42 work fatalities reported in 2013 in Eastern Mass., Southeastern N.H., feds say

Forty-two fatal work injuries were reported in Eastern Massachusetts and Southeastern New Hampshire in 2013, federal officials said.

The number was up sharply from the year before, when 22 cases were reported, but it was around the yearly average, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics said.

The figures covered Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, and Suffolk counties in Massachusetts, and Rockingham and Strafford counties in New Hampshire.

The highest the number has been in recent years was 49 in 2005.

A total of 131 worker deaths were recorded in the six New England states, officials said.

Construction and extraction occupations had the highest number of fatal work injuries in the Eastern Massachusetts and Southeastern New Hampshire area, with 11 cases.

All the results are considered preliminary. They are compiled by a program involving state, federal, and independent data sources, the agency said.

By Rebecca Fiore