

MICHIGAN



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY: Prevention of work-related injuries & illnesses through research & investigation

HOSPITALIZED WORK-RELATED FALL INJURIES IN MICHIGAN STOP WORK-RELATED FALL INJURIES

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 MIOSHA 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?
- **Climbing for work?** [User-friendly guides and tools for extension and step ladder selection and safe use.](#)

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

MIOSHA Resources:

- **Fall Protection Resources (Click on F):** https://www.michigan.gov/leo/0,5863,7-336-78421_11407_52824---,00.html
- **MIOSHA News: Preventing Slips, Trips, and Falls in the Workplace** www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/lara_miosha_news_fall12_401833_7.pdf

General Resources

- **CDC Fall Injury Prevention:** <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/falls/>
- **OSHA Fall Prevention Campaign** <https://www.osha.gov/stopfalls/>
- **National Safety Council. Slips, Trips and Falls webpage:** <https://www.nsc.org/work-safety/safety-topics/slips-trips-falls>
- **Safety Talk: Preventing Slips, Trips and Falls:** http://www.wsps.ca/WSPS/media/Site/Resource/Docs/SafetyTalk_PrevSlipsTripsFalls_Aug-Oct_v1.pdf