

# HOW & WHY TO USE: SAFESUPERVISOR'S FATALITY FILES

Work-related deaths are still far too common, even with all the progress that's been made in creating safer workplaces and the adoption of OHS laws designed to protect workers and hold employers accountable for workplace safety.

What makes many of these deaths even more tragic is the fact they could have easily been prevented.

Keep your workers from becoming a fatality file; use these stories of work-related deaths and the lessons learned as part of your training program.

Fatality files are grim, but impactful reminders of how quickly things can go wrong, how dangerous work can be, and how easily a life could have been saved.

When paired with a safety talk and quiz, a fatality file can be an extremely effective tool in frontline safety training. For more resources to improve the resonance and retention of your safety message with frontline staff, go to [www.safesupervisor.com](http://www.safesupervisor.com).

# FATALITY FILES

## Death by Strangulation

### THE CASE

A cattle farmer died from strangulation that resulted when his loose clothing caught in the rotating shaft of a conveyor belt. The fatality occurred while the 53-year-old victim was in the feed shed adding cracked corn to ground corn that was then taken by conveyor belt to the outside feed bunk and a herd of 182 beef cattle. The conveyors and controls in the shed were set up in a way that required the farmer to crouch down and crawl under the feed bunk conveyor several times during each feeding cycle. It was while ducking under the three-foot-high conveyor that the collar of his coat became caught in the exposed rotating shaft. The rotating shaft was one of many unguarded and dangerous pieces of equipment at the farm.

### FINAL WORD

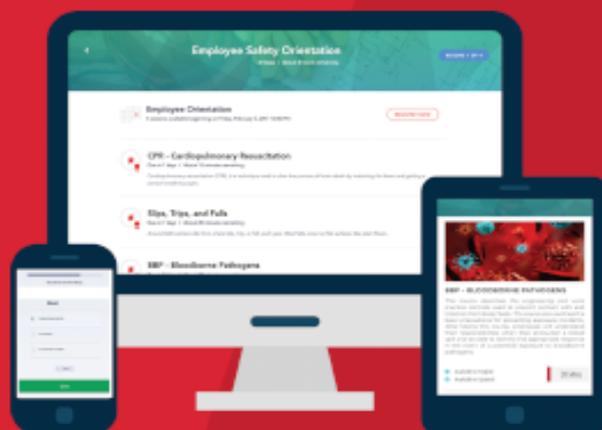
This victim was one of two (in 12 days) who died when his clothing became entangled

in exposed rotating silage conveyor pulley shaft ends. The two nearly identical incidents

illustrate why farmers and other lone workers must take extra precautions to ensure their safety including wearing appropriate clothing and keeping a two-way radio or cell phone within arm's reach. Clothing and accessories that could become tangled

in equipment, including frayed or loose-fitting clothing, dangling drawstrings or jewelry should never be worn.

# THE FASTEST PATH TO SAFETY AWESOME



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# FATALITY FILES

## A Heat Stress Tragedy: The Tale of Anthony Dalton

### THE CASE

This is not hyperbole. Here's an example of how education—or the lack thereof—led to a heat stress death. While this story starts 25 years ago in Newfoundland in the spring of 1992, the message is still relevant today. Anthony Dalton and Ronald Morrissey are trained boilermakers and good friends. They decide to take a job in New Brunswick repairing pipes in a paper mill. Here's a chronicle of what came next:

May 20, 1992: Dalton and Morrissey report for their first day of work. The temperatures outside are high for May—22° C (94° F) and 35% humidity. It's even hotter in the mill where chemicals are heated in enclosed spaces—especially on the scaffolds where Dalton and Morrissey are working. Nobody tells them anything about the dangers of heat stress. Later, the contractor will testify that he assumed that trained boilermakers would know all about heat stress. It turns out to be a tragically flawed assumption.

Dalton and Morrissey work all day in the heat. Dalton starts experiencing fatigue. It's the first warning of danger. But since neither man knows anything about the signs of heat stress, it goes unrecognized.

May 21, 1992: The outdoor temperature has climbed to 28.5° C (99° F). Humidity is at 33%. The heat and hard work in the mill continue. Dalton and Morrissey work the entire day. Dalton is getting worse. When

the two get back to their motel after work, Dalton starts experiencing muscle cramps. He's exhausted. He passes out on the bathroom floor of the motel room. He drinks a beer, not realizing that the last thing somebody in his condition should do is drink alcohol.

May 22, 1992: It's even hotter today—30.5° C (101° F). Dalton is still exhausted but decides to drag himself to work. He spends the morning inside one of the tanks helping to build a scaffold. He's in big trouble. After afternoon break, he tells the supervisor that he's just too exhausted to go back to work. He sits on the floor with his back against the base of a column. When the shift ends, he can barely stand up. He's incoherent. He stumbles about 100 metres (330 feet) and finally collapses. Even now, nobody knows what's wrong. The ambulance takes Dalton to the hospital. But it's too late. Dalton dies of heat stroke the next day.

### FINAL WORD

Perhaps the saddest part of the death of Anthony Dalton is that it could have been prevented. There was ample warning. Anybody attuned to the signs of heat stress would have recognized what was going on and acted while there was still time. Tragically, because none of the workers or supervisors with whom Dalton worked had received any education on heat stress, every opportunity to save him was missed.

# FATALITY FILES

## Five Killed in Workplace Shooting

### THE CASE

John Robert Neumann Jr., was fired in April from his job at a factory that manufactures awnings and accessories for recreational vehicles. He returned to the isolated industrial area on a Monday morning in June, authorities said, armed with a semi-automatic handgun and a hunting knife. According to authorities, Neumann got in through a rear door of the building, apparently looking for specific company employees. He at one point encountered a woman, pointed a gun at her and told her to get out of the building. Then he allegedly singled out other employees, shooting and killing five former colleagues. He stopped at least once to reload. Neumann shot and killed himself before authorities arrived.

### FINAL WORD

Workplace violence isn't something that only happens to other people or at other companies. It can and does happen with seemingly increased frequency. Employers must have a plan for recognizing the signs of potentially violent people, methods for preventing or pre-empting violence at work as early as possible. Finally, employers must have a plan in place for responding to violent workplace events like the one above.



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## WHY CHOOSE US?

"SafeSupervisor saves me time, especially when I have difficulty putting an idea into words to present to others. There are a ton of resources that I can use to keep employees engaged in our regular safety training."

Ron Thomas  
Health & Safety Director

## HOW TO GET STARTED

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