

## What are our priorities?

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Oil and Gas Extraction Safety and Health Program works with partners in industry, trade associations, professional organizations, academia, and labor. The program focuses on these areas:

- Reducing worker fatalities, with an emphasis on motor vehicle crashes;
- Characterizing physical and chemical exposure hazards; and
- Developing and evaluating engineering controls to improve worker safety and health.

## What do we do?

- Conduct epidemiologic studies and surveillance to identify leading causes of death and injury.
- Characterize exposure to hazardous agents, such as chemicals and minerals, to better understand the hazards and risks.
- Develop and test engineering controls in the workplace.
- Investigate possible mechanisms of disease in oil and gas workers through laboratory research.
- Communicate and distribute information to raise awareness of hazards and promote NIOSH recommendations.

## What have we accomplished?

- Published a [sentinel article](#) examining worker exposures to diesel particulate matter (DPM) during a variety of oil and gas extraction operations. The study found that all workers had the potential for task and location based exposure to DPM.
- Published a [report](#) that describes fatal fall injuries, which found the majority occurred from a height of more than 20 feet. Improper use of fall protection equipment was identified as a contributing factor.
- Published fact sheets for workers and employers titled "[How to Prevent Fatigued Driving at Work](#)", which include recommendations to reduce fatigued driving in the industry.
- Worked with partners to develop and disseminate the video "[Protecting Oil and Gas Workers from Hydrocarbon Gases and Vapors](#)" to raise awareness and protect workers from exposure to hydrocarbon gases and vapors.
- Applied technologies from the NIOSH mining EVADE software and HelmetCAM to enhance exposure assessment research in oil and gas.

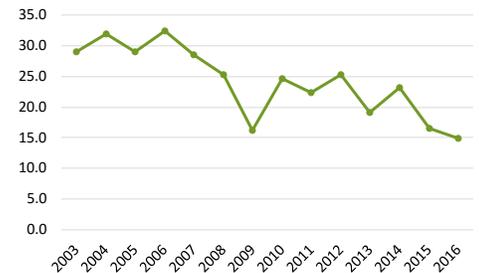
## What's next?

- Conduct exposure assessment to better understand potential health risks to workers employed by drilling contractors.
- Develop and evaluate engineering controls to protect oil and gas extraction workers from safety and health hazards such as silica, DPM, hydrocarbon gases and vapors, struck by hazards, and motor vehicle crashes.
- Analyze and disseminate data collected from a survey of 500 oil and gas extraction workers including detailed information that will guide future safety and health work.
- Seek commercialization partner for the NIOSH Mini-Baghouse Retrofit Assembly, an engineering control that reduces exposure to respirable crystalline silica by up to 99%.

## At-A-Glance

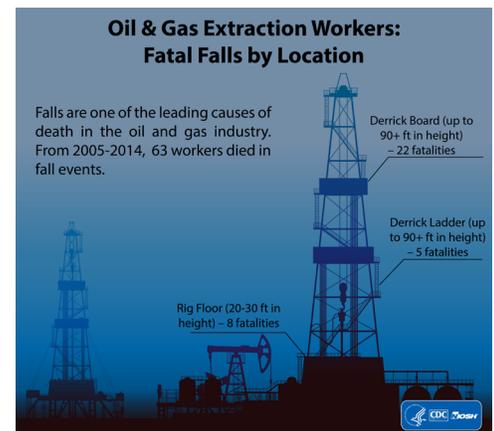
The Oil and Gas Extraction Program conducts research, partners with stakeholders, and develops and communicates workplace solutions to improve safety and health in the oil and gas extraction industry. This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming work.

**Oil and gas extraction worker fatality rate (per 100,000 workers)**

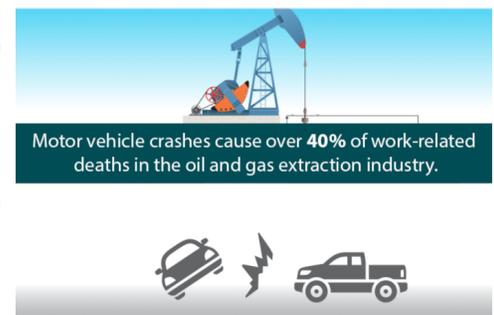


Source: BLS [2016] Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, <https://www.bls.gov/cew/>

## Falls infographic, which was shared on NIOSH social media.



## Fatigue driving prevention animated GIF available for download on the NIOSH website.



To learn more, visit  
[www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/oilgas](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/oilgas)

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