

# Alaska Occupational Injuries & Illnesses Decline in 1991

by Jim Wilson

The *Occupational Injury and Illness Information Alaska 1991* publication has been recently released by the Research & Analysis Section of the Department of Labor. The following are excerpts from the Executive Summary.

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- The private sector rate for OSHA recordable injury and illness cases in 1991 was 10.5 cases per 100 workers. This was a notable decline from 1990, and is the lowest rate since 1986.
- Within Alaska's manufacturing industries, both wood products and seafood processing showed declining rates which were encouraging. The 1991 time loss case rate for lumber and wood products was the lowest of record, while seafood processing's time loss case rate was at a six year low. This is good news for the two industries which traditionally top the list for OSHA case rates.
- The construction industry experienced 0.69% growth in employment during 1991 while its OSHA time loss case rate was the lowest ever recorded.
- There were an estimated 113,269 lost workdays in Alaska's
- Total lost workdays in Alaska's private sector in 1991 amounted to the equivalent of a full year of work for 453 employees. In salaries, this would equal over \$13 million.
- Time loss case rates declined in state and rose slightly in local government. The total estimated lost workdays in the public sector amounted to the equivalent of 83 employee years. The cost in salaries would amount to \$2.8 million; about \$948,000 for state government and \$1,868,000 for local government.
- Women, who make up over 46% of Alaska's work force, had 2,209 reported time loss injuries and illnesses in 1991 or about 23% of the total.
- There were 41 reported worker fatalities in 1991. The most common cause was air plane crashes. A NIOSH fatality study count included 36 fishing industry deaths.

## Reported Work Fatalities by Cause Alaska 1991

Total	41
Aircraft Accident	13
Fall	3
Motor Vehicle Accident	5
Drowning	2
Burned/Inhalation	1
Struck by/crushed	4
Other	6
Heart attack	7

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis