

HUMAN FATALITIES CAUSED BY CAPTIVE TIGERS IN THE USA 1990-2007

| YEAR/State | Relationship to tiger | Comments |
|---|--|---|
| 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 visitor voluntarily on the property visiting federally licensed private professional USDA facility 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 pet tigers | 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 | 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 not on the property. |
| October 1998 Florida | Same tiger that killed his female owner in November 1998(see above) killed his male handler/trainer | 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 | Occupational hazard. |
| June 1994 Florida | AZA zoo keeper killed by a tiger | 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 13 people were killed in the last 16 years, which is 0.8 deaths per year.

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 16 years, a person was almost 4 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. Since 1990, nobody in the USA died as a result of a captive tiger at large.

1990-2007 (present)

| <i>Number of tigers</i> | <i>Human fatalities</i> | <i>Rate</i> | <i>Odds AZA vs. non AZA</i> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--|
| AZA zoos 266 | 1 | 1/266=0.00375 | 0.00375/0.00096=3.916, almost 4 |
| Private sector 12,500 (non AZA) | 12 | 12/12,500=0.00096 | In the last 16 years, a person was almost 4 times more likely to die in AZA than non AZA facility. |
| Total 12,766 | 13 | 13/12,766=0.00101 | |

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