



OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

America can be more competitive and more productive with safer, healthier workplaces. CDC plays a critical role in this by helping prevent illness, injury, disability, and death caused by workplace exposures. Our research and practical tools help keep workers safe from work-related illnesses and injuries. We work with states and industry to improve worker safety and health.



1 MINUTE

A young worker (15-24 years) is injured on the job every minute in the U.S.



1 IN 3

More than 1 in 3 truck drivers who died in 2012 were not wearing seat belts.



CDC research helped improve the design of life vests to better protect fishermen from drowning.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Improved ambulance standards issued by the Society of Automotive Engineers that were also used by manufacturers and purchasers to make patient compartments safer.
- Developed new methods to analyze and use data about the human body so manufacturers can design safer truck cabs, fire trucks, seat belts, gloves, and boots.
- Expanded the Coal Worker's Health and Surveillance Program in response to a new rule published by the Mine Safety and Health Administration. The rule extends medical monitoring (already done for underground miners) to surface miners. It also adds respiratory symptoms assessment and lung function testing at approved facilities for all coal miners.
- Produced 54 state- and territory-specific versions of a new curriculum, Youth@Work—Talking Safety, to teach young workers how to stay safe and healthy on the job.
- Worked with the aviation industry, aviation safety groups, and government authorities to change radio frequencies used by aircraft pilots in congested airspace north of Anchorage, Alaska. This is helping to reduce midair collisions caused in part by inconsistent and often confusing radio frequencies.



1 IN 3

1 in 3 deaths in the construction industry is from falls, the leading cause of work-related deaths.



3% TO 6%

About 3% to 6% of all cancers worldwide are caused by exposures to carcinogens in the workplace.

FROM DESIGN TO DECK: INNOVATING SAFER LIFE VESTS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN

Most work-related deaths in the fishing industry are caused by drowning after a vessel disaster or falling overboard.* Most deckhands do not wear personal flotation devices (PFDs) while working on deck even though the risk of drowning is high.

Why would a commercial fisherman risk working without a PFD? CDC research revealed many workers believe PFDs cause dangerous equipment entanglements, are uncomfortable, and interfere with their work. The research showed little consistency in how PFDs are designed or improved because of lack of regulation and failure to involve fishermen in PFD design.

CDC's research inspired a national PFD manufacturer to engage the fishing industry to test various PFD designs. Fishermen on several fishing vessels used various commercially available PFDs and gave feedback on what was good and bad about each design. The company incorporated the feedback from the fishermen to develop a PFD prototype worn under bibs and rain gear with 12 pounds of flotation—the optimal amount to maintain buoyancy. This prototype was field-tested for continuous wear and adjusted based on fishermen's feedback. The final product won the 2014 Fisheries Supply Innovation Award and is now commercially available.

*Commercial fishermen have one of the highest death rates from injuries on the job of any work in the U.S.