Many Michigan workers, regardless of industry or occupation, are exposed to fall hazards at work. According to 2014-2018 Michigan’s hospital surveillance data, 120 workers were killed and 1,705 workers were seriously injured due to a work-related (WR) fall incident (two workers were injured twice in two separate years). The highest frequency 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 41-year-old male roofing subcontractor slipped on a wet plywood and fell 10 feet from a roof.
- A 66-year-old male church volunteer died from a 15-foot fall from a ladder to concrete while trimming a limb from a tree on a church property.
- A 50-year-old male ironworker fell 22 feet while working from and relocating a 24-foot fiberglass extension ladder positioned across an open shaft way.

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

- Implement a comprehensive fall protection program including:
  - PLAN ahead to get the job done safely, PROVIDE the right equipment, and TRAIN everyone to use the equipment safely.
  - Depending on the height and industry, fall protection (e.g., guardrail system, personal fall arrest systems, positioning device system, etc.) may be required. See MISHA Fall Protection Resources
  - Establish good housekeeping practices: What makes floors slippery? Create procedures for routine inspections, cleaning and maintenance, including entrances/transition areas, seasonal hazards (e.g., ice in parking lots), selection and use of cleaning products, signage placement, lighting.
  - Utilize existing fall prevention materials to increase general awareness of fall hazards.
  - Establish footwear guidelines: Would slip-resistant footwear minimize fall risk?

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- The most common hospitalized WR fall injury was a fracture of a lower limb (42%); the next most common was a fracture of the head, neck, or trunk (23%).
- 80% of WR fall injuries requiring hospitalization were in the hospital for two or more days.
- Majority of individuals having hospitalized WR fall injuries were 45-64 years of age.
- 28% of WR fall injuries occurred during winter.
- Highest rate of WR fall injuries occurred in construction 30.9 vs. services industry 4.4 per 100,000 workers.
- 73% of individuals hospitalized with a WR fall injury were men.

The above data only included individuals who were hospitalized for work-related fall injuries where Workers’ Compensation was the expected payer. These numbers do not reflect workplace fall injuries where individuals were treated and released within a 24 hour time period or not covered by workers’ compensation.

**RESOURCES**

- **MISHA Resources:**
  - Fall Protection Resources (Click on F): https://www.michigan.gov/leo/0,5863,7-336-78421_11407_52824---,00.html

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

Hazard Alert: Work-Related Fall injuries #2 3/12/20