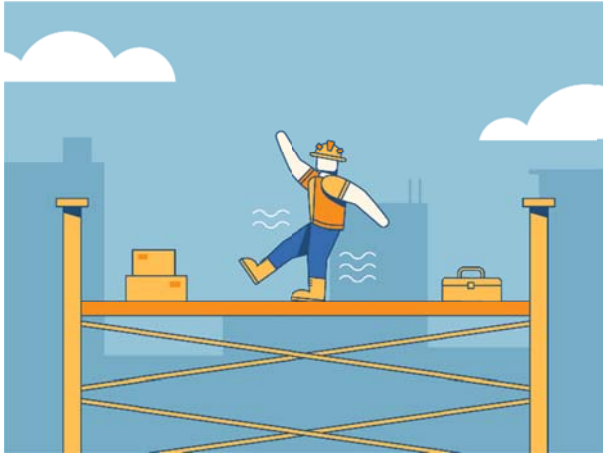


CAL-OSHA FATAL 4 STATISTICS

25 Construction Safety Statistics and Trends for 2020

Date: March 9, 2020 by: Dustin Eusebio



The construction industry is known for being one of the most dangerous fields to work in. Out of every 5,000 private-industry worker fatalities, 20 percent are [in construction](#). That means one out of every five worker deaths is construction-related!

Construction also results in many non-fatal injuries that cost companies millions of dollars per year. This makes safety paramount in the industry.

While [safety measures](#) and precautions, like those outlined by [OSHA](#), can be costly upfront, their ROI

can be massive.

A successful construction business will maintain effective safety programs, stay updated on OSHA regulations and pay the expenses involved even when business is slow. Not only because OSHA violations can range anywhere from a warning to \$70K per incident, but because they care about their employees.

To illustrate the importance of worksite safety, we've compiled 25 construction safety statistics that cover the high number of injuries and fatalities, the cost of these accidents and the benefits of safe practices.

1. One in five worker deaths annually is in construction. [\[OSHA\]](#)
2. Workplace fatalities that were crane-related fell to their lowest level recorded in 2017 with 33 deaths. [\[BLS\]](#)
3. Construction workers accounted for 1008 (47 percent) of all fatal work injuries in 2018. [\[BLS\]](#)
4. The "Fatal Four" leading causes of private sector working fatalities in the construction industry are falls, being struck by an object, electrocution and being caught in something or between two objects. These accidents are responsible for 58.6 percent of construction worker deaths. [\[OSHA\]](#)



Construction Fatality Statistics

5. Companies with 10 or fewer employees and those who are self-employed account for nearly half of all deaths on construction sites. [[CDC](#)]

6. Of all industries, construction sees the most fatal falls, accounting for 51 percent of all falls in the United States. [[CDC](#)]

7. During a 45-year career, there is a 1 in 200 chance that a construction worker will die from a work-related incident. [[Safety & Health Magazine](#)]

8. One in every 10 construction workers is injured annually. [[OSHA](#)]

9. Construction sees non-fatal injury rates that are 71% higher than any other industry. [[Accident Analysis & Prevention](#)]



10. Around half of serious workplace injuries go unreported each year. [[LD&G](#)]

Non-Fatal Injuries in Construction

11. Lifting, using a tool or machine, and carrying heavy objects are the leading causes of strain injuries in construction. [[CWPR](#)] (graphs)

12. Workers who are between the ages of 35 – 34 are the most likely to be injured while working in construction. [[National Safety Council](#)]

13. Construction worker illnesses and injuries are down from 10.9 incidents per 100 workers in 1972 to 2.8 per 100 workers in 2017. [[BLS](#)]

14. One fatal injury costs an average of \$991,027 in hospital costs. [[ConvergePoint](#)]



The Cost of Jobsite Injuries

15. The construction industry sees a 71 percent higher spend on workers' compensation than all goods-producing industries combined, more than twice the mean cost for the average employer in other industries. [[CPWR](#)]

16. 15 percent of overall workers' compensation costs are spent on workers who were injured at a construction site. [[Workers Compensation](#)]

17. Work-related injuries have caused companies to lose 103,000,000 production days in 2018. [[National Safety Council](#)]

18. Indirect costs for injuries in the construction industry can be as much as 17 times more than direct costs. [[Safety & Health Magazine](#)]

19. Purvis Home Improvement Co. Inc was fined \$1.79 million for a preventable fatal fall, the highest fine of 2019. ([OSHA](#))

20. Construction companies can save an average of \$32,000 for each medically consulted injury they avoid. ([National Safety Council](#))

21. Construction companies can save \$4 – 6\$ in indirect costs for every \$1 invested in direct costs by evading an injury in the workplace.

([OSHA](#))



It Pays to Practice Safety

22. Construction site injuries account for 6–9 percent of project costs, while safety and health programs only account for 2.5 percent of project costs. ([CPWR](#))

23. A company must sell an additional \$1,667,000 in services to offset \$50,000 in losses from injuries, illness or damage and still make a 3% profit. ([CPWR](#))

24. Better and more frequent training, regular inspections and regular health and safety meetings with construction supervisors result in lower costs, fewer lost-time injuries and more profits. ([CPWR](#))

25. Getting rid of the “Fatal Four” causes of construction worker deaths would save 591 lives in the U.S. each year. ([OSHA](#))

What We Can Learn from Construction Industry Statistics?

While the [construction industry](#) is inherently risky, proper safety and health training, as well as regular inspections and updated [equipment](#), can mitigate some of these risks. Working to eliminate safety hazards associated with falls, falling objects and electrocution can save companies thousands per year.

Cost savings to the company are secondary to the obvious benefits of keeping workers safe. A safe workplace can also result in indirect benefits like a positive company reputation, the ability to recruit the best talent and improved employee morale.

Regardless of why a company decides to focus on workplace safety, it should be viewed as an essential task. It is important that every construction crew member, even seasoned veterans, attend training and regular safety meetings. When construction companies make safety a priority, everyone wins.



NEWS RELEASE

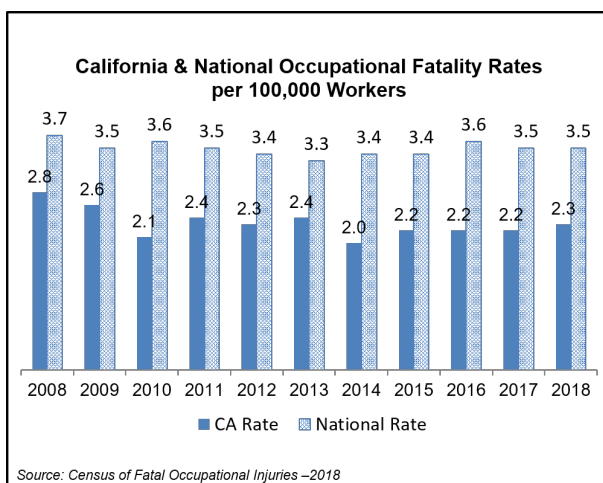
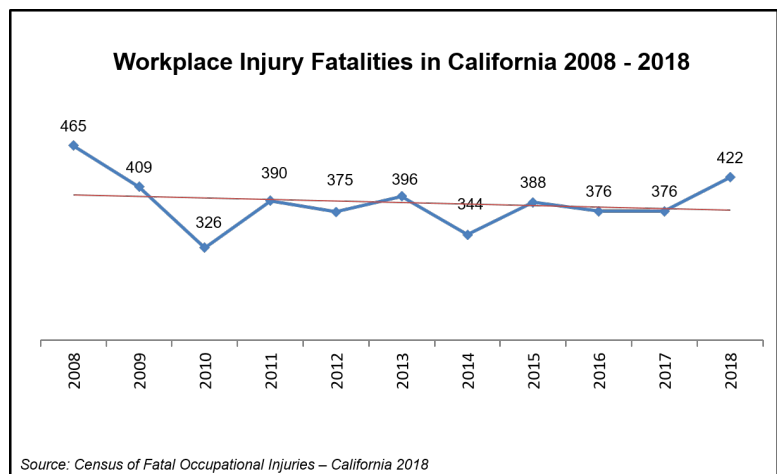
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Department of Industrial Relations Reports Increase in 2018 Fatal Workplace Injuries

Oakland—The Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) reports that 422 Californians died on the job in 2018.

“Every death matters, and these workers who lost their lives on the job in California serve as a reminder that we need to do everything possible to keep workplaces safe,” said Cal/OSHA Chief Douglas Parker. “An increase in workplace fatalities is a serious concern for Cal/OSHA. We are analyzing the data to bolster and direct our enforcement and education efforts.”



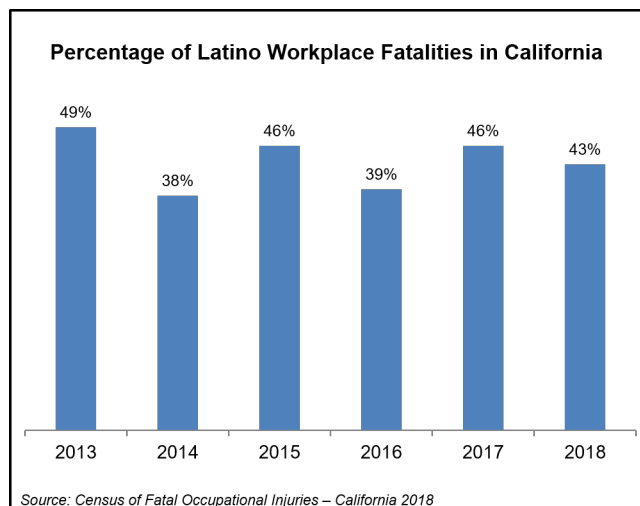
There were 422 fatal injuries on the job in California in 2018, compared to 376 in 2017 and 2016, 388 in 2015, and 344 in 2014.

California’s rate of fatal workplace incidents per 100,000 workers remains stable with slight fluctuations since 2008, and has consistently been lower than the national rate.

The data is from the [Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries](#) (CFOI), which is conducted annually in conjunction with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Figures for 2018 are the latest numbers available.

DIR remains committed to its workplace safety outreach and education efforts with a focus on high-hazard work, especially for monolingual non-English-speaking workers. The percentage of Latino deaths reported each year in the CFOI continues to be an area of concern to the department.

[Tables reflecting final data for 2018](#) (and prior years' final data) for California are posted online. For further detail on CFOI methods and calculations see [Part III: Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries](#).



DIR protects and improves the health, safety and economic well-being of over 18 million wage earners, and helps their employers comply with state labor laws. Its Division of Occupational Safety and Health, commonly known as Cal/OSHA, helps protect workers from health and safety hazards on the job in almost every workplace in California. Cal/OSHA does not generally investigate traffic accidents occurring on public streets or highways that are under the jurisdiction of and investigated by other state and local agencies.

[Cal/OSHA's Consultation Services Branch](#) provides free and voluntary assistance to employers to improve their safety and health programs. Employers should call (800) 963-9424 for assistance from Cal/OSHA Consultation Services. Cal/OSHA has also published a wealth of [helpful guides for employers and workers](#).

Employees with work-related questions or complaints may contact DIR's Call Center in English or Spanish at 844-LABOR-DIR (844-522-6734). Complaints can also be filed confidentially with [Cal/OSHA district offices](#).

Contact: Erika Monterroza / Peter Melton, Communications@dir.ca.gov, (510) 286-1161

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The [California Department of Industrial Relations](#), established in 1927, protects and improves the health, safety, and economic well-being of over 18 million wage earners, and helps their employers comply with state labor laws. DIR is housed within the [Labor & Workforce Development Agency](#). For general inquiries, contact DIR's Communications Call Center at 844-LABOR-DIR (844-522-6734) for help in locating the appropriate [division or program](#) in our department.