In 2005, the United States experienced one of its worst hurricane seasons. The BLS Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries recorded 46 work-related fatal injuries from 2005 to 2007 that were attributable to hurricanes from the 2005 hurricane season, including Katrina, Wilma, Rita, and Dennis. These 46 fatalities occurred both as a direct result of the hurricanes during that season and also during first-response, stabilization, and reconstruction activities. While Sandy primarily affected the Northeast, the hurricane-related fatal injuries in 2005 were concentrated in three southern States—Mississippi, Florida, and Louisiana. Still, these data from 2005 can provide some perspective on the types of fatal work injuries that occur as a result of hurricanes and their aftermath.

Constructing, repairing, and cleaning, and using or operating tools or machinery accounted for two-thirds of the worker activities at the time of the fatal injury. Of the 46 fatally injured workers, 16 were working in the construction occupations, 9 of which were construction laborers. Another 8 fatalities involved ground maintenance workers. Five of the fatally injured workers were working in installation, maintenance, and repair occupations at the time of the incident and 4 were working in protective service occupations. Of the 46 cases, 14 involved workers who were struck by or caught in equipment, objects or collapsing materials, 10 resulted from falls, 9 involved transportation-related incidents, and 9 resulted from exposure to harmful substances or environments.