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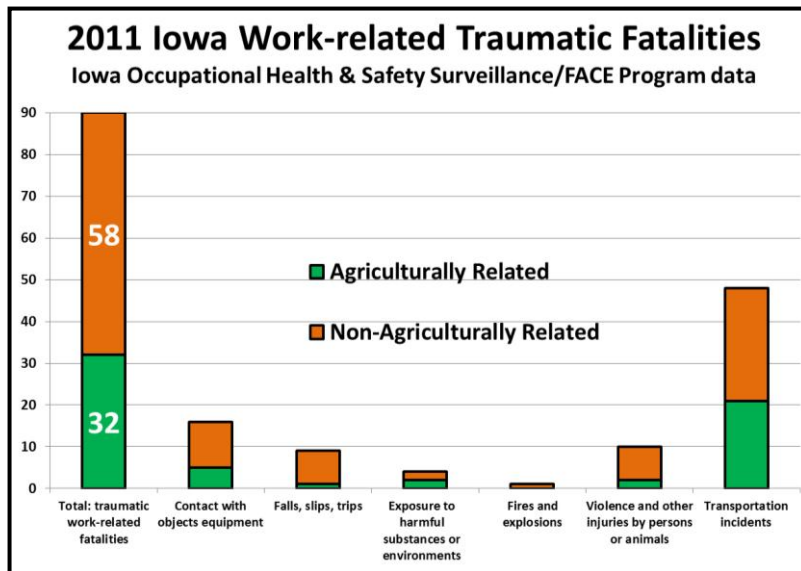
Terry E. Branstad
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Lt. Governor

Farm Safety is Important in Iowa

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) joins agencies across the U.S. in promoting safety and health during National Farm Safety and Health Week, September 16 - 22, 2012. IDPH identified 32 work-related traumatic fatalities in 2011 that occurred during agriculturally related activities.

Farming is one of the most hazardous occupations in the United States, and a work-related injury or death can deliver a crushing blow to the family. Tractor related incidents are the leading cause of traumatic death on the farm, with side and rear overturns the most frequent cause of tractor deaths. One out of seven farm workers involved in tractor overturns become permanently disabled and seven of ten farms will go out of business within a year following a tractor-related fatality.



An IDPH Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance Program (OHSSP) analysis of Iowa's work-related traumatic fatalities shows that transportation events accounted for 48 of 90 deaths in 2011. Agricultural activities were involved in 21 of the 48 transportation deaths (44%) and 32 of the 90 total fatalities (36%). Tractor and ATV (all-terrain vehicle) or UTV (utility vehicle) rollovers were responsible for 62% (13/21) of the farm or ag-related transportation deaths.

The average age of workers involved in agricultural activities at the time of their death was 58 years. The youngest worker was 10 years old and the oldest was 85. Workers 75 years old or older accounted for 21.9% (7/32) of the farm deaths compared to 8.6% (5/58) of the non-farm deaths. Farm workers less than 25 years of age accounted for 12.5% (4/32) of the deaths, compared to 5.2% (3/58) deaths in non-agricultural workers less than 25 years old.

National Farm Safety and Health Week resources are available at <http://www.necasag.org/>.

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2011 Iowa Work-Related Traumatic Fatalities

Categorized by type of Event

2011 Number of identified work-related traumatic fatalities in Iowa: 90*

Key: Event Type Category Icon Depiction for each Traumatic Work-Related Fatality

Transportation (2011=48) roadway & non-roadway, non-commuting							
Transportation icon description of vehicle type involved	car, van, pickup	truck	tractor or other powered ag equip	ATV, UTV	skid steer, backhoe, other powered equip	air, rail, water vehicles	pedestrian vehicular
Exposure to Harmful Substances or Environments (2011=4)		Violence and Other Injuries by Persons or Animals (2011=10)			Overexertion and Bodily Reaction (2011=0)		
Falls, Slips, Trips (2011=9)		Fires and Explosions (2011=1)			Contact with Objects and Equipment (2011=16)		
Nonclassified (2011=2)		* Numbers may change if updated surveillance information becomes available. Fatality event coding is based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Injury & Illness Classification Systems (OIICS)					

Created by the Iowa Department of Public Health Occupational Health & Safety Surveillance Program, including the Iowa Fatality Control Evaluation (FACE) program, through funding provided by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

