



## **Wisconsin CFI Program FAQ**

12/17/13

### **What is the CFI program?**

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) is a federal program that collects and compiles a detailed account of each workplace fatality that occurs.

### **Who collects this information and how?**

The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene's Bureau of Labor Statistics/Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Unit has a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) to gather statistical information for the CFI program. Documents such as death certificates, medical examiner and coroner reports, police incident reports, and media articles are used to generate a comprehensive description of work-related fatalities in Wisconsin each year.

### **How is the BLS different from the OSHA agency?**

We collect work-related injury information for statistical and analytical purposes. We differ from OSHA since we do NOT enforce safety regulations or issue citations.

### **What initiates a work fatality case?**

Case initiation can occur from a variety of sources. We scour news articles that explicitly or implicitly denote a possible work fatality. A systematic and frequent examination of public records can initiate a case that may not have received media attention. All cases must be compiled with verifiable information, and require extensive research into all demographic and narrative elements of fatal occupational injuries.

### **How is this information used?**

Information is collected in a consistent, unbiased manner so that safety professionals, researchers, and other data users can identify trends and offer outreach to eliminate fatal work injuries. CFI does not speculate on reasons for trends and instead leaves that to data users. Demographic, occupation, and injury information is used to make comparisons across industries in Wisconsin and nationwide. *NOTE: Since a new Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS) was recently implemented, we cannot make reliable comparisons for specific elements of an injury prior to 2011.*<sup>1</sup>

### **Why doesn't the BLS release more details about each worker's death?**

Due to confidentiality laws, we cannot release any specific or personally identifiable information about any workplace fatality.

### **What constitutes a "violent" incident?**

Violent incidents include homicides, suicides, and animal attacks. This can also include unintentional violence which can result from contact during combat training, or restraining or subduing an individual.

1. Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System -- [www.bls.gov/iif/oshoiics.htm](http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshoiics.htm)

