

# Elephant Incidents in North America

**The following is a partial listing of dangerous incidents involving captive elephants in North America since 1978. These incidents have resulted in 22 human deaths and more than 140 injuries to humans. Contact PETA for documentation.**

**April 16, 2024/Butte, Montana:** An elephant named Viola, who had been leased from Carson & Barnes to perform with Jordan World Circus, escaped. She was reportedly being bathed before scheduled performances at the Butte Civic Center when a truck backfired, scaring her. She wandered through the city, including through the middle of traffic on a busy road, before being recaptured. She caused some minor damage to a storage area at the civic center.

**March 28, 2021/Hugo, Oklahoma:** A visitor to the Endangered Ark Foundation, a roadside zoo connected with the Carson & Barnes Circus, was “attacked without provocation by an adult elephant” while participating in an elephant encounter. The guest sustained “serious and life-threatening injuries” and was left disabled and disfigured.

**June 21, 2019/Hamilton, Ontario, Canada:** A trainer at African Lion Safari was airlifted to a hospital with serious injuries after being attacked by one of the elephants during elephant rides.

**November 12, 2018/Westtown, New York:** Fritha, a 46-year-old Asian elephant kept by the Dawn Animal Agency, escaped from an enclosure and wandered away. Police were

notified of a loose elephant on William Lain Road, and they, in turn, called the facility from which she’d escaped. She was recaptured and returned to the enclosure a half hour later.

**June 20, 2018/Salinas, California:**

According to the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA), Paula, an African elephant at the Monterey Zoo, stepped on, thrashed, and threw a handler who had taken “aggressive action” toward her. A second worker beat Paula with a cane to try to stop the attack. The employee who was attacked was hospitalized with a broken back and ankle along with other injuries. As part of a formal settlement with Cal/OSHA, the zoo was issued a penalty of \$2,250 for failing to have an effective injury-prevention program.

**June 30, 2017/Baraboo, Wisconsin:** An elephant named Kelly escaped from the Circus World Museum premises and wandered into a residential neighborhood. She had been housed in a barn overnight with another elephant named Isla. Isla removed Kelly’s leg restraints, and Kelly left the barn, crossed a river, and walked into the neighborhood.

**September 14, 2015/Fort Worth, Texas:** A 37-year-old zookeeper at the Fort Worth Zoo was hospitalized after she entered the enclosure of a young male elephant and was attacked. She sustained a 6- to 8-inch gash to her right thigh, a 1-inch laceration to her lower left eye, and several bruises and abrasions to her legs and arms. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration later fined the zoo \$12,500 for failing to “protect employees from the hazards of being struck-by, caught-in-between and impalement while working with elephants” and failing to report the hospitalization.

**September 9, 2014/Hope, Maine:** The

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cofounder of the facility Hope Elephants died after an elephant called Rosie stomped on him when he entered a barn to feed her. BBC News listed the official cause of death as “asphyxiation and multiple fractures caused by compression of the chest.” Rosie and her companion Opal were leased from the Endangered Ark Foundation, a roadside zoo connected with the Carson & Barnes Circus. Following the incident, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued a hazard alert “noting the hazards of having individuals routinely enter the elephant enclosure without protection against crushing injuries caused by elephants and recommending that protected contact, consistent with industry standards, be used when employees work with elephants.”

**March 22, 2014/St. Charles, Missouri:**

While the Moolah Shrine Circus was performing at The Family Arena, three elephants escaped from their handlers. They were loose for about 45 minutes and damaged multiple cars before the handlers were able to regain control of them.

**October 11, 2013/Springfield, Missouri:**

A keeper at the Dickerson Park Zoo was crushed to death against the floor by a 41-year-old, 6,000-pound, female Asian elephant named Patience. He was trying to coax her from the barn housing the elephants to the yard through a narrow corridor when she lunged at him, knocking him into the corridor and fatally trampling him.

**August 26, 2013/Williston, Florida:**

A visitor to Patricia Zerbinì's Two Tails Ranch sustained life-threatening injuries that left her hospitalized for nearly two months after being attacked by an Asian elephant named Rajah. The attack caused a collapsed lung, liver and kidney lacerations, damage to her spleen (which had to be removed), broken ribs, a broken left wrist, and several large

degloving wounds. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) later fined the facility for failing to secure a perimeter fence so that unauthorized people couldn't enter and come into contact with animals at the facility. Rajah came to Two Tails Ranch from Ringling Bros.' Center for Elephant Conservation.

**January 14, 2011/Knoxville, Tennessee:**

A keeper at the Knoxville Zoo was crushed against a wall by an 8,000-pound African elephant named Edie while she was feeding the animal. Medics rushed the woman to a hospital, where she died. The Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Administration subsequently cited the zoo for allowing an elephant handler to use “free contact” (a management system in which the handler shares the same space as the elephant without any physical barriers and in which a bullhook is used) rather than “protected contact” (a system in which humans and elephants are always separated by a physical barrier that keeps an elephant from entering the handler's space). The zoo settled this case by paying a \$5,000 fine.

**July 1, 2010/Toledo, Ohio:**

A keeper at the Toledo Zoo was critically injured by a 7-year-old, 4,000-pound African elephant named Louie while interacting with him. Louie charged the man several times and struck him with his tusks. A zoo visitor reported, “The man was body-checked into the iron bars [by the elephant].” The visitor added that the victim was holding his ribs and that blood was streaming from the top of his head and down his face. Emergency crews rushed the man to the University of Toledo Medical Center, where he remained for approximately a month to recover from injuries that included two punctured lungs and broken ribs.

**April 27, 2010/Lynchburg, Virginia:** An elephant named Viola from Carson &

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Barnes Circus escaped while traveling with Cole Bros. Circus. She bolted from handlers and ran directly past a line of people waiting to buy tickets, sending some running toward the parking lot. She injured her shoulder and broke a toenail when she slid in the mud and fell into a steep ravine. She was on the loose for approximately 30 minutes before being recaptured. The circus claimed that she had been spooked by a rabbit.

**April 9, 2010/Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania:**

An animal handler with Hamid Circus died after being kicked and thrown approximately 20 feet by an African elephant named Dumbo after the electrical fencing of the enclosure fell on the animal's back, shocking and injuring her. The incident occurred between performances at the Irem Shrine Circus. The elephant had been leased from Joe Frisco's Wonderful World of Animals.

**April 2010:** According to a USDA memo, an elephant named Isa with Carson & Barnes Circus stepped on a trainer/handler. The trainer sustained injuries that required a foot splint and crutches.

**February 6, 2010/Columbia, South Carolina:**

According to *The State*, "A startled elephant took a wrong turn backstage and broke through the main prop door leading into the Colonial Life Arena during the afternoon pre-show for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus . . . About 100 spectators on the floor watching the pre-show saw the elephant break through the door toward them and rumble around the performance area, just a few feet away." The pre-show ended early as a result of the incident.

**November 4, 2009/Enid, Oklahoma:** A 4,500-pound African elephant named Kamba escaped from the Family Fun Circus and collided with an SUV on U.S. 81. The elephant was reportedly about to enter the

circus tent to perform when she was startled by someone opening the tent flap. She then ran out of the fairgrounds and onto the highway. The passenger of the SUV complained of head, left knee, and left hip pain as a result of hitting the passenger door when the driver swerved to avoid the elephant. Kamba sustained a broken tusk, bruising to the trunk, and cuts and scrapes to her left front leg and body. The animal, who was leased by the circus from exhibitor Doug Terranova, had escaped from another circus the previous year. (See June 5, 2008/WaKeeney, Kansas.)

**March 7, 2009/Indianapolis, Indiana:** At least 15 children and one adult were injured when an elephant who was being used to give rides at the Murat Shrine Circus became startled, stumbling and knocking over the scaffolding stairway leading to the elephant ride. People standing on, under, and around the scaffolding were injured and treated at the scene. The Shriners had leased the elephant from exhibitor Will Davenport, dba Maximus Tons of Fun.

**September 23, 2008/Ecatepec, Mexico:**

Hilda, a 40-year-old elephant used by the Circo Union circus, was struck and killed by a bus after she escaped from an enclosure and ran onto a highway. The driver also died, and at least four passengers were taken to the hospital.

**June 5, 2008/WaKeeney, Kansas:**

Tornado sirens spooked two elephants who were preparing to perform with the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus. The animals bolted from their tethers and ran through town, causing minor property damage and frightening residents. One woman said that she had been chased into her garage. The elephants were pursued by police, sheriff's officers, firefighters, and circus workers. One elephant was shot three times with a tranquilizer gun in an effort by authorities to slow the animal

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down. The elephants were on the loose for approximately three hours before they were recaptured and loaded onto trucks. The circus had leased them from exhibitor Doug Terranova.

**May 18, 2008/Calgary, Alberta, Canada:** A zookeeper at the Calgary Zoo was injured after being knocked to the ground by Asian elephant Swarna. He was taken to the hospital with a gash on his face.

**March 6, 2007/Apache Junction, Arizona:** An employee with Enterprising Elephants sustained several broken ribs and a dislocated jaw when an elephant became spooked and ran over him at the Arizona Renaissance Festival. The man was rushed to a hospital, where he spent a few days.

**July 21, 2006/Hohenwald, Tennessee:** A staff member at The Elephant Sanctuary was killed by an Asian elephant who was believed to be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. As the woman moved to look at the elephant's apparently sore eye, the animal spun around, knocked her down, and then stepped on her, killing her instantly. Another employee who tried to intervene sustained a minor injury to his foot.

**March 5, 2006/Marlborough, Massachusetts:** An Asian elephant named Minnie at the R.W. Commerford & Sons petting zoo injured two employees while giving rides at the Best Western Royal Plaza Trade Center. As children were being loaded onto her back, she became agitated and suddenly swung her head toward the two employees, shifting her weight and pinning them against the loading ramp. An eyewitness reported that one of the employees had provoked the elephant by striking her in the face. One man sustained a chest injury and the other a broken arm. Both were taken by ambulance to the hospital. Two bystanders sustained bruises.

Minnie had been involved in at least three previous dangerous incidents.

**December 12, 2005/San Juan, Puerto Rico:** Two elephants with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, Rudy and Angelica, sustained cuts and scrapes from arena seats after becoming startled by a barking dog while performing.

**August 25, 2005/Mount Pleasant Township, Pennsylvania:** An Asian elephant named Jewel who was owned by Cole Bros. Circus and touring with Wambold's Circus Menagerie suddenly wrapped her trunk around a woman's wrist and yanked her. The woman was reaching out toward the elephant from a crowd of people who were feeding her at the county fair. The woman was treated at an emergency room for a sprain and possibly torn ligaments.

**April 13, 2005/Polk City, Florida:** Ringling Bros. elephant handler David Mannes was airlifted to a medical center for treatment of a fractured pelvis and a soft tissue wound to his arm after he was knocked down and kicked by an Asian elephant named Tova while he was feeding the elephants at Ringling's breeding compound.

**January 31, 2005/Fort Wayne, Indiana:** An elephant trainer with Tarzan Zerbini Circus was trampled to death by one of the Asian elephants as the animals were being loaded into a trailer following performances at the Mizpah Shrine Circus.

**November 2004/McHenry County, Illinois:** Two employees at the Hawthorn Corporation's circus-training facility were injured by an elephant. One of them was hospitalized and then moved to a convalescent home, and the other was unable to work for four days.

**October 16, 2004/Tuscaloosa, Alabama:** A participant in a fraternity-house event

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broke his hand when an elephant, apparently startled when a band started playing, swung her head and knocked him to the ground with her trunk. The elephants were provided by Frisco's Elephants.

**August 29, 2004/El Paso, Texas:** An elephant with the George Carden Circus attacked an arena worker following a performance at El Maida Shrine Circus. The elephant knocked the man down, threw him into a wall, and pinned him against a fence. He sustained a dislocated shoulder, a torn rotator cuff, and a nerve injury, which required surgery for repair and reconstruction and resulted in more than \$15,000 in medical bills.

**July 4, 2004/Clinton, Iowa:** An African elephant named Nosey, with the Liebel Family Circus, attacked a circus worker who was tending to a water dish. She hit the worker with her tusk, lifting him off his feet and propelling him down an incline. The man was rushed to the hospital and received stitches for a head injury.

**June 1, 2004/Vallejo, California:** A veteran elephant trainer at Six Flags Marine World was gored and critically injured as he stood next to a 7,000-pound African elephant named Misha. (See June 22, 2001/Vallejo, California, and April 10, 1990/Oakdale, California.) The elephant knocked him down with her trunk and ran her tusk into his back, penetrating all the way through his abdomen.

**March 26, 2004/Calgary, Alberta, Canada:** An elephant keeper at the Calgary Zoo was sent to the hospital with shoulder, chest, and spine injuries after being knocked into a metal bar by an elephant named Rani.

**July 18, 2003/Indianapolis, Indiana:** An African elephant named Ivory attacked a trainer at the Indianapolis Zoo, causing a leg injury that required surgery. Ivory was

agitated when she heard her 3-year-old calf cry out. The zoo, which uses circus-style training, had removed the calf for training.

**March 2, 2003/Muskegon, Michigan:** A 9,000-pound African elephant performing with The Jordan World Circus at a Shrine circus escaped from a tent shortly before a performance and was recaptured 15 minutes later in a busy downtown area.

**December 15, 2002/Miami, Florida:** Flora, an African elephant, went on a rampage at Miami MetroZoo, knocking and kicking one elephant trainer 15 feet into a pile of rocks and injuring a second one who tried to stop the attack. The incident occurred as the trainer was demonstrating to 50 visitors how the zoo dominates elephants. The zookeeper was critically injured, with broken shoulders, a broken arm, a bruised brain, and a ruptured spleen.

**November 18, 2002/Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania:** An African elephant at the Pittsburgh Zoo butted a zookeeper, pinned him to the ground, and crushed him to death with her head. The keeper had been prodding the elephant with a bullhook during a morning walk.

**June 17, 2002/Menomonee, Wisconsin:** An Asian elephant named Tory and an African elephant named Mary, performing with a Shrine circus, left a circus tent during a show, scattering crowds. Mary walked 2 miles through town before being recaptured at the University of Wisconsin–Stout campus. One child was injured, and the elephants damaged a door at the park and caused \$600 in damage to a city truck. The Shriners had contracted with George Carden Circus for the event.

**March 13, 2002/Easley, South Carolina:** An African elephant named Tonya, belonging to Robert Childress and used in various circuses, escaped from her handlers



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while she was being loaded into a trailer, fled into nearby woods, and was recaptured with the assistance of police. This was the fourth time that Tonya had run amok. (See June 22, 2000/Washington, Pennsylvania; February 16, 1998/Mentor, Ohio; and August 30, 1997/York, Maine.)

**February 2002/Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania:**

An African elephant at the Pittsburgh Zoo injured a former Ringling Bros. elephant trainer who had been hired by the zoo, causing a collapsed lung and leg injuries.

**October 27, 2001/Charlotte, North**

**Carolina:** Debbie and Judy, two Asian elephants leased by the Hawthorn Corporation to Circus Vazquez, rampaged throughout a church. Two church members were nearly trampled, and children had to be quickly ushered to safety. The elephants crashed into the church through a glass window, broke and buckled walls and door frames, and knocked a car 15 feet, causing an estimated \$75,000 in damages. The elephants sustained cuts. Debbie had rampaged twice before. (See July 10, 1995/Queens, New York, and May 19, 1995/Hanover, Pennsylvania.)

**August 24, 2001/Knoxville, Tennessee:**

A 40-year-old African elephant named Mamie became spooked, broke free from the handlers, and smashed through a metal gate while being taken on a walk at the Knoxville Zoo. One handler required five stitches for a gash on his head that was caused when the elephant knocked him down, and another sustained a broken rib when the elephant swiped at him.

**June 22, 2001/Vallejo, California:** An African elephant named Misha at Six Flags Marine World, apparently apprehensive about the daily cleaning of an artificial insemination surgery site, attacked a trainer, pushing him to the ground and into bushes.

**June 10, 2001/Denver, Colorado:** When a trainer dropped a barrel during a bathing demonstration at the Denver Zoo, a 6,700-pound Asian elephant named Hope became startled and went on a rampage, throwing the trainer against a wall, scattering crowds of zoo patrons, and knocking over a mother and her baby in a stroller. The baby was treated at a hospital for a bump on the head, the trainer sustained cuts and bruises, a man sprained his ankle, and a woman had an asthma attack while running away from the elephant. Hope was recaptured three hours later. Hope and a baby elephant had been leased two weeks earlier from the California-based company Have Trunk Will Travel to perform daily shows during the summer.

**June 22, 2000/Washington,**

**Pennsylvania:** An African elephant named Tanya traveling with Circus Hope became frightened when children approached her with toy horns. She escaped from the handlers and was later led back to a tent by police officers, security personnel, and trainers. One of her trainers said that all the animals in the circus were “on edge” because of highway noise and the unnatural surface of the parking lot.

**April 20, 2000/Yucca Valley, California:**

Barbara and Connie, two African elephants being used by the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus, escaped from the pens. One walked down three city blocks, frightening bystanders. Authorities said that a circus employee trying to get the second elephant under control was “trampled.”

**January 26, 2000/Riverview, Florida:** An African elephant named Kenya attacked and killed a trainer at Ramos Family Circus’ winter compound. She knocked the trainer to the ground, stepped on her, and knocked her down a second time when the woman tried to stand up. Kenya was used in Ramos traveling shows and to give rides.

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**December 22, 1999/Madison, Wisconsin:**

An Asian elephant named Winkie attacked two keepers at the Henry Vilas Zoo, throwing one against the wall and grabbing the other with her mouth. She has injured people at least three other times since being brought to the zoo in 1966.

**October 4, 1999/Dallas, Texas:** An African elephant, reportedly named Kamba, walked out of the arena in which she was performing at the Texas State Fair and into an intersection filled with parade-goers. It took two hours for handlers to coax her back into the arena.

**May 16, 1999/Timmins, Ontario, Canada:**

A Leonardo Circus of Montreal employee was killed by an Asian elephant. He was trying to put a rosette around her leg when she kicked him. She was back on tour several days later.

**May 12, 1999/Bethune, South Carolina:**

Flora, an African elephant with Circus Flora, grabbed a woman with her trunk as she was dismounting from a ride and threw her against a tree three times. The woman, who had many broken bones, had to wear a body brace for three months and received \$468,000 in the settlement of a lawsuit related to the incident.

**April 29, 1999/Duluth, Minnesota:** An animal handler with Tarzan Zerbini Circus (also doing business as Circus Maximus) was injured by an elephant and hospitalized in serious condition with multiple injuries.

**February 21, 1999/Poughkeepsie, New York:** Luna, an African elephant with the Royal Hanneford Circus, escaped from the ring and charged the crowd in the middle of a performance. She ran through two tiers of seats, causing panic and sending spectators running for safety.

**November 9, 1998/Indianapolis, Indiana:**

Cita, a 29-year-old African elephant at the Indianapolis Zoo, attacked a keeper with her trunk after being reprimanded, breaking several ribs.

**August 27, 1998/Syracuse, New York:**

While carrying children on her back at a state fair, an elephant with the R.W. Commerford & Sons petting zoo panicked, knocking down and then stepping on the trainer. A 3-year-old girl was also injured after falling off the elephant. She and the trainer were treated at a local hospital.

**July 1998/Madison, Wisconsin:** An Asian elephant named Winkie and an African elephant named Penny injured a zookeeper at the Henry Vilas Zoo. The zookeeper was “picked up by one, thrown, and [then] knelt down upon by a second elephant.”

**February 21, 1998/Indio, California:** An elephant named Barbara being ridden in a festival show became spooked, reared back, and bolted back to the pen, taking the “queen of the festival” with her.

**February 16, 1998/Mentor, Ohio:** An African elephant named Tonya panicked while in a high school hallway and forced open a door. She ran a quarter of a mile and damaged a police car before being caught outside a discount store.

**August 30, 1997/York, Maine:** Two African elephants, Cally and Tonya, fled from York’s Wild Kingdom when they were startled by a truck. One elephant was found in a wooded area behind neighborhood houses.

**June 28, 1997/Seagoville, Texas:** A 65-year-old man who entered a “storage yard for circus animals” was attacked by an elephant and sustained a broken arm and a dislocated shoulder.

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**May 28, 1997/Gainesville, Texas:** An Asian elephant named Gerry II at the Frank Buck Zoo crushed a handler to death.

**April 13, 1997/Calgary, Alberta, Canada:** Jan, an elephant with Tarzan Zerbini Circus performing at the Al Azhar Shrine Circus, bit a circus groom on the head and back, causing injuries serious enough to require hospitalization.

**October 20, 1996/Los Angeles, California:** An assistant trainer was attacked by Calle, an Asian elephant, during a training exercise at the Los Angeles Zoo. Onlookers reported that she grabbed the worker's head, knocked him down, and tried to trample him. He was taken to a nearby hospital and treated for three broken ribs and a broken collarbone.

**June 14, 1996/Casper, Wyoming:** An Asian elephant named Sue, who was performing with The Jordan World Circus, knocked down and repeatedly kicked a trainer. At the time of the incident, Sue was giving rides to children, and one child fell off.

**March 5, 1996/Comfort, Texas:** A high school principal sustained two broken ribs and was nearly trampled when he fell off an elephant with King Royal Circus. He had been preparing to ride the elephant in a race when the animal became upset and shook him off.

**July 10, 1995/Queens, New York:** Two Asian elephants with the Clyde Beatty–Cole Bros. Circus went on a rampage, triggering a panic among hundreds of spectators that left 12 people injured. Six spectators were hospitalized after Debbie and Frieda bolted from the circus tent and crashed into a parked car before being brought under control by a trainer.

**May 19, 1995/Hanover, Pennsylvania:** Debbie and Frieda, two Asian elephants with the Clyde Beatty–Cole Bros. Circus, rampaged at the North Hanover Mall, smashing store windows, damaging cars, and escaping into the woods. Frieda had killed Joan Scovell, 47, of New London, Connecticut, in 1985 by grabbing the woman with her trunk and throwing her down to the ground in a parking lot of the New London Mall.

**February 6, 1995/Fort Wayne, Indiana:** An Asian elephant named Roxie stepped on an employee of Tarzan Zerbini Circus while the elephants were being loaded into a trailer. The employee sustained a crushed pelvis and was listed in critical condition.

**October 10, 1994/Riley County, Kansas:** A 3-year-old girl was feeding grass to Mickey, a 15-month-old Asian elephant at the King Royal Circus, when the elephant wrapped his trunk around her neck and attempted to pull her into the arena. The girl was treated for injuries at a local hospital.

**August 20, 1994/Honolulu, Hawaii:** Tyke, an African elephant with Circus International, killed a trainer and stomped and injured a circus groom and a dozen spectators. She had run amok just before a performance, breaking out of the arena and leading police on a chase down several city blocks until officers shot her to death with almost 100 bullets. This was the second elephant incident at the circus in as many weeks. Multiple lawsuits were filed. Tyke had rampaged twice before. (See July 23, 1993/Minot, North Dakota and April 21, 1993/Altoona, Pennsylvania.)

**August 15, 1994/Honolulu, Hawaii:** An elephant with Circus International pinned Sean Floyd, his wife, and their eight children under a fence that separated the first row of spectators from the circus rings. Floyd and his 15-year-old daughter, Rachel, were



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injured. Lawsuits were filed against John Cuneo and the Hawthorn Corporation, owners of the elephant, and also against Roy Yempuku, the circus promoter.

**July 18, 1994/New York, New York:** An African elephant with the Moscow Circus attacked a Russian translator backstage at ABC's *Live With Regis and Kathie Lee* television show. The elephant repeatedly smashed her head into the woman, pinning her to a wall and leaving her with a skull fracture, broken ribs, and a punctured lung. Lawsuits were filed against the circus, the show, and ABC for \$5 million.

**July 1, 1994/Louisville, Kentucky:** A man visiting the Louisville Zoological Gardens was picked up and dropped several times by an African elephant named Kenya. As a result of his injuries, his spleen and part of his pancreas were removed. The elephant had just finished giving rides to zoo visitors and was being led away when she wandered off and picked up the man. Zoo officials claimed that the elephant, who was normally considered calm and docile, was just "horsing around."

**April 6, 1994/Salt Lake City, Utah:** While giving rides to two children, an Asian elephant picked up, tossed, and stepped on an animal trainer with The Jordan World Circus, breaking his arm and ribs and causing internal organ damage. Another trainer was also injured in the incident.

**April 1994/Muskegon, Michigan:** Three children were injured when an elephant who was being used for rides at a Shrine-sponsored circus fell into the passenger loading platform, spilling the riders and bending the platform.

**February 24, 1994/Chicago, Illinois:** An elephant handler sustained broken ribs, a broken sternum, a collapsed lung, and a wound on her back when she slipped under

an Asian elephant she was trying to secure. The elephant, named Shanti, had broken through some chains and ropes in the holding area at the Lincoln Park Zoo. The handler sought \$1 million in damages against the zoo.

**January 30, 1994/Cleveland, Ohio:** Tiani, an African elephant at the Cleveland Zoo, lunged at a keeper, gashing his head. Although zoo officials said that she had never before acted so aggressively, they believe that she had a "temper tantrum" as a result of being confined during a subzero cold spell.

**September 1993/Vallejo, California:** Radio personality Scott Stuart was posing on the back of an elephant at Marine World for a publicity photograph when the elephant ran across a public area and threw Stuart onto a concrete path. The elephant was being used to give rides to children. Stuart sued the park for the injuries that he had sustained and was awarded \$600,000 in an out-of-court settlement.

**July 23, 1993/Minot, North Dakota:** Tyke, the African elephant who was killed in the August 20, 1994, incident described above, escaped from a trainer while at the North Dakota State Fair and trampled an elephant show worker, breaking two of his ribs.

**July 10, 1993/Tampa, Florida:** Tillie, an Asian elephant at the Lowry Park Zoo, killed a keeper by pinning her to the ground and kicking her in the chest. Several weeks before, the elephant had pushed the same keeper into a moat surrounding the compound housing the elephants.

**June 5, 1993/Fishkill, New York:** An Asian elephant crushed a man to death by pinning him against a trailer in the elephant area of the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus grounds at the Fishkill Mall.

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**May 5, 1993/Williston, Florida:** A circus trainer died of internal injuries after an Asian elephant named Reba knocked him down and stomped on his chest at a Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus elephant farm.

**April 21, 1993/Altoona, Pennsylvania:** An African elephant named Tyke charged through an arena entryway during a Great American Circus performance. She ripped away part of the wall, causing \$10,000 in damage. More than 3,000 children were in the audience. One young girl sustained injuries to her ankle, and the Hawthorn Corporation agreed to a cash settlement with her parents. Tyke ran out onto an upstairs balcony and was later coaxed back by trainers.

**December 16, 1992/San Antonio, Texas:** An Asian elephant named Ginny killed a keeper by grabbing him and slamming him to the ground as he was leading a group of elephants into an enclosure at the San Antonio Zoo.

**December 3, 1992/Cleveland, Ohio:** A 4,500-pound elephant named Tribby shoved a Cleveland Metroparks Zoo employee into a wall with her head, trunk, and tusks. The keeper sustained a torn rotator cuff and received cortisone shots to alleviate the pain. Tribby had previously injured a keeper at the Pittsburgh Zoo, knocking him down and crushing his pelvis.

**October 14, 1992/Bloomington, Minnesota:** A handler was hospitalized for a leg injury after an Asian elephant named Bunny slipped in a puddle of urine and fell while giving rides to several children at the Zuhrah Shrine Circus. One child sustained a minor injury.

**August 31, 1992/Indianapolis, Indiana:** A 3-year-old girl sustained permanent facial scarring after falling off an elephant during a

ride at the Indianapolis Zoo. Three others riding with the girl also fell to the ground.

**July 15, 1992/Lafayette, Indiana:** Nine people were injured when they couldn't get out of the way as elephants in the Tarzan Zerbini International Circus collided and toppled a barricade at a shopping center.

**February 1, 1992/Palm Bay, Florida:** Janet (aka "Kelly"), an Asian elephant with the Great American Circus, went on a rampage while carrying children on her back. She injured 12 people and threw a police officer to the ground before being shot and killed by police.

**December 1991/Houston, Texas:** Indu, an Asian elephant at the Houston Zoo, attacked a trainer and broke his collarbone and four ribs.

**July 1991/Portland, Oregon:** Tamba, an Asian elephant at the Metro Washington Park Zoo, knocked down the same trainer she had slammed against a wall seven months previously, this time fracturing his skull. (See December 7, 1990/Portland, Oregon.)

**March 15, 1991/San Diego, California:** A keeper was killed by an Asian elephant at the San Diego Wild Animal Park.

**January 12, 1991/Oakland, California:** An animal handler who was cleaning a pen housing elephants at the Oakland Zoo was kicked to death by an African elephant named Smokey.

**December 7, 1990/Portland, Oregon:** A trainer at the Metro Washington Park Zoo was slammed against the steel-clad corner of a concrete door by an Asian elephant named Tamba and sustained severe head and brain injuries.

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**October 1990/Indianapolis, Indiana:** A father and his 2-year-old son fell off an African elephant named Kubwa during a ride at the Indianapolis Zoo. The man sustained a dislocated hip and a severe groin injury.

**July 8, 1990/Reading, Pennsylvania:** During a Great American Circus show, an elephant attacked a trainer and went on a rampage, panicking the crowd and injuring one man.

**June 21, 1990/Fort Lauderdale, Florida:** An Asian elephant named Carol with the Hanneford Family Circus kicked and sat on a handler after being startled by a passing car. The man was crushed to death.

**June 1990/Oakland, California:** An African elephant named Lisa attacked a keeper at the Oakland Zoo, ripping off her index finger and the end of her thumb.

**April 10, 1990/Oakdale, California:** An African elephant from Marine World Africa USA in Vallejo threw the passengers off her back while she was giving rides at a private party in the Oakdale area. The elephant began spinning and bumping into cars before she was brought under control. One passenger fell and was dragged 40 feet before being freed.

**March 19, 1990/Loxahatchee, Florida:** An African elephant named JoJo injured a handler at Lion Country Safari when she lifted him with her trunk, spun him around over her head, threw him to the ground twice, and gored him. The handler had five crushed ribs and a damaged liver and required 23 pints of blood.

**February 13, 1990/San Francisco, California:** An elephant keeper at the San Francisco Zoo sustained a fractured back when he was pushed into a moat by an Asian elephant named Tinkerbelle.

**1989/Hamilton, Ontario, Canada:** A 21-year-old university student was killed at the African Lion Safari. He was trying to stop two elephants from fighting and was knocked to the ground and crushed.

**March 5, 1988/Montréal, Québec, Canada:** An elephant handler underwent emergency surgery after being stomped on by an elephant during a Shrine circus. He sustained multiple abdominal injuries, including three cracked ribs and a damaged liver.

**January 11, 1987/Fort Worth, Texas:** An Asian elephant named Sam at the Fort Worth Zoo knocked down a keeper with his trunk and stepped on his head, killing him.

**March 11, 1978/Chicago, Illinois:** A Hawthorn Corporation elephant performing at the Medinah Shrine Circus in Chicago picked up an employee named David Farr with her trunk and threw him into a pillar, killing him. Witnesses said that Farr had been toying with the elephant earlier, putting his hand in her mouth and pushing her face.