Many Michigan workers, regardless of industry or occupation, are exposed to fall hazards at work. According to 2014 Michigan's hospital surveillance data, 21 workers were killed and 357 workers were seriously injured due to a work-related (WR1) fall incident. The highest rate of fall related deaths was in the construction industry. However, the highest number of nonfatal fall related injuries was associated with services industries (e.g., Publishing, Recreation, Food and Accommodation Services, Professional, Scientific and Technical Services).

**EXAMPLES OF NON-FATAL AND FATAL WORK-RELATED FALL INJURIES IN MI**

- A 51-year-old male firefighter at house fire fell 20 feet when he turned on a fire hose and was knocked back off of a ladder.
- A 41-year-old male dishwasher at a senior center died as a result of medical complications due to a fractured ankle sustained in the parking lot of his employer. The parking lot was icy and snow covered.
- A 56-year-old male party store owner died when he fell approximately six feet from a ladder to a concrete floor.

**IN ORDER TO PREVENT SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN THE FUTURE**

- Share fall prevention outreach/educational materials and tools available (such as the NIOSH ladder safety app for smart phones) to raise awareness of fall hazards and existing prevention strategies among employees, employers, unions and health providers.
- Develop guidelines to prevent falls associated with seasonal hazards-for example, slips and falls on ice in employer parking lot.
- Utilize existing fall prevention materials (MIOSHA, NIOSH, OSHA, etc.) to address fall hazards in the workplace.
- Implement the following for employees: PLAN ahead to get the job done safely, PROVIDE the right equipment, and TRAIN everyone to use the equipment safely in order to minimize the risk of work-related injuries.

**RESOURCES**

**MIOSHA Construction Safety Standard - Fall Protection, Part 45:**  

**MIOSHA Fall Protection Resources:**  
http://www.michigan.gov/lara/

**MIOSHA-Preventing Slips, Trips, and Falls in the Workplace**  

**General Resources**

- **CDC Fall Injury Prevention:**  
  http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/falls/
- **OSHA Fall Prevention Campaign**  
  https://www.osha.gov/stopfalls/

**MSU Occupational & Environmental Medicine**  
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[Hazard Alert: Work-Related Fall injuries #1 8/17/2015]