

# Kentucky FACE Program

*2015 Annual Report*

## *About the Kentucky FACE Program*

The Kentucky Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (KY FACE) Program is an occupational fatality surveillance program of the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center (KIPRC)\*. The goal of KY FACE is to prevent fatal work injuries by studying the worker, work environment, energy exchange that resulted in the fatal injury, and role of management, engineering, and behavioral changes to prevent future injuries in similar industries and occupations. KY FACE investigators evaluate information from multiple sources including 1) employer, coworker, witness and other interviews; 2) work site and equipment examination; 3) Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), police, and medical examiner reports; and 4) employer safety procedures. The FACE program does not seek to determine fault or place blame on companies or individual workers. Findings are summarized in narrative reports that include recommendations for preventing similar events in the future.

\*Organizationally, KIPRC is located in the University of Kentucky and is a bona fide agent of the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH). Funding for the KY FACE Program is provided by National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Cooperative Agreement Number 5U60OH008483-11.

For more  
detailed  
information  
concerning KY  
FACE



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## Kentucky Worker Fatalities at a Glance

To create effective injury prevention programs, it's important to look at where and how fatal injuries occurred among workers in Kentucky. Below is a brief snapshot of the worker fatalities that occurred from January 1, 2015 through December 30, 2015.

### How many workers died from injuries in 2015?

While working in Kentucky in 2015, 90 residents from Kentucky, Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee and West Virginia died on the job.

#### What were the leading causes?

- Motor vehicle collision (29)
- Struck by (13)
- Fall (8)
- Agriculture Machine (7)
- Suicide (6)

#### Who was at highest risk?

- Transportation and material moving workers (25)
- Construction workers (12)
- Farmers (6)
- Loggers (6)
- Public Administration workers (7)

#### Deaths by County

- Jefferson (8)
- Fayette (5)
- Madison (4)
- Clark (3)
- Lawrence (3)
- Pulaski (3)
- Rockcastle (3)
- Warren (3)
- The remainder of fatalities was spread across 80 of Kentucky's 120 counties, with no more than two deaths per county.

#### Fatal Occupational Injury rate for 2015

In 2015, the Kentucky fatal occupational injury rate increased 14% from 4.3 deaths per 100,000 workers (2014) to 4.9 deaths per 100,000 workers (2015). The 2015 Kentucky fatal occupational injury rate was 44% above the 2014 U.S. rate of 3.4 deaths per 100,000 workers.



## Demographics

In Kentucky, 90 workers died as a result of work-related injuries. The following lists the demographic profile of this group.

### Demographics of Kentucky Work-Related Injuries, 2015

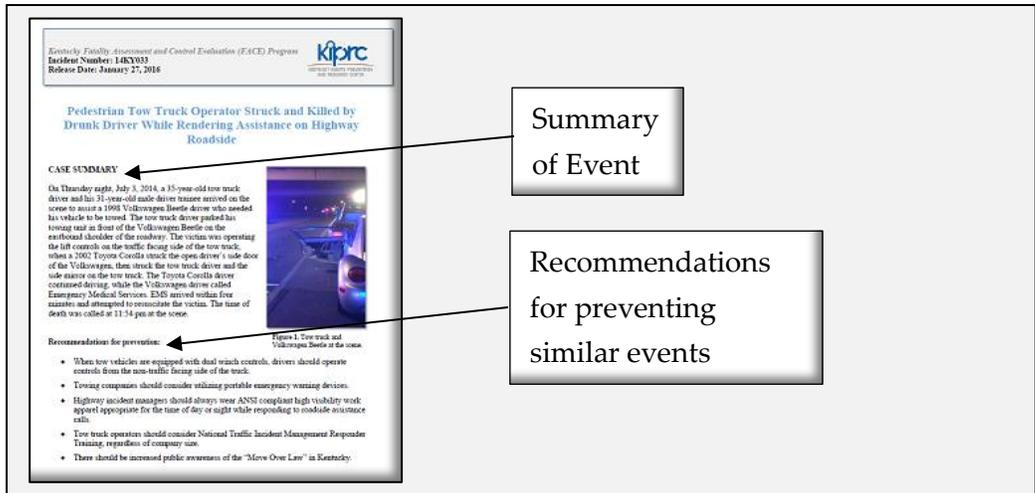
Characteristics		Number	Percent of 90 fatalities*
Sex	Male	82	91%
	Female	8	9%
Race	White	81	90%
	Other	9	10%
Age	< 20	3	3%
	20 - 29	19	21%
	30 - 39	15	17%
	40 - 49	18	20%
	50 - 59	11	12%
	60 - 69	13	14%
	70 - 79	9	10%
	80 - 89	2	2%
Marital Status	Married	46	51%
	Never Married	20	22%
	Divorced	23	26%
	Unknown	1	1%
Education	Less than High School	10	11%
	Some High School	9	10%
	Finished High School	41	46%
	Some College	18	20%
	College Graduate	4	4%
	Unknown	8	9%
Country of Origin	United States	83	92%
	Mexico	3	3%
	Other	4	4%
Primary Language	English	83	92%
	Spanish	4	4%
	Other	3	3%
State of Residence	Kentucky	76	84%
	Other	14	16%

\*Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding



## Investigation Program

The Kentucky FACE Program completed 13 investigations of selected occupational fatalities from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. Each report begins with a case summary, and provides recommendations for preventing future similar incidents. Our reports do not determine fault or blame. We do not use personal identifiers in our reports, or identify company names. The following shows the first page of a sample FACE report.



Our 2015 FACE Investigations are listed below. For more detailed case reports, see the KIPRC website at: <http://www.mc.uky.edu/kiprc/programs/KOSHS/index.html>.

Case ID	Title	Category
14KY032	Construction Siding Subcontract Installer Killed when Oversized Scaffolding Platform Destabilized and Telescopic Forklift Overturned	Construction
14KY033	Pedestrian Tow Truck Operator Struck and Killed by Drunk Driver While Rendering Assistance on Highway Roadside	Motor Vehicle
14KY039	Electrician Helper Steps into Unguarded Elevator Shaft and Dies	Fall
14KY048	Production Supervisor Falls 19.5 Feet through a Metal Roof and Dies	Fall
14KY049	Firefighter is Electrocuted after Contacting Overhead Power Line	Other
14KY064	Semi-Truck Team Driver Pinned and Killed While Adjusting Tandems	Other
15KY001	Semi-Truck Driver Fatally Struck by Falling Flatbed Cage Door	Other
15KY009	City Police Officer Dies After His Vehicle is Struck By a Civilian Motorist in a Federal Highway Intersection	Motor Vehicle
15KY011	Maintenance Technician is Struck By Crane, Falls 10 Feet to Conveyor and Dies	Other
15KY019	Apprentice Distiller Fatally Burned by Over Pressurized Pot Still	Other
15KY020	Granite Installation Company Owner Struck by Falling Granite Slab	Other
15KY030	Driver Exits Burning Semi-Truck and Falls to His Death	Motor Vehicle
15KY032	Cell Tower Technician Dies after Antenna Array Falls and Decapitates Him	Other



## Kentucky Hazard Alerts

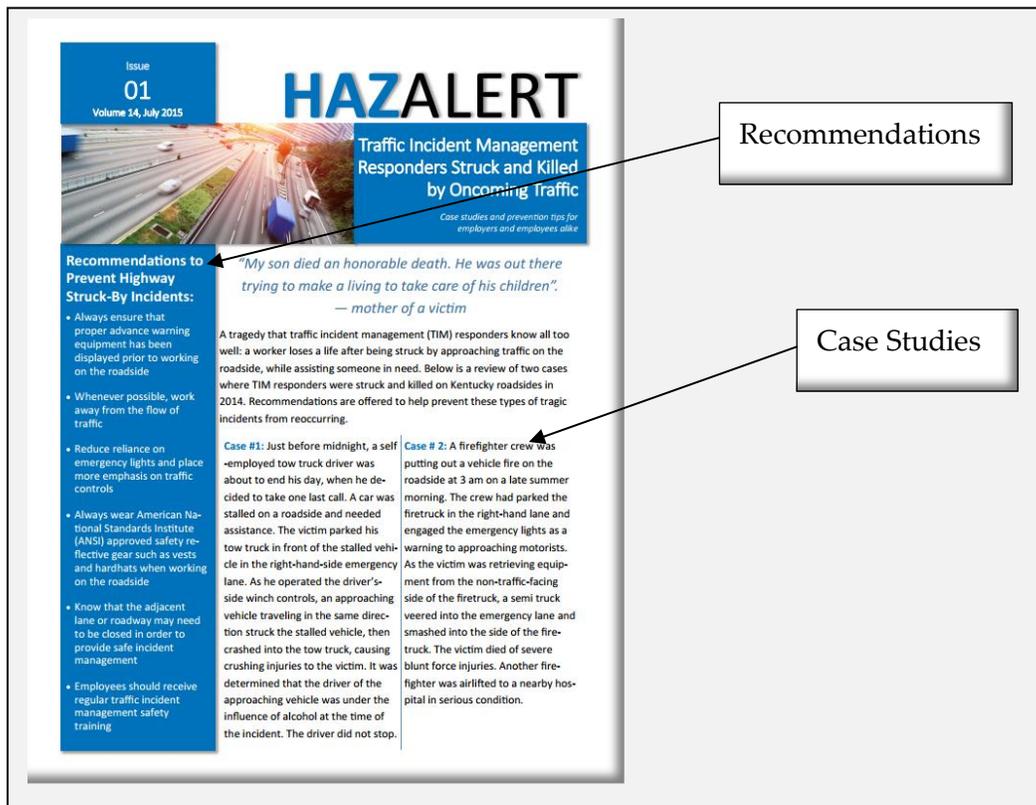
The Kentucky FACE Program completed 2 Haz Alerts on selected occupational fatalities from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016:

- Traffic Incident Management Responders Struck and Killed by Oncoming Traffic highlighted two pedestrian vs. motor vehicle fatality cases, including a self-employed tow truck driver responding to a stalled vehicle and a firefighter responding to a vehicle fire, struck while unloading equipment from the firetruck.
- Workers Killed while Unloading Cargo from Flatbed Trucks features three cases: an equipment rental company driver unloading a 1,000 pound elevator door; a driver delivering a 15,242 pound steel coil, and a company owner and forklift operator unloading granite slabs from a flatbed truck.

For completed Haz Alerts, visit the KIPRC website:

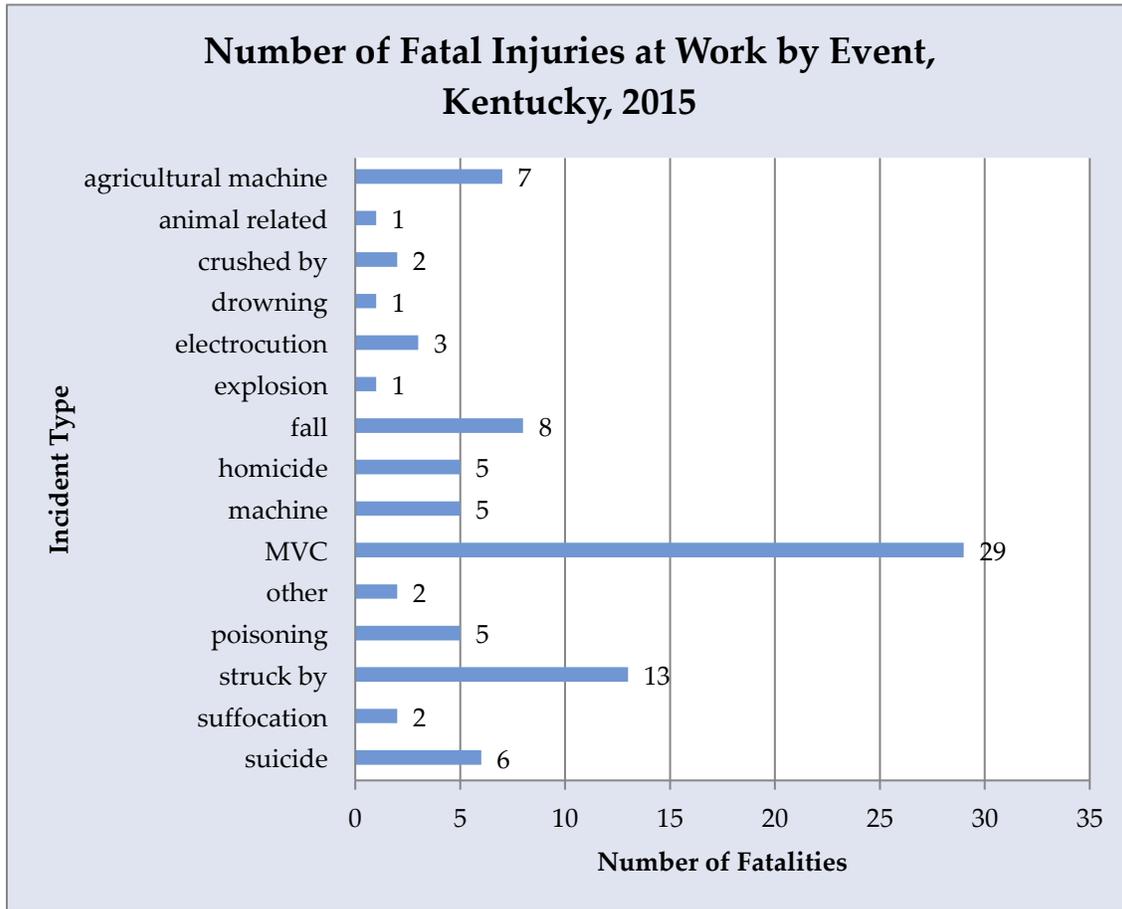
<http://www.mc.uky.edu/kiprc/programs/KOSHHS/index.html>

The following shows the first page of a sample Haz Alert. Note that recommendations for preventing similar incidents are provided.





## Types of Events Causing Worker Deaths



### Highlights:

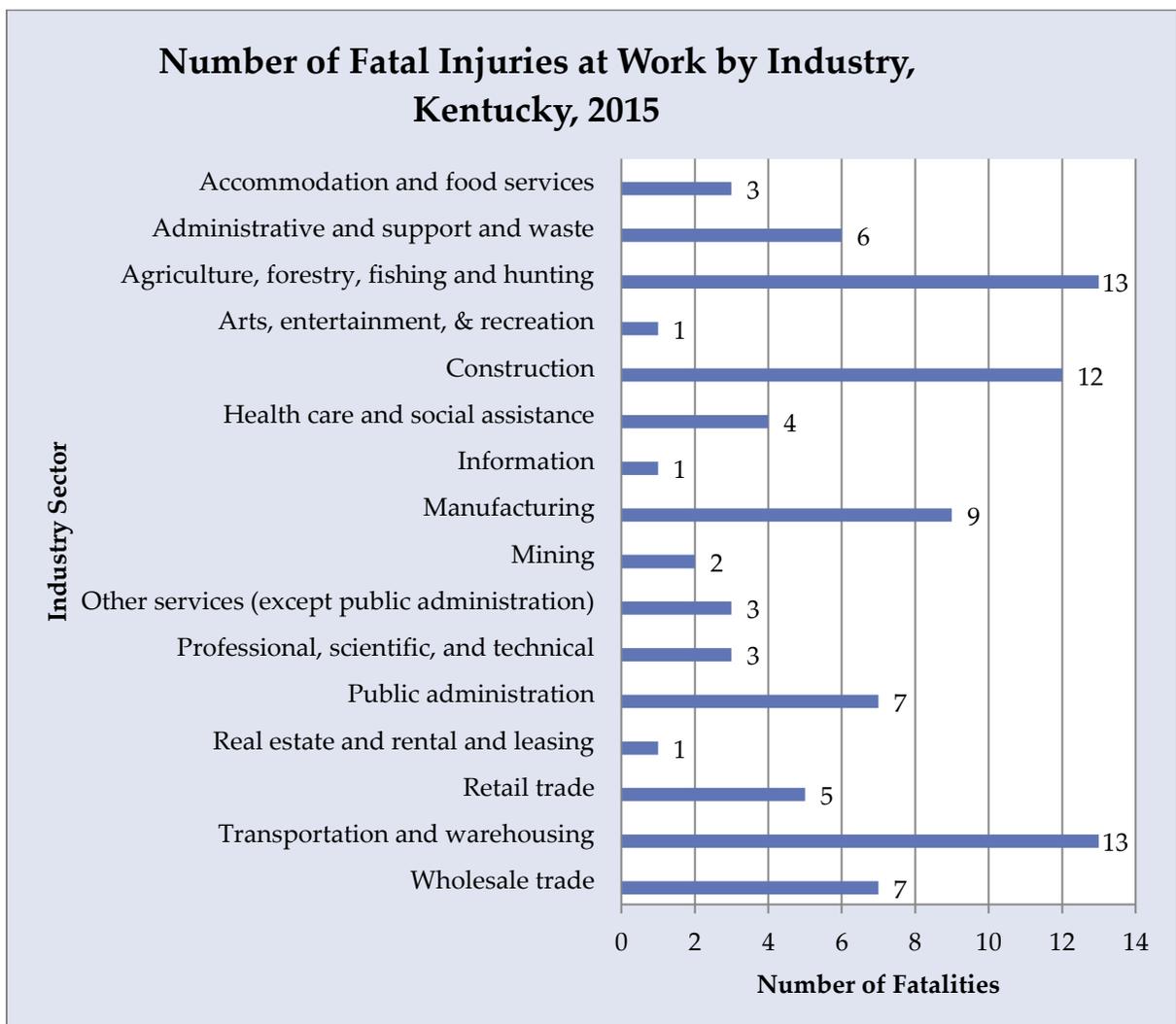
- Of the 90 occupational fatalities in Kentucky in 2015, 29 were motor vehicle collisions (MVCs). Motor vehicle collision deaths were up from 26 deaths in 2014, an increase of 11.5%. 15 of the 29 were heavy truck drivers, and 2 were light truck or delivery services drivers. Drivers from Kentucky (24), Indiana (1), Ohio (1), Illinois (1), Florida (1) and Alabama (1) lost their lives in 2015 on Kentucky highways while performing their jobs. A state trooper, a paramedic and a police officer were among those killed.
- Logging continues to be a dangerous occupation. Of the 13 workers who died as a result of struck by incidents, 6 were loggers and 3 were truck drivers. One of the truck drivers worked in the logging industry.
- 7 Kentucky residents and 1 Tennessee resident died as a result of falls in 2015. Of the 8 workers, 6 were over the age of 40. 4 of the fatalities included specialty trade contract workers.
- 6 farmers over the age of 48 and one 17-year-old died in agriculture machinery incidents, including 2 tractor runovers, and a tractor overturn.
- Sadly, a Colorado resident and 5 Kentucky residents took their own lives at work.

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- 5 workers under the age of 46 died in machine-related incidents, including a manufacturing laborer, a mining foreman, a roofer, a landscaper and a forklift operator.
- 5 Kentuckians died on the job of accidental drug poisonings, 4 men and 1 woman, ages 24 – 42. One worker died of an asthma attack with multiple drug intoxication as a contributing factor.
- With the help of coroners and medical examiners, Kentucky FACE receives toxicology testing results from work related fatalities that allow us to better understand the impact of drug and alcohol abuse in the workplace. Of the 90 cases in 2015, 16 (18%) were known to have drug intoxication involvement, 15 were known to have no drug intoxication involvement, and 59 cases remain undetermined. Substances detected included methamphetamine, THC, cocaine, fentanyl, hydrocodone, gabapentin, morphine, buprenorphine, alprazolam and heroin.

### Fatal Injuries at Work by Industry





### *Highlights:*

- The agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry claimed the lives of 13 Kentucky men, including 6 loggers and 7 farmers. 6 of the 13 deaths involved tractors.
- Construction industry jobs claimed the lives of 12 workers from Kentucky (8), Mississippi (1), Tennessee (2) and West Virginia (1). Workers ranged in age from 19 to 70 years.
- 8 Kentuckians and 1 West Virginia resident, ages 24 to 73 years, were killed while working in manufacturing industry jobs. Occupations included 3 laborers, a quality inspector, 2 truck drivers, a business owner, a maintenance worker and a distillery assistant.
- Transportation industry fatalities included 13 workers over the age of 39 years, including 11 truck drivers, a mail carrier and a mining foreman. Incidents included 10 motor vehicle collisions, 2 struck by incidents and 1 machine death that took the life of a mining foreman.
- 6 Kentucky men and 1 woman, ages 17 to 79 years, were killed in wholesale industry occupations. Work incidents included 4 motor vehicle collisions, 2 machine deaths and 1 suffocation due to a grain bin fall.
- The public administration industry lost 7 workers in Kentucky, including 3 police officers, 2 state troopers, a soldier and a fire prevention sprinkler fitter. The deaths included 3 motor vehicle collisions, 2 suicides and 2 homicides.
- 6 workers, ages 21 to 80, died in the administrative & support services industry, including four landscape workers.
- Retail industry worker deaths included 2 suicides, 1 accidental drug poisoning, one motor vehicle collision, and 1 struck by incident.

The Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center would like to take a moment to respectfully acknowledge the individuals that the numbers in this report represent, and the pain and loss their families must endure. It is hoped that surveillance of these tragic workplace situations will help guide targeted government, industry, workers and community injury prevention efforts.