What are our priorities?

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Traumatic Injury Prevention Program works with partners from industry, labor, trade associations, professional organizations, and academia. The program addresses these areas:

- Tackling the leading causes of work-related traumatic injuries.
- Decreasing work-related injuries among high-risk occupations and vulnerable worker groups.

What do we do?

- Conduct research to develop an evidence base for preventing the leading causes of work-related traumatic injuries – falls, motor vehicle crashes, violence, and those associated with machines and industrial vehicles.
- Identify and evaluate ways to reduce traumatic injuries among high-risk occupations and vulnerable worker groups, such as young and older workers, and those in non-standard work arrangements (such as temporary agency, contract, and “gig” arrangements).
- Share research findings and evidence-based recommendations with partners who can put the information into practice. These partners include manufacturers, consensus standard committees, employers, workers, and government agencies.
- Conduct effective surveillance for occupational injuries, and share data with the research community, employers, and workers to guide future research and prevention efforts.

What have we accomplished?

- Participated in the inaugural National Ladder Safety Observance in March 2017; released promotional materials for the free NIOSH Ladder Safety app that contributed to more than 10,000 downloads that month.
- Released award-winning videos and an infographic that provided emergency medical services agencies with information to purchase safer ambulances.
- Supported an extramural study reporting computer-based training reduces violence to home healthcare workers by increasing confidence in preventing and responding to incidents.
- Established Center for Occupational Robotics Research; formed an alliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Robotic Industries Association.
- Published research on causes and trends of occupational fatalities to youth less than 18 years of age in the United States over a 20-year period from 1994 to 2013.
- Co-sponsored the 10th International Conference on Managing Fatigue, which brought together more than 260 scientists and industry experts to share research and discuss fatigue management and worker safety.

What’s next?

- Publish findings from a study on the efficacy of a program to reduce falls among food-service workers through employer-provided slip-resistant shoes.
- Publish results of an analysis of motor vehicle collision and injury data for a large corporate light-vehicle fleet and communicate major findings to industry audiences.
- Co-publish a report with the Bureau of Justice Statistics and Bureau of Labor Statistics that provides data on fatal and nonfatal workplace violence and trends using multiple data sources.
- Seek public input to refine research to be addressed by the Center for Occupational Robotics Research.
- Conduct research-based fatality investigations to make recommendations for preventing deaths among high-risk and vulnerable workers.
- Host the 7th National Occupational Injury Research Symposium on October 16-18, 2018, in Morgantown, West Virginia, to share and discuss the latest occupational injury research.