

# Abstracts

Poster: 0147

## **The Oil and Gas Extraction Industry: Recent Fatal Injury Data and Areas for Action**

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The mining industry has long been one of the more hazardous industries in the country. In 2004 the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program reported that the rate of fatal injury in mining was 28.3 fatal work injuries per 100,000 workers or nearly seven times the rate for the average U.S. worker and the second highest among major industry sectors. While the dangers of coal mining and many other mining industries have been well documented, the oil and gas extraction industry has received less attention, even though over half (55 percent) of the fatalities in mining from 1993 through 2004 were related to the oil and gas extraction industry. The purpose of this session is to summarize current surveillance data on fatal injuries in the oil and gas extraction industry, with a look at some of the initiatives being formulated to address the issues revealed by the data. CFOI data for 2003-2004 were analyzed for the oil and gas extraction (NAICS 211) and support activities for oil and gas (NAICS 21311, 21312) industries. For the two-year period from 2003 through 2004, there was a total of 183 fatal work injuries in oil and gas extraction (including support activities related to oil and gas extraction). The number of fatal work injuries in the oil and gas extraction industry increased by 15 percent over this period (from 85 in 2003 to 98 in 2004). Over a third of all oil and gas extraction fatalities occurred in one state (TX) and five states combined accounted for 70 percent of the fatalities (TX, LA, OK, WY, and CO). Highway incidents accounted for largest share of the fatal injuries, 31 percent, over the study period. However, another 21 percent of the fatal cases involved workers who were fatally injured after being struck by an object or by machinery, such as building materials or material handling machinery. Fires and/or explosions accounted for another 16 percent of the cases. While 4 out of 5 of the fatal injuries involved non-Hispanic, White workers (147), another 16 percent (29) of the fatally injured workers in oil and gas extraction were Hispanic. Of the 29 fatalities involving Hispanic workers for the two-year period, 20 occurred in Texas. CFOI data provide information for developing prevention activities and a framework for evaluation. To address this pressing problem, several federal agencies are working with industry to design innovative solutions to hazards. Findings and possible intervention strategies will be presented.

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