R. Johnson, 49, an employee of Duke Energy; Cincinnati Gas & Electric DBA Duke Energy Ohio in Cincinnati, Ohio, was working on a service line- in the front yard of a residence when he was struck by a car and killed. He was a member of Local Union 12049 in District 1.

41 & 42. November 28, Steve Arnovich and David Musstti, both employees of Enbridge Inc.; Enbridge Energy Co.; Enbridge Employees Services in Superior Wisconsin, were fatally injured while attempting to permanently repair a leak on a pipeline. They were members of Local Union 2-02003 in District 2.

43. December 3, Robert Thompson, 47, an employee of Temple Inland Paper in Spotswood, New Jersey, was struck by a clamp truck that was carrying a 6000 lb. roll of paper and died December 7 (4 days later). He was a member of Local Union 381-16 in District 4.

FATALITIES OF INTEREST IN NON-USW LOCATIONS

1. January 23, name withheld, a material handler at Alcoa Engineered Products in Yankton, South Dakota. He was in the process of retrieving logs outside from an area of packed snow. He slipped and broke his leg and ankle while exiting a fork truck. He died a few days later from complications of surgery. The USW represents workers in 32 other Alcoa locations.

2. April 27, Scott Johnson, 56, a subcontractor at Rumpke Tire Recycling in New Miami, Ohio, was fatally injured and died fifty days later on June 16 from his injuries. He either fell in or was pulled into a jammed tire shredder he was trying to fix. The USW is the predominant union for the Rubber Industry in North America.

3. July 5, name unknown, a quality laboratory operator at Alcoa's Rolling Mill in Fusina, Italy was fatally injured after being struck by a fork lift operated by a co-worker.

1. Lyle Dufoe, 23, an employee of Xstrata's Kidd Creek Mine in Timmins, Ontario, was killed when the scoop tram he was driving broke through a faulty barrier and fell 1125 feet to the

bottom of a slope. There is an active USW organizing campaign at the mine. This is located in District 6.

5. October 12, Rustam Garifulin, 52, an electrician at Alcoa's Samara Operations (Russia) was found deceased on top of a crane bridge in the Extrusion Plant. He may have suffered a fall with a potential for serious head injury. The USW represents workers in 32 other Alcoa locations.

6. November 8, Chris Massey, a Maintainer/Operator at Kimberly-Clark's tissue mill in Barrow-in-Furness, London, was involved in a fatal accident while working on a Perini 900 series winder. He was a member of UNITE the Union, Amicus Section, GPM Sector in England.

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HEALTH, SAFETY and ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT 2008 FATALITY REPORT

This report is a summary of twenty (20) fatalities reported to the USW Health, Safety and Environment Department for January 1 through April 8, 2008.

This report does not necessarily include all fatalities at USW workplaces, only those reported to the department. Some employers are required to report by the union contract; in other cases, the information was sent voluntarily by the employer, the USW staff representative, or the local union. Additional fatalities may also have occurred in non-USW workplaces of employers who employ USW members elsewhere.

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1. January 3, George Pulver, 48, an employee of Arcelor Mittal; Mittal Steel USA in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, was severely burned over 60% of his body when he caught fire while replacing bearing boxes in the Roll Shop. He died January 16 (13 days later). He was a member of Local Union 9462 in District 10.
2. January 4, Chuck Hatcher, 52, an electrician at Eramet SA; Eramet Marietta [Inc. in](#) Marietta, Ohio, suffered fatal injuries when he fell from an overhead crane while performing preventive maintenance on equipment. He was a member of Local Union 1-00639-01 in District 2.
3. January 5, name unavailable, 27, a contractor employee of R. J. Stacey, LLC working at USS; Great Lakes Works in Ecorse, Michigan, was in the process of preparing an abandoned 54" Blast Furnace gas line to be re-commissioned to transport coke from Zug Island to the 80" Hot Mill. There was an explosion and the line blew apart, causing fatal injuries. Bargaining unit employees are represented by Local Union 1299 in District 2.
4. January 8, Edward Krakowski, 54, an employee of Abitibi Bowater in Thunder Bay, Ontario, was a mechanic who suffered severe trauma to the skull, neck, face and upper body when a tree-length load of logs fell off a loaded logging truck striking the service vehicle he was driving. He was a member of Local Union 1-02693 in District 6.
5. January 12, Verna Benning, 51, an employee at Timken Company in Canton, Ohio, suffered fatal injuries when she was run over by a straddle buggy while working. She was a member of Local Union 1123 in District 1.

6. January 12, Jason Belko, 23, an employee at Arcelor Mittal; Mittal Steel USA in E. Chicago, Indiana, was fatally injured while operating a locomotive when it came in contact with a large truck. He was a member of Local Union 1011 in District 7.
7. January 15, Joseph Garcia, 56, a supervisor at BP PLC; BP Amoco Chemical in Texas City, Texas, was killed when a 500 pound steel filter lid blew off of a pressurized vessel Bargaining unit employees at BP PLC are represented by Local Union 13-00001 in District 13.
8. January 16, Jacob Amundsen, 25, an employee at Sequa Corp.; Sequa Coatings Corp.; Precoat Metals Division in Portage, Indiana, suffered fatal injuries when he was struck by a 35,000-pound steel coil. He was a member of Local Union 02003-13 in District 7.
9. January 22, a contractor working at TXI-Riverside in Oro Grande, California, suffered fatal injuries when he fell *off* a transport and hit his head. Bargaining unit employees at TX Riverside are represented by Local Union 12-00192 in District 12.
10. January 25, Don Sloss, 57, an employee at United States Steel Corp.; Gary Works in Gary, Indiana, died after suffering a heart attack during a rescue training exercise. He was a member of Local Union 1014 in District 7.
11. February 12, Frank Sinclair, 50, a faller for Western Forest Products; Gold River Forest Operations off the west coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia, died of injuries sustained from being struck by a portion of a falling tree. He was a member of Local Union 100085 in District 3.
12. February 13, Kevin Batten, 19, an employee at Northrop Gruman Corp.; Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock in Newport News, Virginia, was fatally injured while working on an aircraft carrier. He was a member of Local Union 8888 in District 8.
13. February 16, Jeff Cox, 50, an employee at Nisource Inc.; NIPSCO Northern Ind. Public Service in northern Indiana, was fatally injured while working as a lineman when he came into contact with a 69 kv line: the current passed through his arm, and he caught on fire. He was a member of Local Union 12775 in District 7.
14. February 18, Joseph Wesolowsky, 50, a Larryman Helper at United States Steel Corp. in Braddock, Pennsylvania, died from a heart-related event due to natural causes which started while at work. He was a member of Local Union 1219-01 in District 10.
15. February 28, James Bevins, 47, an employee at Unigroup Inc.; United Van Lines Professional Transportation Inc. in Shelby, Kentucky, was fatally injured when he drove into the back of a slow-moving tractor/trailer on Highway 80. He was a member of Local Union 14581-D3 in District 8.
16. February 28, John Wilson, 62, was drowned when the heavy equipment he was operating entered a tailings pond at Craigmont Mines in Merrit, British Columbia. He was a member of Local Union 7619-03 in District 3.
17. March 5, Norm Castick, 54, an employee of U. S. Pipe & Foundry in Burlington, New Jersey, was killed when he was caught between two bundles of pipe. He was a member of Local Union 2026 in District 4.
18. March 24, Jim Wingfield, 54, an employee of Arcelor Mittal; Mittal Steel USA in East Chicago, Indiana, was fatally injured when a lid from a crane crushed him against a wall. He was a member of Local Union 1010 in District 7.

19. March 25, Joseph Torres, 48, an employee of Huhtamald OYJ; Huhtamaki American; Huhtamaki Flexibles Inc. in Malvern, Pennsylvania, died of a stroke or heart attack in the plant from a job that required considerable exertion. He was a member of Local Union 333 in District 10.

20. March 30, Edward Haake, 59, was an employee of Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company in Topeka, Kansas. He suffered the symptoms of a heart attack He refused medical attention and got into his car. Meanwhile, sheriffs deputies arrived and ordered him out of his car. When he refused, they shocked him with a taser, pulled him from his car and handcuffed him, at which point he died. He was a member of Local **Union** 307-02L in District 11.

FATALITIES_OF INTEREST IN NON-USW LOCATIONS

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Please note that some fatalities listed on this report are still under investigation and all are updated s new information becomes available. Last updated April 8, 2008