

PREVENTING CONSTRUCTION INJURIES & FATALITIES

OSHA statistics show that *one of every five* workplace fatalities is a construction worker. Despite its high fatality rate, construction can be a safe occupation when workers are aware of the hazards and use an effective Safety and Health Program. OSHA has grouped the hazards that cause the most serious construction accidents into four major categories: Electrical incidents, Falls, Struck-By, and Excavation.



Electrical Incidents

Electricity has become essential to modern life. Perhaps because it is such a familiar part of our surroundings it often is not treated with the respect it deserves. Safety and health programs must address electrical incidents and the variety of ways electricity becomes a hazard.

Falls

Falls are the leading cause of fatalities in the construction industry. It is important that safety and health programs contain provisions to protect workers from falls on the job.

Struck-By

The second highest cause of construction-related deaths is being struck by an object. Approximately 75% of struck-by fatalities involve heavy equipment such as trucks or cranes. Safety and health programs must take into account the many ways struck-by accidents can occur.

Excavation/Trenching

Cave-ins are perhaps the most feared trenching hazard. But other potentially fatal hazards exist including asphyxiation due to lack of oxygen in a confined space, inhalation of toxic fumes and drowning. Electrocutation or explosions can occur when workers contact underground utilities. OSHA requires that workers in trenches and excavations be protected, and that safety and health programs address the variety of hazards they face.