What are our priorities?

CPWR-The Center for Construction Research and Training serves as the National Construction Center under a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) cooperative agreement. Since 1990, our research has focused on reducing occupational injuries, illnesses, and fatalities in the construction industry. Current priorities include:

- Preventing fall injuries and fatalities
- Reducing occupational exposure to hazards such as isocyanates, respirable silica, noise, and engineered nanoparticles
- Improving safety climate to prevent injuries
- Reducing work-related musculoskeletal disorders

What do we do?

- Collaborate with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), NIOSH and the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Construction Sector Council on the development, implementation, and promotion of the National Campaign to Prevent Falls in Construction and the National Safety Stand-Down.
- Analyze data to track safety and health trends and changes in workforce demographics in construction, and to identify emerging hazards and research needs, including those of Hispanic workers who make up a growing share of U.S. construction workers.
- Investigate and develop tools to improve jobsite safety climate.
- Explore emerging hazards and offer guidance on potential risks and preventative measures.
- Bring together industry partners to engage construction workers and contractors in safety and health research and outreach.
- Provide stakeholders with ready access to information on occupational hazards, evidence-based interventions, and training resources in print and through our family of websites, such as www.silica-safe.org and www.cpwrconstructionsolutions.org.
- Translate research findings into practical tools and materials to encourage their widespread adoption on construction jobsites, and develop tools to support researchers’ research-to-practice (r2p) activities.

What have we accomplished?

- Created the Foundations for Safety Leadership (FSL) course for construction workers with supervisory responsibility. OSHA approved the FSL as an elective for OSHA’s 30-hour construction training course, and many companies are using it for their own in-house training.
- Developed the Radiofrequency Radiation Awareness Program for the construction industry through a multi-trade labor-management effort initiated by our Roofing r2p Partnership.
- Expanded the availability of health and safety materials for Spanish-speaking workers considered at disproportionate risk for construction injuries, including Spanish versions of our hazard alert cards and toolbox talk series. Our toolbox talks have been downloaded more than 600,000 times.
- Published new findings on construction industry trends and their implications for the industry and worker safety in CPWR Quarterly Data Reports, trade publications, and peer-reviewed journals.
- Launched the online Safety Climate Assessment Tool (S-CAT) for contractors to use to assess their safety climate across eight leading indicators shown to be predictive of employee injury rates.
- Developed an online r2p library of planning tools, partnership resources, and r2p strategies.

What’s next?

- Develop an online Construction Safety & Health Network to expand our reach and connect individuals and organizations interested in advancing safety and health by sharing information and collaborations.
- Create an exposure control database of construction occupational hazards—such as respirable silica and welding fumes—for use by industry stakeholders.