

Greater Manchester Hazards Centre

In 2010/11 the HSE reported 175 deaths (those reported to HSE and Local Authorities under RIDDOR but NOT all workers killed at work) which is up 19% on the year before (147 deaths) , and up 22% in construction.

For 2011/12 the provisional number of deaths reported to HSE is 173. This means that under the deregulating, enforcement-slashing rubbishing of workers' health and safety Coalition government, work deaths have gone up and stayed up in a recession when they usually go down. 90 members of the public were killed in work-related activities in 2011/12 excluding railway related incidents compared with 68 in 2010/11.

HSE Reported Worker Deaths by Region and Country in Great Britain in recent years

Region/Country	Fatals 2011/12 (p)	Fatals 2010/11	Fatals 2009/10	Fatals 2008/09	Fatals 2007/08 (+mop)	Fatals 2006/07 (+mop)	Fatals 2005/06 (+mop)	Fatals 2004/05 (+mop)
Scotland	20	15	23	25	31 (5)	31 (5)	32 (14)	37 (12)
North West	25	26*	17	23	22 (7)	33 (10)	31 (8)	28 (12)
West Midlands	18	13	10	12	22 (10)	33 (13)	12 (15)	26 (9)
London	8	17	11	20	26 (5)	19 (9)	15 (8)	24 (6)
South East	17	14	14	15	22(11)	35 (10)	23 (11)	19 (6)
East of England	19	20	8	12	19 (4)	19 (8)	19 (5)	18 (8)
South West	16	8	18	22	28 (7)	24 (7)	17 (13)	20 (9)
Wales	18	11	7	5	18 (4)	14 (8)	13 (5)	15(6)
Yorkshire	14	24	22	24	16 (9)	10 (8)	21 (9)	13 (7)
East Midlands	8	16	13	11	18 (5)	14 (7)	13 (5)	11 (4)
North East	5	6	3	9	7 (3)	5 (5)	11 (1)	7(5)
Total National Fatals	173 (p)	175"	147	178	233	247	217	223

P= provisional

* HSE now accepts that both deaths at Sonae Chipboard factory in Kirkby in Dec 2010 were workers – they initially classified one of the workers as a 'member of the public'; although listed as 'engaged in a work activity'- so their published figure of 25 should be 26 and will be adjusted in June 2012, and national total is now 175.

The UK Statistics Authority in its assessment of the HSE's compliance with the code of practice for official statistics, May 2010, states that the '**HSE does not produce an overall figure for work-related fatalities in Great Britain.**' and makes recommendations that they '**investigate the feasibility of producing statistics on the total number of work-related injuries and fatalities**'

From: The UK Statistics Authority in their Report 42 on Assessments of compliance with Code of Practice for official statistics - Statistics on Health and Safety at Work (produced by the HSE) Published May 2010

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/index.html>.

For more accurate estimates by Hazards Campaign and other authorities of the total work-related deaths including all those NOT reported to the HSE see 'The Whole Story' published in Safety and Health Practitioner December 2008 <http://gmhazards.files.wordpress.com/2011/06/the-whole-story-shp-december-20081.doc> which gives the Hazards Campaign reasoning behind our criticism of HSE statistics and our own estimates.

Deaths due to work-related incidents- the visible tip of the iceberg of work-related harm

Hazards Campaign estimates number of work deaths **nationally** from

1,253 to 1,403 killed in work-related incidents 2011/12 provisional figs:

- 173 workers reported to HSE & L.A. under RIDDOR
- + Members of the public killed by work activity = 90
- + Workers killed at sea* and in the air estimated at 50
- + About 790 in work-related road traffic incidents lorry drivers + some of those on their way to work + others killed in those road traffic incidents
- + about 150-300 suicides due to the pressures of work (suicides up >10%)

<http://www.hazards.org/cryingshame>

*Merchant seafarers killed UK water and on board UK ships, plus those killed in Fishing in UK waters.

Deaths due to work-related illnesses the bulk of the iceberg of work-related deaths are those due to work-related illnesses.

Hazards and other authority estimates of those killed by work-related illness each year

- Includes **18,000** by work-related cancer at 12% (8-16%) at least 5,000 due to asbestos cancers
- Heart Disease – 20% of deaths work related due to stress, long hours, shift work = up to **20,000**
- Respiratory Illness -15-20% of obstructive lung disease = about **6,000**
- Other diseases inc. restrictive lung diseases = about **6,000**
- **Giving a total of up to 50,000 per year-** the TUC estimates about 20,000 but accepts this is the lower end of realistic

People injured at work according to HSE RIDDOR reports 2010/11 Note up to 70% of RIDDOR reportable injuries are not reported.

- **115,379 non fatal injuries, of these 24,726 were major injuries, and 90,653 were over 3 day injuries-** Note as one of the Lord Young 'Common Sense Common Safety' recommendations, RIDDOR has been amended and employers will now only have to report over 7 day injuries from April 2012, but still record over 3 day injuries.

Even under these massively under-reported RIDDOR statistics, that means that in 2009/10:

- **632 people lost an eye or a limb: 2 every working day**
- **Over 24,000 fractures, 11 fatal: 77 every working day**
- **One person dies of occupational cancer every hour throughout the day (by HSE unrealistically low estimates)**

People suffering ill-health due to work was 1.9 million in 2010/11 according to the Labour Force Survey,

HSE proposals to change RIDDOR are out for consultation now up to 28th October at:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd243.htm>.. the main proposals are to remove the following reporting requirements:

- Cases of occupational disease, other than those resulting from a work-related exposure to a biological agent.
- Non-fatal accidents to people not at work.
- Dangerous occurrences outside of higher risk sectors or activities.
- The reporting by self-employed persons of injuries or illness to themselves

Cost of the harm caused by poor workplace health and safety

The HSE records the costs of poor health and safety i.e. deaths, injuries and illnesses (over 70% caused by poor management according to the HSE) as £14 billion per year, but this does not include the long latency illnesses like cancer. Each incident fatality cost £1.5 million and each occupational cancer costs £2.43 million. So even taking HSE's gross under estimate of 8,000 work cancer deaths per year would add £20 billion to this total making it nearer £40 billion per year. Taking Hazards figures would make it nearer £60 billion. Of this cost, individuals and families pay 55%, the state- us, tax payers!- pay 24% and employers whose criminal negligence caused the harm pay 22%! See HSE Annual Statistics Report 2010/11

GM Hazards Centre/ Hazards Campaign July 2012

Deaths by sector 2011/12 provisional 2010/11 in brackets

Sector	Employees A	Rate* *	Self employed B	Rate* *	Workers = A+B	Rate* *	Members of the public C	Total* =A+B+C
Agriculture	11 (10)	7.3 (6.3)	22 (20)	11.7 (10.8)	33 (3)	9.7 (8.7)	6 (8)	39 (38)
Mining & Quarrying	10 (3)	1.1 (1.0)	- (-)	1.1 (1.5)	10 (3)	1.1 (1.0)	- (-)	10 (3)
Manufacturing	29 (25)		2 (3)		31 (28)		- (1)	31
Electricity, gas, steam/air conditioning supply & Water supply, sewerage, waste mangmt & remediation	4 (11)	N/R	2	N/R	6 (11)	N/R	2 (1)	8 (12)
Of above - Waste collection treatment & disposal recycling	4 (9)	3.4 (8.7)	1 (-)	N/R	5 (9)	4.1 (8.4)	1 (1)	6 (10)
Construction	26 (33)	2.0 (2.5)	23 (17)	2.8 (2.1)	49 (50)	2.3 (2.3)	1 (2)	50 (52))
Services**	38 (40)	0.2 (0.2)	6 (13)	0.2 (0.4)	44	0.2 (0.2)	408 (337)	452 (390)
All industries	118 (122)	0.5 (0.5)	55 (53)	1.3 (1.3)	173 (175)	0.6 (0.6)(	417 (349)	590 (524)