



CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRY RESEARCH
AND POLICY CENTER

Construction Fatality Digest



QUARTERLY REPORT

JANUARY - MARCH 2012

Welcome to the First Quarterly Newsletter!

Topics of Interest:

- **Fatality Case File Statistics**
- **Case File Regional Report**
- **Top Standards Violated**
- **Summary of Fatal Events**

As a contractor for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Construction Industry Research and Policy Center (CIRPC) at The University of Tennessee receives copies of fatality case files from regional OSHA offices. While receipt of these fatality reports is a by-product of other services provided by CIRPC to OSHA, they do provide a wealth of current information on construction fatalities which is not captured by statistics alone. For that reason, the prime focus of this quarterly newsletter is to provide a brief summary of each fatal event focusing on the cause in each case and the nature of any OSHA violations associated with that event. It is important to note the case reports summarized in this Quarterly Report do not constitute the universe of cases. Only those which are forwarded to CIRPC are included. Furthermore, it is important to note the time period involved is defined by the receipt of the files by CIRPC rather than the date of the fatal event. Despite these limitations we believe the picture given in these reports is a representative, if not statistically significant, sample of the construction fatality universe.

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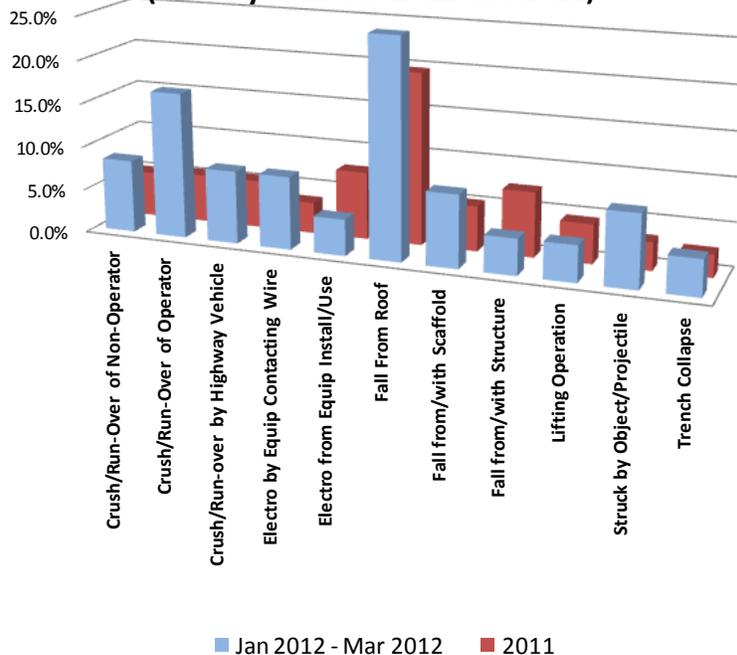
Roof Falls Continue to Lead Fatal Events

Roof falls continue to lead all fatal events in the fatal construction case files reported to CIRPC for both 2011 and the first quarter of 2012. Roof falls accounted for 25% (6 cases) of all the case file fatal event causes for the first quarter of 2012 (January to March). As in 2011 the roof fall total of 19.7% (61 cases), leads all fatal event during that year. All types of falls (roof, scaffold, structure, etc.) accounted for 37.5% (9 cases) of the first quarter case reports. For 2011 it was 42.9% (133 cases) of the total.

Rounding out the top 5 fatality causes for the quarter are "Crush/Run over of Operator" with 16.7% (4 cases) followed by "Crush/Run of Non-Operator", "Crush/Run over by Highway Vehicle", "Electrocution by Equipment Contacting Wire", "Fall from/with Scaffold", and "Struck by Object/Projectile" each with 8.3% (2 cases).



Comparison of Fatal Construction Events
(January to March 2012 and 2011)



Regional Breakdown

Regional Map



A total of 24 case reports were received from the regions in the first quarter of 2012. Of these 24 reports, more than a third came from region 5 (9 reports), 4 came from region 1, and 3 from region 2.

Of the 9 received from Region 5, the Cleveland Area Office sent in 5 with 2 each coming from the Fairview Heights and Springfield Area Offices.

In the previous year the largest number of case reports were received from Regions 4 and 6.

Case Files by Region

Jan to Mar 2012			2011		
Region	# of Cases	Percent	Region	# of Cases	Percent
1	4	16.7%	1	6	1.9%
2	3	12.5%	2	11	3.5%
3	2	8.3%	3	46	14.8%
4	1	4.2%	4	96	31.0%
5	9	37.5%	5	22	7.1%
6	1	4.2%	6	103	33.2%
7	2	8.3%	7	14	4.5%
8	0	0.0%	8	10	3.2%
9	1	4.2%	9	2	0.6%
10	1	4.2%	10	0	0.0%
24 100.0%			310 100.0%		

The Fall Protection Standard was the most frequently cited for the first quarter of 2012.

Top Construction Standard Violations

The 24 cases reported to CIRPC included 67 violations of OSHA standards. Of the 24, 5 reported no violations occurring. The average number of violations per case was 2.79. With the 5 cases without violations removed, the average number of violations per case with citations issued is 3.53.

When comparing the quarterly violations with OSHA's Top 10 standards violated (per www.osha.gov), similarities can be found. The top 4 violated OSHA standards can all be found on the quarterly report list (ranked 1st, 3rd, and two tied for 6th). Additionally, both lists have electrical wiring violations; ranking at 6th.

Top Standard Violations Reported During January to March 2012

Rank	Std #	Description	# of Occurrences
1	1926.501	Fall Protection	9
2	1926.21	Safety Training and Education	6
3	1910.1200	Hazard Communication	5
T4	1926.20	General Safety and Health Provisions	4
T4	1926.800	Underground Construction	4
T6	1926.451	Scaffolding	3
T6	1904.39	Fatality and Multiple Hospitalization Reporting	3
T6	1910.134	Respiratory Protection	3
T6	1926.106	Working Over or Near Water	3
T6	1926.405	Electrical - Wiring Methods, Components, Equipment	3

Summary of Fatal Events

OSHA Inspection Number: 314441692

A 34 year old employee was working in an eight foot excavation pouring a footer for a retaining wall, for a residential home's patio, when the trench collapsed fatally injuring the employee. The employer was cited for lack of hazard recognition training, lack of competent person inspection, and lack of trench protection.

OSHA Inspection Number: 315004242

A 27 year old employee, of a road painting contractor, was struck by and fatally injured by a tractor trailer. The victim was standing on a rear platform of a painting truck when he was struck by a tractor trailer tanker truck. The employer was not cited for any violations.

OSHA Inspection Number: 313207755

The victim was fatally injured when he fell 32 feet from a scaffold to the surface below. The 35 year old was part of a commercial roofing project. The rope he was using to lift a load had looped around his leg and when the load shifted and fell, the rope pulled the victim off the scaffold. The employer was cited for lack of fall protection on a scaffold, lack of hazard recognition training, and not providing a hazard free employment.

OSHA Inspection Number: 92566

An HVAC installer was electrocuted while installing a furnace blower for a new residential home. The victim went to move the furnace blower and was electrocuted when he touched the furnace casing. The casing was energized because of a short in the ground wire. The employer was cited for lack of electrical safety plan, lack of hazard recognition training, no equipment guarding, lack of equipment inspections, the use of a spliced power cord, no strain relief in power cord, lack of a GFCI, and using frayed/worn power cords.

OSHA Inspection Number: 315091108

A roofer was electrocuted when a ladder contacted a power line. The victim was in the process of setting up a ladder, to start a residential roofing project, when he accidentally made contact with an over head power line. The employer was cited for using a ladder in a location exposed to a power line and lack of ladder training.

OSHA Inspection Number: 314062779

A victim drowned while performing site preparation for a roadway. An equipment operator was using a bulldozer to push fill dirt into a lake to create a peninsula for the road. While moving the fill dirt, the peninsula failed and the operator and bulldozer fell into the lake. The employer was cited for no competent person inspection and no life jacket, ring buoys, or life saving skiff while working near a body of water.

OSHA Inspection Number: 315896571

A laborer had replaced a section of a aluminum fascia on the rake edge of a church roof. While attempting to lower an aluminum ladder, the ladder came into contact with an overhead power line and the victim was electrocuted. The employer was cited for using a ladder in a location exposed to a power line and lack of ladder training.

OSHA Inspection Number: 109346

On October 17, 2011, employee fell 11 feet from a flat roof where he was assigned to assist in the repairing of a roof leak. A guardrail had been removed and the employee with no fall protection, fell from the edge of the roof. The employer was cited for lack of fall protection and five other citations apparently unrelated directly to the event.

OSHA Inspection Number: 316031863

The victim was laying brick from a tower scaffold at a height of 35 feet. While retrieving a mortar joint striking tool, a wooden scaffold plank shifted off the scaffold bracket. The deceased fell 35 feet from the scaffold, striking his head on a scaffold base screw jack. The employer was cited for improper scaffold design and lack of hazard communication training, safety training program, failure to determine integrity of work surface, and lack of fall protection.

Summary of Fatal Events (Continued)

OSHA Inspection Number: 108336

Victim went up steps onto the roof of a building to clean up nails. The roof collapsed and victim fell 14 feet. No assessment had been made of the structural soundness of the roof, and no fall protection was in use. The employer was cited for lack of a safety training program, failure to determine integrity of work surface, and lack of fall protection.

OSHA Inspection Number: 76995

Employee was in 14 foot deep excavation and had communicated to the excavator operator that dirt needed to be removed. As the operator raised the bucket, the 32 inch bucket disengaged, striking the victim and causing his death. The employer was cited for failure to provide a hazard free place of employment.

OSHA Inspection Number: 109157

Construction worker assisting in setting up advance warning signs on interstate was struck by and killed by a semi-tractor trailer which drifted from the roadway. Victim was standing on the left side of the company pickup which was parked on the berm. Despite warning indicators, the semi-driver cited cab distractions led to the incident. The employer was not cited for any violations.

OSHA Inspection Number: 92445

A worker was pinned between a truck and a dumpster at a roofing site. Truck driver was backing up to unload shingles. The truck backed up too quickly and struck and pinned the victim. The 17 year old driver had no valid license or experience driving this type of vehicle. Employer was cited for allowing untrained employees to operate equipment and failure to instruct in avoidance of unsafe conditions.

OSHA Inspection Number: 92263

Victim drowned when a scraper he was operating rolled off and upside down the edge of a dike and into a pond. Victim may have been attempting to turn around on the 52 feet dike when he got too close to the edge. No citations were issued to the employer.

OSHA Inspection Number: 315797779

Victim was ejected from an articulating off road dump truck and killed after the hauler left the road and travelled approximately 30 feet down an embankment. The victim exited the cab through the right window, but came to rest partially covered by the right front tire. The cab remained upright. The employer was cited for failure to use a seat belt.

OSHA Inspection Number: 315439026

While working on a commercial roof, an employee fell 24 feet through a roof opening to the concrete surface below. The event was not witnessed and it is not known what he was doing when he stepped into the hole. The employer was cited for lack of fall protection usage.

OSHA Inspection Number: 315441402

A locomotive operator was moving muck buckets to the head of a new water intake tunnel, when he failed to stop and struck equipment at the end of the tunnel. The operator was crushed between the equipment and the locomotive. The employer was cited for lack of radio communication, no competent person inspection, improperly loaded and secured equipment, no end bumpers on the tracks, lack of hazard recognition training, and one other apparently unrelated violation.

OSHA Inspection Number: 106792

Employer was using a crane to lift a section of structural steel for a new commercial building, when the rigging failed and the steel fell and struck the victim in the head. The employer was cited for improper rigging, no competent person inspection, lack of load charts on crane, and one other apparently unrelated violation.



Summary of Fatal Events (Continued)

OSHA Inspection Number: 107219

A 28 year old male was fatally injured as a result of being run over by a semi-trailer. The employee, a roller operator, was doing asphalt patching on an existing roadway. There were no witnesses to the event and no citations were issued.

OSHA Inspection Number: 314919903

A 44 year old roofer was fatally injured when he fell 47 feet through a roof. The victim was replacing a water damaged roof of a marine building, when a section of the roof he stepped on gave way, causing him to fall. The employer was cited for lack of fall protection, not testing the strength of a walking/working surface, and not providing a ladder/stairway where required.

OSHA Inspection Number: 313208928

A fatality occurred when a laborer fell 15 feet from a roof he was working on. The 24 year old laborer was part of a crew removing snow from a city building, when he lost his balance as he was dumping his snow filled wheel barrow, and fell off the edge of the roof. The employer was cited for lack of fall protection, lack of fall training, no written training records, and not reporting the fatal event within 8 hours.

OSHA Inspection Number: 316182344

A roofer was fatally injured when he fell through a commercial roof. The plan was to remove two layers of roofing material and then install a new roof. The roofer, after removing two layers, was walking on the surface when it gave way and he fell through it. The employer was cited for lack of fall protection, not testing the strength of walking/working surface, and two other unrelated violations.

OSHA Inspection Number: 191135

An operator was using a front end loader to drag a section of duct work at a demolition site. The rigged side of the duct work hit an obstruction, causing the opposite end to swing around and strike the victim in the back of the legs causing him to fall and fatally strike his head. The employer was cited for lack of hazard recognition training and lack of engineering survey for demolition operations.

OSHA Inspection Number: 316288174

The victim was installing new equipment on an existing power pole. The victim had finished installing the equipment and was climbing down the pole, when he had to disconnect his safety equipment to pass by an obstruction on the pole. It is believed he may have improperly re-connected his safety choker which caused him to fall shortly thereafter. The employer was not cited for any violations.



The Construction Industry Research and Policy Center (CIRPC) is a unit of the College of Business Administration at the University of Tennessee.

A variety of services are provided in support of the OSHA mission under DOL Contract no: J089F26523. CIRPC is organized into the following functional units: Occupational Safety and Health Administration Services, Statistical Analysis and Special Studies, Computer and Data Processing Services, Davis-Bacon Wage Surveys.

Individuals interested in our program are encouraged to contact us. CIRPC is located in Stokely Management Center on the University of Tennessee campus.



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