



HUMAN FATALITIES CAUSED BY CAPTIVE TIGERS IN THE USA 1990-2009

YEAR/State	Relationship to tiger	Comments
December 2007 California	Visitor killed by a tiger who was out of her cage, while still on the SF Zoo property, 2 more visitors injured, USDA	Lawsuit were filed by families and surviving victims
April 2006 Minnesota	USDA federally licensed private professional owner/trainer herself killed by her tiger	Occupational hazard. MN already has tough regulations on exotic animals-no risk to uninvolved public.
August 2005 Kansas	17 year old volunteer on the property of a federally licensed USDA sanctuary to have her picture taken with adult tiger, which is against USDA rules.	Parents should also be held responsible. Parents sued. Exhibitor lost his USDA license and KS enacted tough regulations compared by many to a ban. No risk to uninvolved public.
December 2003 North Carolina	10 year boy old killed by his uncle's pet tiger	Parents should be also held responsible. Being killed by a tiger shouldn't be treated any differently than death by accidents involving other activities. No risk to uninvolved public.
April 2003 Oklahoma	Tiger killed a handler at professional federally licensed USDA facility	Occupational hazard--no risk to uninvolved public.
March 2003 Illinois	Man killed by his own tigers at his own federally licensed USDA facility	Occupational hazard-no public risk. Illinois already heavily regulates private possession of 'dangerous animals'.
October 2001 Texas	3-year old boy killed by his family's tiger at their USDA licensed facility	Parents should be also held responsible. Being killed by a tiger shouldn't be treated any differently than death by accidents involving other activities. No risk to uninvolved public.
July 2001 Florida	Tiger killed a worker doing a tiger cage repair at a professional federally licensed USDA facility	Occupational hazard. FL already has regulations on exotic animals-no risk to uninvolved public not on property. Exhibitor lost his USDA license.
March 2001 Nevada	Tiger killed handler, federally licensed USDA facility	Occupational hazard, no public risk, facility is not in business anymore
June 1999 Texas	9-year old killed by her stepfather's tiger at his USDA licensed facility	Parents should be also held responsible. Being killed by a tiger shouldn't be treated any differently than death by accidents involving other activities. No risk to uninvolved public.
November 1998 Florida	Tiger killed his female owner at federally licensed USDA facility	Occupational hazard. FL already has regulations on exotic animals-no risk to uninvolved public
October 1998 Florida	Same tiger that killed his female owner in November 1998(see above) killed his male handler/trainer, USDA	Occupational hazard. FL already has regulations on exotic animals-no risk to uninvolved public not on the property.
May 1997 Pennsylvania	Circus tiger killed trainer, USDA	Occupational hazard.
June 1994 Florida	AZA zoo keeper killed by a tiger, USDA	Occupational hazard.
1990-1993	Some attacks, but no fatalities	Since Internet and data was not easily accessible as it is now, 1990 is our starting year for data collection.



REXANO collected data related to human fatalities caused by captive tigers in the USA dating back to 1990.

Total of 14 people were killed by ALL captive tigers in the USA in the last 19 years, which is 0.73 deaths per year. Very small number compared to the risks we face in everyday life.

According to *The Minnesota Zoo, Home of the AZA Tiger Species Survival Plan® (SSP)*

<http://www.mnzoo.com/conservation/National/SSP/amurtig.asp> ,

As of March 2002 there were 87 SSP member institutions holding 266 tigers in Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accredited zoos: 149 Amur tigers (56%); 55 Sumatran tigers (21%); 37 Indochinese tigers (14%); and about 25 generic tigers (9%).

Estimates vary as to how many captive tigers are kept in US private (non AZA sector) sector. Latest guesses go from 10,000 to 15,000, so for our argument we will use the number 12,500 of privately (non AZA) kept tigers in the USA.

(Please note some AZA accredited zoos are privately owned)

CONCLUSION:

In the last 19 years, a person was almost 8 times more likely to be killed by a captive tiger in AZA than non AZA facility. In all cases, uninvolved public was never at risk, most fatalities happened as a result of occupational hazard to owners/trainers/keepers, the rest happened to family members and public voluntarily visiting the property where the animals were kept. The only person killed in public was a circus trainer in Pennsylvania in 1997 while he was doing his job and the tiger was caged.

Since 1990, there is no record of a member of the general public in the USA dying as a result of a captive tiger at large, meaning, unsupervised and OFF the property where the animals were kept. Tiger out of the cage but still on owners'/zoo property is not considered AT LARGE for our statistical analysis.

1990-2009 (present)

Number of tigers		Human fatalities	Rate	Odds AZA vs. non AZA
AZA zoos	266	2	266/2=133 (one out of 133 AZA tigers kills a human in the USA)	1042/133=7.834, almost 8
Private sector	12,500 (non AZA)	12	12,500/12=1042 (one out of 1042 non AZA tigers kills a human in the USA)	In the last 19 years, a person was almost 8 times more likely to be killed by a tiger in AZA than non AZA facility. In other words, non AZA tiger facilities are almost 8 times safer than AZA tiger facilities
Total	12,766	14	12,766/14=912 (one out of 912 any type of facility tigers kills a human in USA)	