



Occupational Injuries & Fatalities Due To Falls

Employers and employees in Manufacturing need your help

NORA

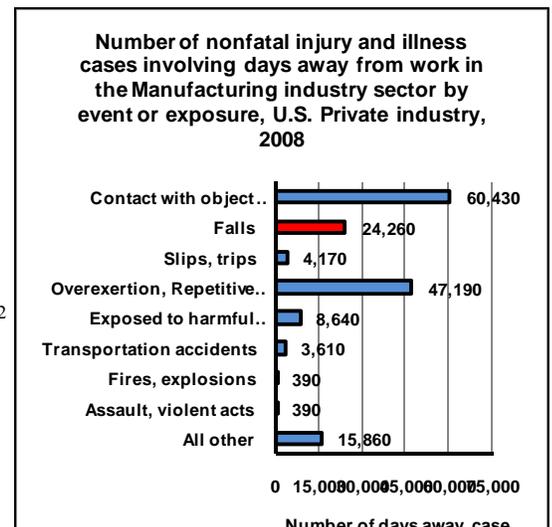
The National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) is a partnership program to stimulate innovative research and improve workplace practices. Unveiled in 1996, NORA has become a framework for guiding Occupational Safety and Health research in the nation. Diverse parties collaborate to identify the most critical issues in the workplace. Partners then work together to develop goals, objectives, and an implementation plan for addressing these issues.

Manufacturing

The Manufacturing Sector consists of industries that have been assigned a North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) number between 31 and 33 (www.census.gov/epcd/naics02/naicod02.htm#N31), as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. This sector employs one of the largest workforces and includes a diverse group of manufacturing industries such as Beverage and Tobacco, Food, Wood Products, Primary Metals, Fabricated Metal Products, Transportation Equipment, Furniture, and Chemical Manufacturers.

Falls in the Manufacturing Sector

An estimated 15.9 million people worked in the Manufacturing Sector in 2008, which accounted for approximately 10.9% of the employed U.S. workforce.¹ In 2008, 411 manufacturing sector workers died from occupational injuries. The leading causes of death were contact with objects and equipment (116), transportation incidents (104), and falls (58).² The Sector reported 689,700 non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses with more than half requiring days away from work, job transfer, or restriction.³ The leading causes of days away from work cases were: contact with objects or equipment (60,430), overexertion and repetitive motion (47,190), and falls (24,260).⁴ These data substantiate that Strategic Goal 1 of the National Manufacturing Agenda focuses on one of the three leading sources of occupational injuries and fatalities – falls.



NIOSH is the federal agency responsible for conducting research and making recommendations to prevent work-related injury, illness, and fatalities. Its mission is to generate new occupational safety and health knowledge and to transfer that knowledge into practice.

Strategic Goal: Reduce the number of injuries and fatalities resulting from falls in the manufacturing sector

The NORA Manufacturing Sector Council has developed goals to guide the reduction of injuries and fatalities in this sector. These goals can be found on the NORA Web site (www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora) under the Strategic Goal 2 of the National Manufacturing Agenda. Public comments on this document are accepted at any time.

How You Can Help

Apply research findings in the workplace:

- Improve data collections and conduct studies of occupational injuries and fatalities due to falls from elevations.
- Develop interventions to improve ladder safety through research, communications, best practices and partnerships.
- Develop recommendations for attaching a safety harness by developing and evaluating engineering recommendations, and disseminate solutions and guidelines.
- Develop best practices to manage teams working without observation.
- Conduct risk assessments to improve information on factors that contribute to falls.

Disseminate information and implement activities to move research into practice and prevent falls on the same level:

- Compile Data to determine factors contributing to falls; develop and evaluate interventions and guidelines to improve accident prevention/protection strategies for falls, and disseminate the results industry-wide.
- Improve fall training and prevention by developing, evaluating and disseminating best practices and guidelines.
- Conduct assessments on environmental factors, e.g., lighting and housekeeping, by developing and evaluating engineering interventions and guidelines to address the impact of environmental factors on falls.

Develop a database on occurrences, causes, and interventions for fall protection:

- Conduct research on best practices for fall prevention, and requirements for building and design standards for new floors to prevent slips, trips and falls; disseminate the results.

The NORA Manufacturing Sector Council includes individuals from industry, academia, labor, and government. The Council meets face-to-face twice a year. Additional communication occurs through email, conference calls, and web-based meetings. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) facilitates the work of the Council. The Council's workgroup on reducing injuries and fatalities due to falls relies on Corresponding Members for additional expert input and feedback on sector goals. Members and Corresponding Members primarily meet via conference calls and web-based meetings.

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For more information about NORA or the NORA Manufacturing Sector, please visit:

NORA Website: www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora

NIOSH Manufacturing Program Portfolio:

www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/manuf/

References

Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates, latest available (accessed April 25, 2010)

- (1) www.bls.gov/cps/cpsa2008.pdf - See Table 18
- (2) www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/cftb0232.pdf
- (3) www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/osh/os/ostb2073.pdf
- (4) www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/osh/case/ostb2086.pdf