

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 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.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The most common hospitalized WR fall injury was a fracture of a lower limb (44%); the next most common was a fracture of the head, neck, or trunk (32%).
- 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 45-65 years of age.
- 31% of WR fall injuries occurred during winter.
- Highest rate of WR fall injuries occurred in construction 44.4 vs. services industry 3.2 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 Worker's 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 Construction Safety Standard - Fall Protection, Part 45:

http://michigan.gov/documents/CIS_WSH_part45_55749_7.pdf

MIOSHA Fall Protection Resources:

<http://www.michigan.gov/lara/>

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

www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/lara_miosha_new_s_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/>

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