

Fatalities in the construction industry

Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry
Occupational Safety and Health
January 2016



Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (CFOI) Preliminary 2014

- 4,679 fatal work injuries in the U.S. in 2014
- Increase of 2 percent from 2013
- 2014 fatality rate of 3.3 – no change from 2013

BLS – CFOI

Preliminary 2014

Construction fatalities

- Rose from 828 in 2013 to 874 (up 6 percent)
- Highest number reported since 2008
- Fatality rate for construction went down slightly from 9.7 in 2013 to 9.5 in 2014

BLS – CFOI

Preliminary 2014

- Other industries had higher increases in the number of fatalities:
 - mining (up 17 percent);
 - agriculture (up 14 percent); and
 - manufacturing (up 9 percent).

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Preliminary 2014

- Fatal falls, slips and trips increased 10 percent, from 724 in 2013 to 793 in 2014.
- Falls to a lower level increased from 595 in 2013 to 647 in 2014.
- There were 532 fatal falls where the height of fall the was known:
 - four-fifths involved falls of 30 feet or fewer; and
 - two-thirds involved falls of 20 feet or fewer.

BLS – CFOI

Preliminary 2014

- Heavy and civil engineering construction had a series low of 138 fatalities in 2014, down from 165 in 2013.
- This is NAICS 237XXX that includes utility system, highway, street and bridge construction.

BLS – CFOI

Preliminary 2014

Minnesota data

- Sixty-two fatalities in Minnesota in 2014.
- A decrease from 69 in 2013.
- Below the average of 66 cases a year from 2009 through 2013.

BLS – CFOI

Preliminary 2014

- Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting recorded the highest number of fatalities with 21, an increase from 17 in 2013.
- The second-highest was trade, transportation and utilities with 18, compared to 16 in 2013.
- Construction had the third-highest with 7, down from 12 in 2013.

BLS – CFOI

Preliminary 2014

- Causes of fatalities in Minnesota:
 - transportation incidents (25);
 - contact with objects and equipment (14);
 - falls (nine); and
 - violence (eight).
- Gender of fatalities in Minnesota:
 - 60 men; and
 - two women.

BLS

Minnesota construction fatalities

- Seven total
- Four falls, slips, trips

A fatality under Minnesota OSHA jurisdiction is defined as:

- an employee death resulting from an employment incident or illness caused by or related to a workplace hazard.

Minnesota OSHA Compliance *does not* investigate:

- motor vehicle accidents;
- airplane accidents;
- mining sites;
- small family farms;
- self-employed workers with no employees;
- federal employees; or
- railroad employees.

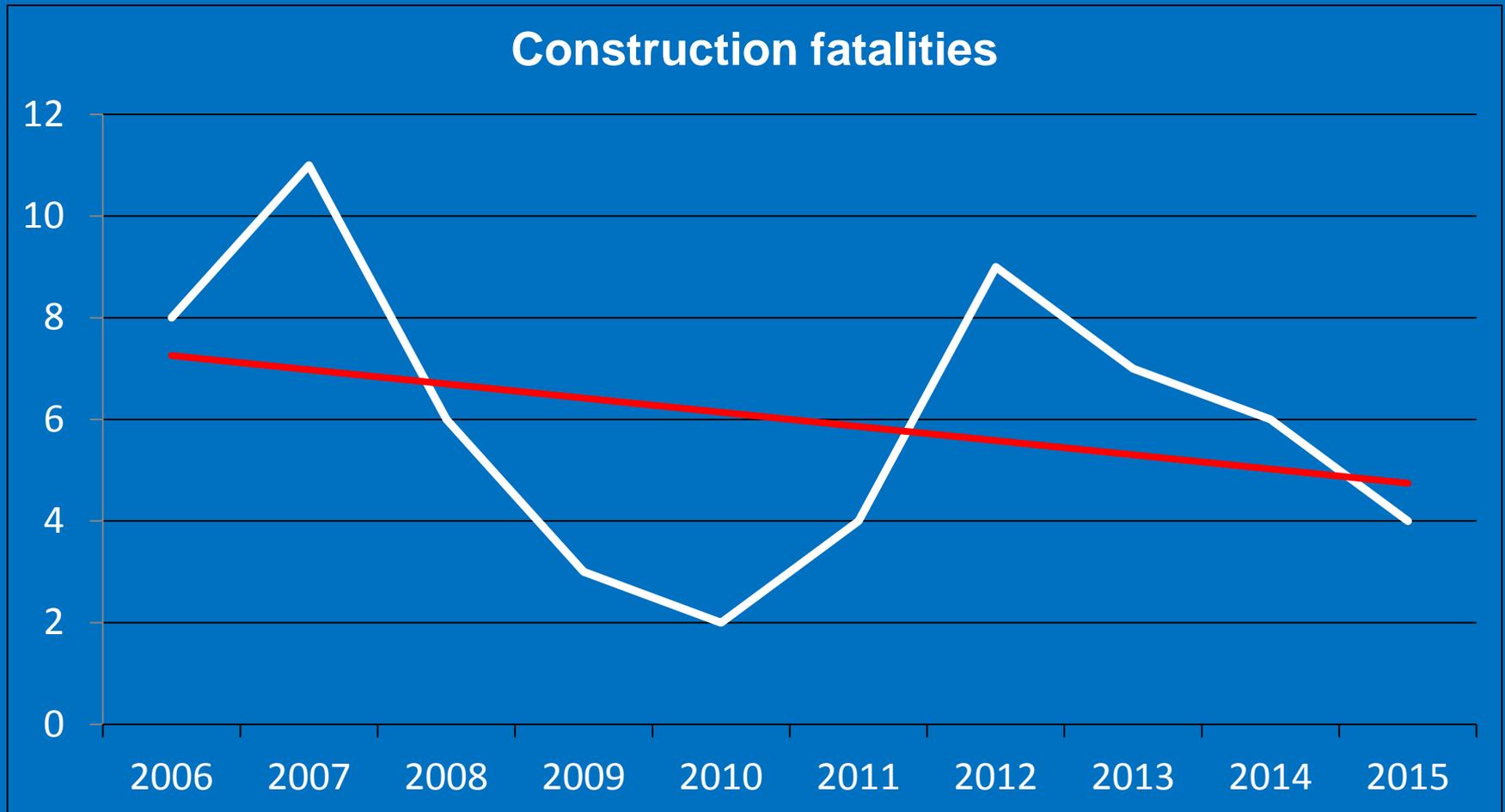
MNOSHA construction fatalities

Five years

- Federal-fiscal-years 2011 through 2015, includes Oct. 1, 2010, through Sept. 30, 2015.

Minnesota OSHA fatalities

Federal-fiscal-years 2006 through 2015



Minnesota OSHA fatalities

Federal-fiscal-years 2006 through 2010:

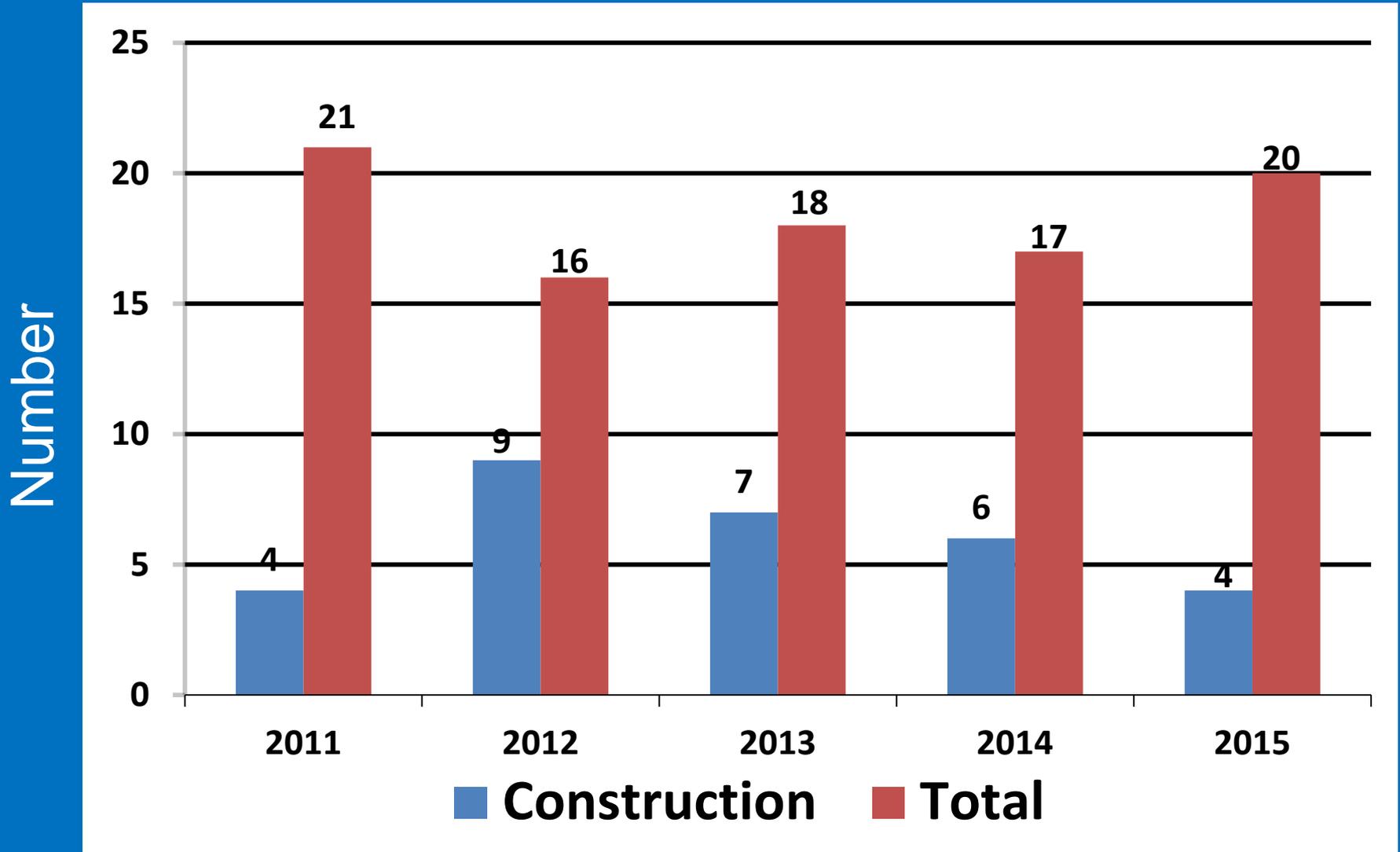
- 97 total; and
- an average of 19 each year
 - 30 construction (31 percent) and
 - 67 general industry (69 percent).

Federal-fiscal-years 2011 through 2015:

- 92 total;
- an average of 18 a year
 - 30 construction (33 percent) and
 - 62 general industry (67 percent).

Construction fatalities

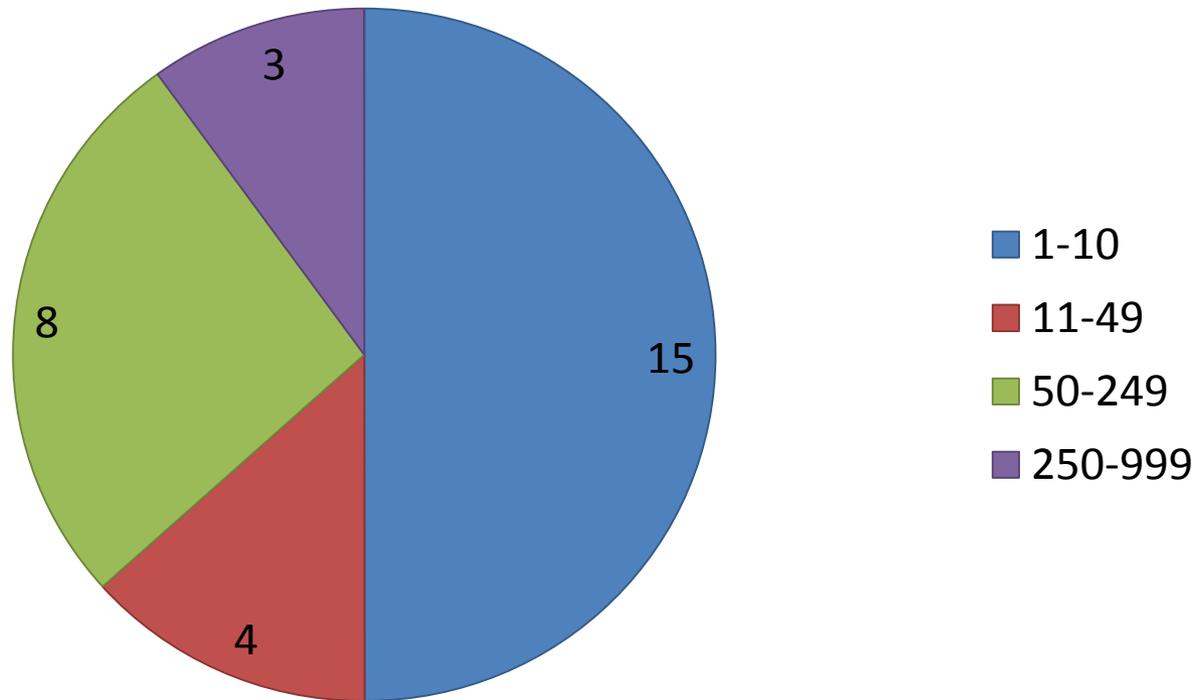
Federal-fiscal-years 2011 through 2015



MNOSHA construction fatalities

Size of employer

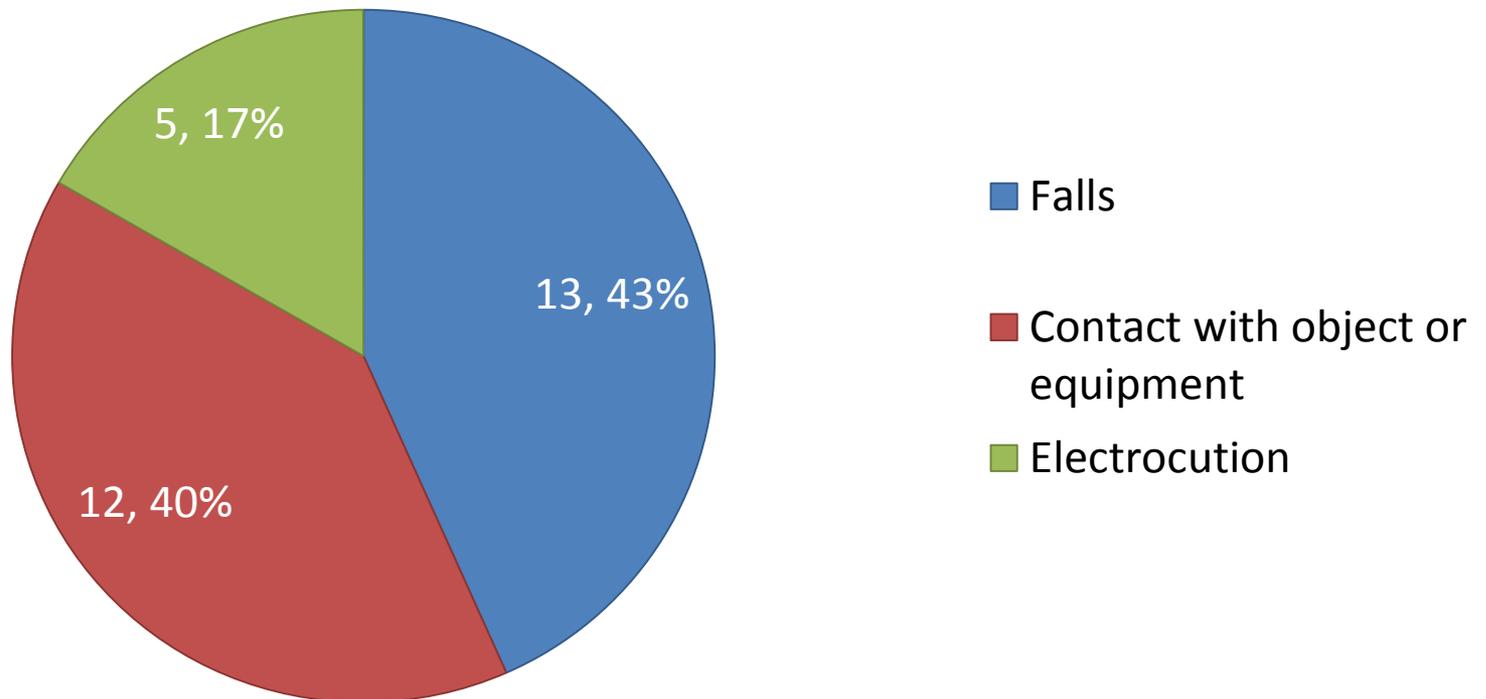
Number of employees



MNOSHA construction fatalities

Causes

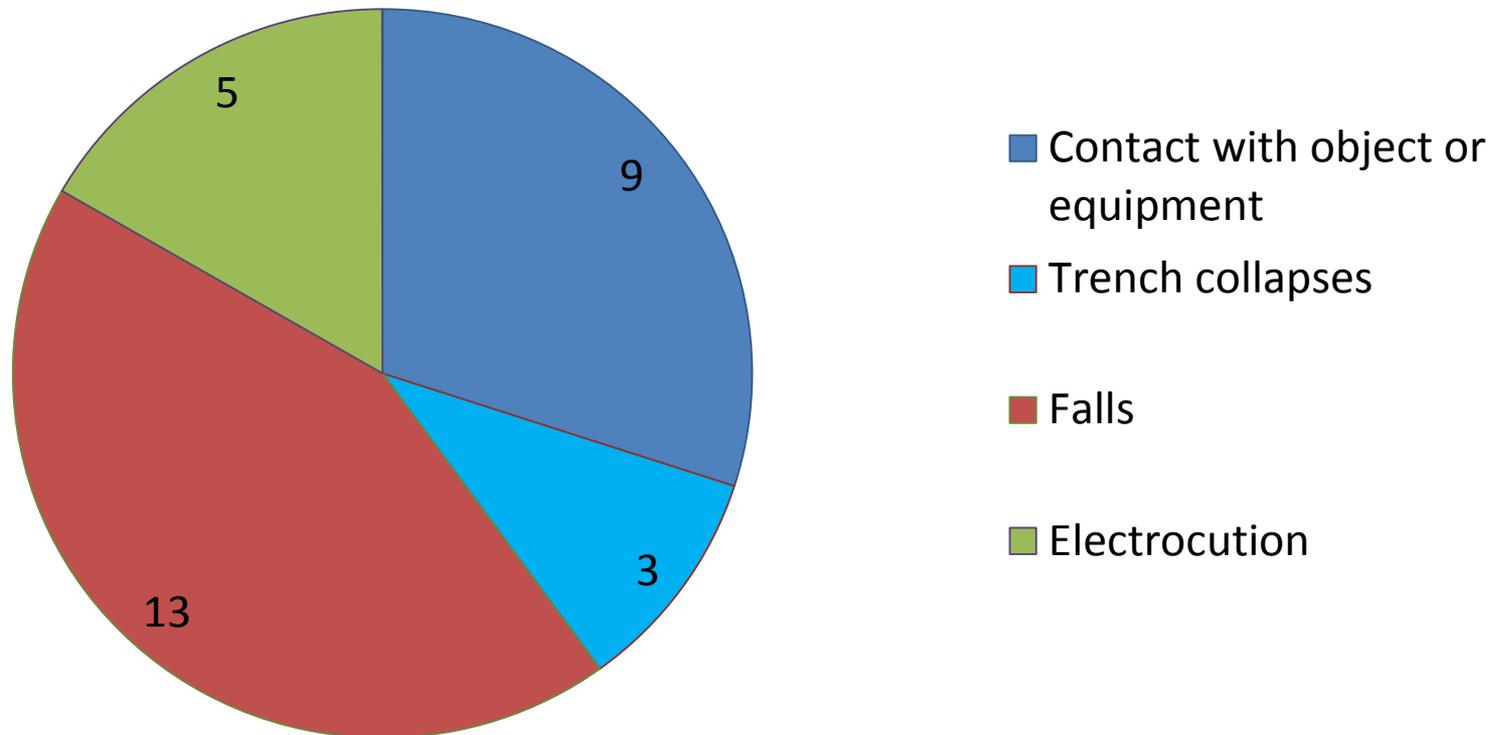
Cause of fatalities



MNOSHA construction fatalities

Causes

Cause of fatalities – with trench subset



Construction fatality citations

Thirty construction fatalities

- Five cases with no citations (17 percent).
- Twenty-five cases with citations (83 percent).

Construction fatality citations

Twenty-five cases with citations

Seventy-two citations issued:

- 63 serious (88 percent);
- six willful (8 percent); and
- three nonserious (4 percent).

Cause/contribute penalties

According to Minnesota Statutes, section 182.666, subd.2a, if the violation causes or contributes to the death of an employee, the minimum nonnegotiable fine is:

- \$25,000 for a serious violation; and
- \$50,000 for a willful or repeat violation.

Construction fatality citations

- Twenty-three of the 25 cases with citations had cause/contribute penalties.
- The average amount of total penalties for cases with citations was \$41,500.

Most frequently cited standards

Construction industry, federal-fiscal-year 2015

- First: 29 CFR 1926.501, Fall protection
- Fifth: Minnesota Rules 5207.1100, Fall protection on elevated work platforms
- Sixth: 29 CFR 1926.652, Protective systems for excavations
- Seventh: 29 CFR 1926.651, Specific requirements for excavations

BLS – CFOI

Preliminary 2014

Age of workers – nationally

- Fifty-five years and older, fatalities increased 9 percent, to 1,621 (35 percent of total fatalities).
- Highest annual total since inception of fatality census in 1992.
- The age range with the next highest number of fatalities was 45 to 54 (1,127 or 24 percent).

BLS – CFOI

Preliminary 2014

Age of workers – Minnesota

- Workers 55 years and older accounted for 28 fatalities, 45 percent of the total.
- This is a decrease from 35 in 2013.
- Workers 45 years to 54 years accounted for 14 fatalities, 23 percent of the total.

MNOSHA construction fatalities

Federal-fiscal-years 2006 through 2015

- Fifty-five years and older:
 - 2006 through 2010, two or 7 percent; and
 - 2011 through 2015, four or 13 percent.
- Forty-five to 54 years:
 - 2006 through 2010, six or 20 percent; and
 - 2011 through 2015, 10 or 33 percent.
- Average age of victim:
 - 2006 through 2010, 36; and
 - 2011 through 2015, 42.

MNOSHA construction fatalities

Construction fatalities inspected by Minnesota OSHA Compliance are preventable.

Fall protection, fall protection, fall protection.

The aging baby boomer generation will have an impact on fatalities and injuries.

Resources

- Bureau of Labor Statistics:
 - www.bls.gov
 - www.bls.gov/iif
- Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry
 - www.dli.mn.gov

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