

Ag Injury Report – 4th Quarter, 2025



For small commercial fishing operations in the Gulf of Alaska and off the coasts of Washington and Oregon, the cost-effectiveness of immersion suit programs is a critical health and safety consideration for fishermen. These waters are dangerously cold—average water temperature can range from 30°F to 60°F—and without protective gear, survival time can be measured in minutes rather than hours.

Small commercial fishing operations face unique economic pressures that make mandatory immersion suit programs burdensome. A complete suit setup costs \$500-\$1,000 per crew member—a significant capital investment for vessels operating on tight profit margins. However, survival data from Coast Guard rescues demonstrate dramatic differences in outcomes. Immersion suits can extend survivable exposure time from 30-90 minutes to over 24 hours in cold-water conditions.

In October, the *FV Valor III* sank three miles west of Newport, Oregon, forcing two crew members into 53-degree water. The men were fortunate to have immersion suits aboard and time to don them before abandoning ship. These specialized survival suits help fishers stay afloat and retain body heat in emergencies, and are equipped with an attached light and whistle, with the vessel name printed on the back for identification. While the suits provided crucial protection, the cold October water still took its toll on those two crew members. Both men escaped without serious injury, despite visible signs of hypothermia.

Taunette Dixon, a spokesperson for the nonprofit Newport Fishermen’s Wives, said the outcome could have been much worse. “This was in good weather conditions, and there were lots of boats around.” (KGW-TV)

“Every year, something seems to happen. We are going into our opener with really high seas and high winds,” she said. “It’s going to be hard because some of the smaller boats won’t be able to handle those seas and winds.”

Dixon added that one of the immersion suits aboard the *FV Valor III* had been replaced earlier in the summer through the Newport Fishermen’s Wives immersion suit program—a detail that underscores the life-saving impact of community-supported safety initiatives.

Stevens, Celine. “U.S. Coast Guard Rescues 2 Men after Fishing Vessel Sinks | Kgw.Com.” *www.KGW.com*, KGW-TV, www.KGW.com/article/news/local/us-coast-guard-rescues-men-fishing-vessel-sinks/283-051d4e6a-39e2-4a7f-ac7a-4993b4865b02.

Here’s the bigger picture: immersion suit programs are about way more than just staying safe out there. Vessels that suit up with comprehensive safety gear — including well-maintained immersion suits — can score lower insurance premiums and keep their best crew coming back, since seasoned fishers know a safety-first ship when they see one. The Coast Guard isn’t playing around either, ramping up enforcement after high-profile casualties and making compliance the only option. More research into rescue outcomes, survival rates, and economic ripple effects across the Pacific Northwest fishing fleet could be a transformative step for shaping smarter policies and industry best practices.

AGINJURY REPORT 2025 FOURTH QUARTER

FATALITY – AGRICULTURE

Rexburg, Idaho — Coroner identifies man killed in Madison County crash after potato truck tips into power pole (October 14, 2025, updated October 14, 2025). A 61-year-old male died when the potato truck he was driving tipped and struck a power pole south of Rexburg.

<https://www.eastidahonews.com/2025/10/coroner-identifies-man-killed-in-madison-county-crash-after-potato-truck-tips-into-power-pole/>

Idaho Falls, Idaho — Idaho man killed in accident on US 26 involving cow (October 6, 2025). ISP reported an Idaho Falls man was driving a 2010 Volkswagen CC when it struck a cow on the roadway. Due to thick fog and darkness in the area, the 19-year-old Idaho Falls driver of a Ram Pickup didn’t see the accident in front of him. He rear-ended the Volkswagen. The driver of the Volkswagen passed away at the scene. The driver of the pickup was not injured. https://localnews8.com/news/idaho-falls/2025/10/06/idaho-falls-man-killed-in-accident-on-us-26-involving-a-cow/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

INJURY – AGRICULTURE

Pasco, Washington — Update: Semi driver trapped after hitting pilot truck on Highway 395 north of Pasco (November 22, 2025). A truck driver faces negligent driving charges after crashing into a slow-moving tractor escorted by pilot vehicles. The driver missed the rear pilot truck and struck it from behind, spinning it

aside before colliding with the tractor's equipment. The semi driver was freed from the wreckage and hospitalized. The pickups and tractor drivers were uninjured. https://www.tricityherald.com/news/local/crime/article313042667.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Dupont, Washington — Driver of truck that crashed carrying live chickens cited for falling asleep (November 21, 2025). WSP cited the driver of a semi-truck who fell asleep and crashed with a load of live chickens around 1:15 a.m. Friday. Hundreds of chickens were strewn across the roadway before it was finally cleared around 9:30 a.m. It was reported that 200 chickens died, and there were minor injuries associated with the incident. <https://www.king5.com/article/traffic/traffic-news/truck-carrying-live-chickens-crashes-interstate-5-dupont/281-d3848126-eb6c-4213-a9d5-58a8259b12db>

Royal City, Washington — Tractor-pickup collision injures Royal City man (November 6, 2025). According to WSP, a pickup truck driver rear-ended the tractor. The tractor rolled, and the driver was ejected. The tractor driver was injured and airlift to the hospital. https://columbiabasinherald.com/news/2025/nov/06/tractor-pickup-collision-injures-royal-city-man/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Granger, Washington — Yakima firefighters respond to farm equipment fire outside Granger (October 23, 2025). Fire involving hop poles and farm equipment. No injuries noted by the responding agency. https://www.nbcrighnow.com/news/yakima-firefighters-respond-to-farm-equipment-fire-outside-granger/article_4a38f6c5-cdf5-4f8d-8e90-591d12a53bea.html

Tumwater, Washington — Cow falls from embankment after highway crash in Tumwater, troopers say (October 20–21, 2025). After the truck hauling cattle jackknifed, three cows broke loose. They were seen running along northbound I-5. The incident caused traffic to back up in both directions. <https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/watch-cow-leaps-embankment-after-highway-crash-tumwater-troopers-say/>.

Prosser, Washington — Firefighters respond to early morning fire at farm near Prosser (September 17, 2025). Emergency responders from multiple agencies extinguished a large fire at a farm near Prosser early Wednesday morning. Firefighters said they spotted heavy smoke from a distance as they approached. Additional crews were called in to respond to a confirmed commercial structure fire. https://www.applevalleynewsnow.com/news/firefighters-respond-to-early-morning-fire-at-farm-near-prosser/article_294e6324-a231-4f78-a363-817f1a373ae2.html

FATALITY – FISHING

Kitsap County, Washington — Deckhand of commercial fishing boat allegedly drowned, found dead at Kingston Marina (October 17, 2025). A 42-year-old deckhand from a commercial fishing boat was reported missing by a crewmate. Deputies recovered his body underwater at the end of a dock. <https://www.kitsapdailynews.com/news/investigation-underway-after-apparent-drowning-at-kingston-marina/>

INJURY– FISHING

~3 miles west of Newport, Yaquina Bay area, Oregon — U.S. Coast Guard rescues 2 men after fishing vessel sinks (December 15, 2025). Two men were rescued Sunday morning after their commercial fishing vessel, *FV Valor III*, began taking on water. The men donned their immersion suits and entered the ocean. They had abandoned ship as it. When the Coast Guard rescued them, they were suffering from cold exposure, but uninjured. **Newport Fishermen's Wives**, through fundraisers, had recently replaced one of

the immersion suits. <https://www.kgw.com/article/news/local/us-coast-guard-rescues-men-fishing-vessel-sinks/283-051d4e6a-39e2-4a7f-ac7a-4993b4865b02>

Off Grays Harbor, Washington — Grays Harbor Rescue (November 17, 2025). The crew of a nearby good Samaritan vessel pulled the four fishermen from the water and performed CPR on one person who was unresponsive. The U.S. Coast Guard later used a helicopter to hoist the group and transfer them to a hospital in Hoquiam, Washington. At least one person remained in serious condition after being transported to the hospital, and all were being treated for hypothermia.

<https://www.maritimeinjurylawyersblog.com/four-rescued-from-sinking-vessel-near-grays-harbor-washington/>

Gulf of Alaska (south of Yakutat), Alaska — US fishing vessel drifts for days after dual engine failures (November 9, 2025). Five crew members of the FV/*Great Pacific* were rescued after drifting powerless off Alaska. FV/*Great Pacific* lost power 100 miles south of Yakutat on October 27, 2025, in 30-foot seas. The Coast Guard cutter John Witherspoon took it in tow but suffered its own engine failure near Kayak Island, releasing the vessel to drift unmanned for five days in the Gulf of Alaska. The crew was generally uninjured, and the fishing vessel was rescued five days later by a tugboat. <https://www.nationalfisherman.com/us-fishing-vessel-drifts-for-days-after-dual-engine-failures>

INJURY – LOG-HAULING OR LOGGING EQUIPMENT

Eugene, Oregon — Crash involving log truck and semi closes Green Hill Road in Eugene (November 5, 2025). The Eugene Police Department said that at 6:28 a.m. on Nov. 5, callers reported a crash between a log truck and a semi-truck at Green Hill and West 11th Avenue (OR-126). One driver was transported to a local hospital. (See article comment.) <https://kval.com/news/local/crash-on-west-11th-ave-and-green-hill-rd>

East of Bend, Oregon — Log truck and semi collide, close Highway 20 east of Bend; here’s what authorities say happened (October 28, 2025). The 62-year-old semi driver came upon the log truck and believed it was having a mechanical issue. He told OSP that he thought the other semi had its hazard lights on. The semi driver said he decided to pass the log truck when the log truck driver was attempting to make a left turn. The semi-truck hit the log-truck. The log truck driver suffered minor injuries. <https://ktvz.com/news/deschutes-county/2025/10/28/log-truck-and-semi-collide-close-highway-20-east-of-bend-heres-what-authorities-say-happened/>

Forks area, Washington — Olympic NF Vehicle Accident 2025 (October 24, 2025). The trailer of a logging truck loaded with logs detached from its tow vehicle while turning into the eastbound lane of Highway 101. The logs rolled perpendicularly across both lanes of the highway—directly into the path of an oncoming USFS vehicle—leaving no chance for avoidance. The log truck’s loaded trailer and the USFS vehicle struck each other in the ditch on the highway’s north side. The airbags deployed, and logs from the trailer entered the USFS vehicle through the windshield. The driver’s side door was crumpled. Both the driver and the passenger hit the deployed airbags. Both employees in the USFS vehicle sustained minor injuries. A 55-year-old male logging truck driver was transported to Forks Community Hospital. (great pictures) <https://lessons.wildfire.gov/incident/olympic-nf-vehicle-accident-2025> See expanded report <https://lessonslearned-prod-media-bucket.s3.us-gov-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2025-12/Olympic%20NF%20Vehicle%20Accident%20RLS.pdf>

Related Reports

[Washington Flooding](#)

[Flooding in northwest WA leaves dairies and blueberry growers scrambling](#) (Northwest Public Broadcasting, December 12, 2025).

[Some farms in Whatcom, Skagit see 'immense' damage after floods](#) (Cascadia Daily News, December 18, 2025).

Dairy farmers were last threatened by flooding in 2021.

Wildland Fire Reports.

[Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center 2025 Report](#)

Near Swan Valley / Ririe, ID — Oct 6, 2025: A 30-year-old driver **hit a cow on US-26**; the car became disabled and was subsequently struck by another pickup. The driver **died at the scene**. (ISP incident release + local reporting.) [Idaho State Police+2East Idaho News+2](#)

Oregon (activity mismatch): A **toddler drowning** involving a **livestock trough** at an **unlicensed daycare** (Oct 2025). This involves a farm-associated hazard, but the child wasn't reported as involved in farming activities or work.