

# Update from the National Construction Center

NORA Construction Sector Council Meeting

May 23, 2023

Rick Rinehart, Jessica Bunting, Chris Trahan Cain

# Overview

- Research Projects
- Data Bulletins
- Research to Practice (r2p)
  - Struck-by Standdown
  - Falls Standdown
  - New FSL4Res Training Program
  - Best Built Plans Updates
  - Heat Illness Prevention Resources

# Research Projects

## Improving Contractor Resources for Reducing MSDs

*Evaluation of the Best Built Plans Manual Material Handling Tool for Construction (Washington University in St. Louis)—Ann Marie Dale*

## Potential Hazards from Part B Chemicals

*Reactive Chemical Systems: Part B—Developing Data-Driven Interventions (University of Massachusetts Lowell)—Ani and Dhimiter Bello*

## Moving Ahead with Exoskeleton Research

*Evaluation of Trunk and Arm Support Exoskeletons for Construction (University of California, San Francisco and Virginia Tech)—Carisa Harris and Maury Nussbaum*

## Evaluation of the OSHA 10-Hour

*Evaluation and Improvement of OSHA 10-Hour Construction Safety Training (West Virginia University, Boise State University)—Mark Fullen*

# Research Projects

## Developing and Sharing Knowledge about Nanomaterials Controls

*Manufactured Nanomaterials in Construction: Evaluating Exposures, Controls and Worker Training (CPWR)—Gavin West*

## Improving Safety and Health Through Better Pre-Task Planning

*Prevention through Augmented Pre-Task Planning (CPWR)—Babak Memarian*

## Increasing Adoption of Respiratory Controls

*Health Hazard Controls Industry Diffusion: Evidence-based Intervention Strategy (Virginia Tech)—Deb Dickerson*

## FSL4Res, Developed to Reduce Falls in Residential Construction, **Now Online**

*Improving Safety Leadership and Fall Prevention Training in Residential Work (Washington University in St. Louis)—Brad Evanoff*

# Research Projects

## Thousands Begin Using New Safety Climate and Safety Management Tool

*Safety Climate-Safety Management Information System (SC-SMIS) (CPWR)—Linda Goldenhar*  
[www.scsmis.com](http://www.scsmis.com)

## Small Studies Examine Multiple Hazards and Solutions

*First study funded in 1993; 140 studies funded.  
89 letters of intent received Sept 2019 – present;  
21 funded*

[Last Call for Small Study Proposals](#)

## Continued Development of Mentorship Program for Female Sheet Metal Workers

*Promoting Safety and Well-being among Sheet Metal Worker Women through Mentoring (University of Washington)—Marissa Baker*


## Responding to Mental Health Needs of Construction Workers

*Providing support to studies, programs, interventions.  
Analyzing workplace bullying and harassment.  
Increasing industry training and awareness.*

[New resilience training tool](#)

# Examining Data

January 2023



**CPWR**  
THE CENTER FOR CONSTRUCTION  
RESEARCH AND TRAINING

## Data Bulletin

WWW.CPWR.COM

**JANUARY  
2023**

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### Leading Causes of All Deaths Among Current, Retired, and Former Construction Workers

**Amber Brooke Trueblood, DrPH, William Harris, MS, Thomas Yohannes, MPH, Rick Rinehart, ScD<sup>1</sup>**

**OVERVIEW**

Construction is one of the deadliest industries in the United States, with over 1,000 fatal occupational injuries [each year since 2016](#). Although fatal occupational injuries in the industry [are well researched](#), there is limited information on construction worker deaths not on the job among construction workers despite worksite exposures and tasks that may have lifetime health impacts, such as causing cancers. [Prior research](#) found, for example, that 19% of construction workers had a respiratory disease and 26% had cancer, diabetes, or heart, kidney, or liver disease.

This Data Bulletin examines the leading *causes of death* among *construction workers* in 2020 for all deaths (both on and off the job site) and compares *at work* death trends with fatal occupational injury trends. Unless specified as at work, charts show all deaths. Examining all deaths provides important insights into conditions affecting construction workers that may be preventable, such as hypertension and diabetes, as well as information on conditions potentially associated with occupational exposures (e.g., cancers or neoplasms).

**THIS ISSUE**

This issue examines the leading causes of death among construction workers, including those currently employed, retired, and no longer in the workforce.

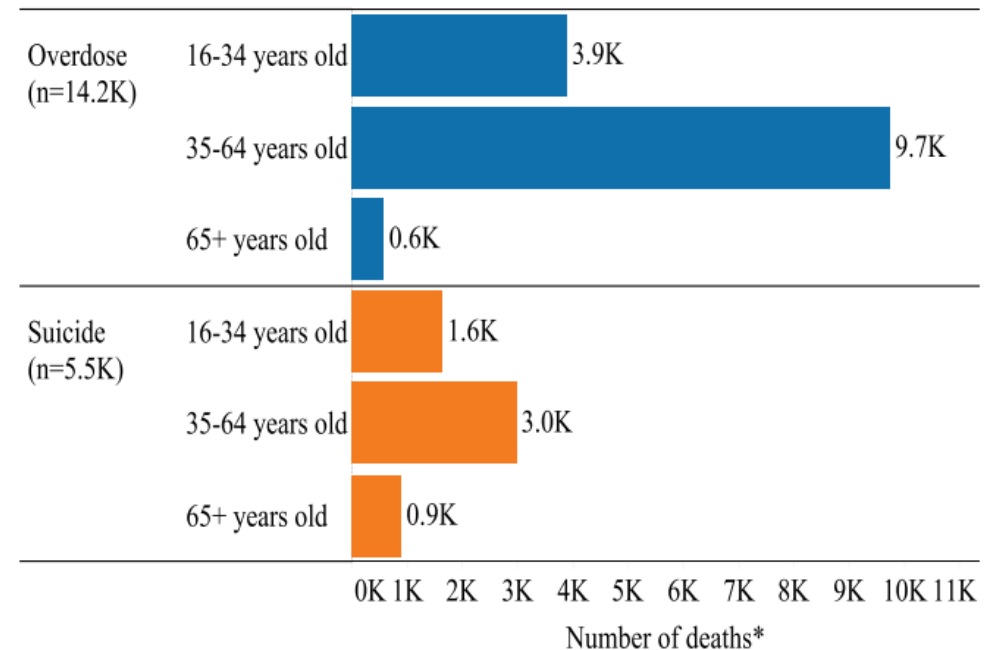
**KEY FINDINGS**

In 2020, there were 224,400 deaths among construction workers with a majority occurring among those who were 65 years or older (60%), non-Hispanic (88%), white (87%), and male (96%).

*Charts 1, 2*

**Manner of death varied by age, with 55% of construction workers 16 to 34 years old dying by an accident, whereas 67% of those 35 to 64 years old and 87% of those 65 years or older died from natural causes.**

## 9. Number of deaths\* for selected emerging issues in construction by age, 2020<sup>^</sup>




**Source:** National Center for Health Statistics, 2020 Mortality M

\* All causes of death are included in chart, not just at work death

<sup>^</sup> Suicides include overdoses determined to be intentional.

# Examining Data

March 2023



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Data Bulletin

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**MARCH  
2023**

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## Fatal and Nonfatal Focus Four Injuries in Construction

**William Harris, MS, Thomas Yohannes, MPH, Amber Brooke Trueblood, DrPH<sup>1</sup>**

**OVERVIEW**

Construction is one of the most dangerous industries in the United States, with [1,034 fatal occupational injuries](#) among all construction workers and [74,520 nonfatal injuries](#) among private *wage-and-salary* construction workers in 2020. A majority of fatal occupational injuries and a large proportion of nonfatal injuries result from *Construction Focus Four hazards*, which include *falls to a lower level*, *struck-by*, *electrocutions*, and *caught-in/between* injuries. [This classification](#) was created in 1994 in response to the impact the top four safety hazards have on construction workers.

This Data Bulletin provides information on fatal and nonfatal Focus Four occupational injuries in construction, including by *injury type* and *detailed event/exposure*. (In this Data Bulletin, occupational injuries will be referenced as injuries.) Data for fatal injuries from 2011 to 2021 were obtained from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), a [complete count](#) of fatal injuries and their circumstances. Data for caught/compressed by equipment/objects, which is one of the categories of caught-in/between injuries, were unavailable in 2021 due to the [BLS modernized disclosure](#) policy, which impacts all data from 2019 forward, but

**THIS ISSUE**

This issue examines fatal and nonfatal Focus Four injuries in construction by injury type and detailed event/exposure.

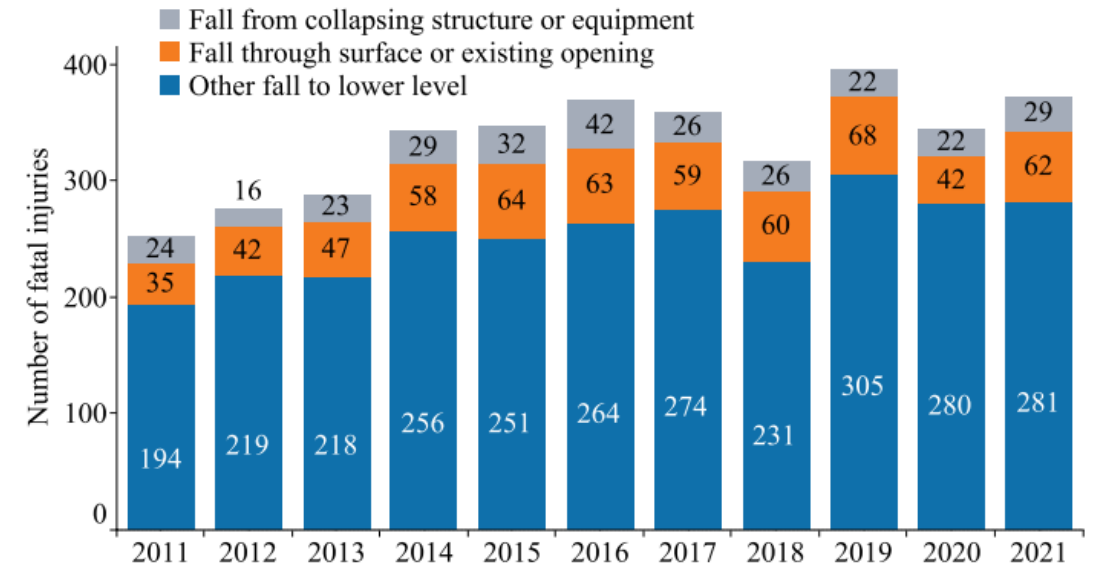
**KEY FINDINGS**

From 2011 to 2021, 65% (n=6.9 thousand (K)) of fatal injuries were a result of a Focus Four hazard. *Chart 1*

From 2011 to 2021 there were increases in the number (46%) and rate (13%) of fatal falls to a lower level. *Charts 3 and S1*

From 2011 to 2020, Focus Four injuries accounted for 40% (n=315.2K) of all nonfatal injuries. *Chart 7*

## 4. Number of fatal falls to a lower level\* by detailed event/exposure category, 2011-2021



**Source:** U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2011-2021 Census of Injuries.

\*OIIICS 430 (Falls to lower level, unspecified) not included; falls to a lower level shown in chart 3.

# Examining Data

May 2023



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## Data Bulletin

WWW.CPWR.COM

**MAY  
2023**

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### Women in Construction: Employment, Business Owner, and Injury Trends

**Amber Brooke Trueblood, DrPH, William Harris, MS, Thomas Yohannes, MPH**

**OVERVIEW**

Women are underrepresented in construction, accounting for almost half of the entire workforce in 2021 but only 11.0% of the [construction workforce](#). This trend persists among *blue-collar workers*; only 3.7% of construction workers are women, compared to 16.5% in all industries. The [continuing labor shortages](#) in construction highlight the need for a diverse workforce and for understanding [growing workforce populations](#), including women, Hispanics, and workers 55 years or older.

This Data Bulletin provides information on employment, business owner, and fatal and nonfatal injury trends among women in construction. Data for employment were estimated using the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Current Population Survey (CPS), which is published monthly, downloaded through IPUMS. Employment for private *nonfarm wage-and-salary* workers for major subsectors was obtained from the BLS Current Employment Statistics (CES) program, which collects monthly data from payroll establishments. Data for construction business owners were from the Annual Business Survey, Characteristics of Business Owners, administered by the U.S. Census Bureau. Data for fatal injuries from 2011 to 2021 were obtained from the

**THIS ISSUE**

This issue examines trends for women in construction, including employment, business owners, and fatal and nonfatal injuries.

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**KEY FINDINGS**

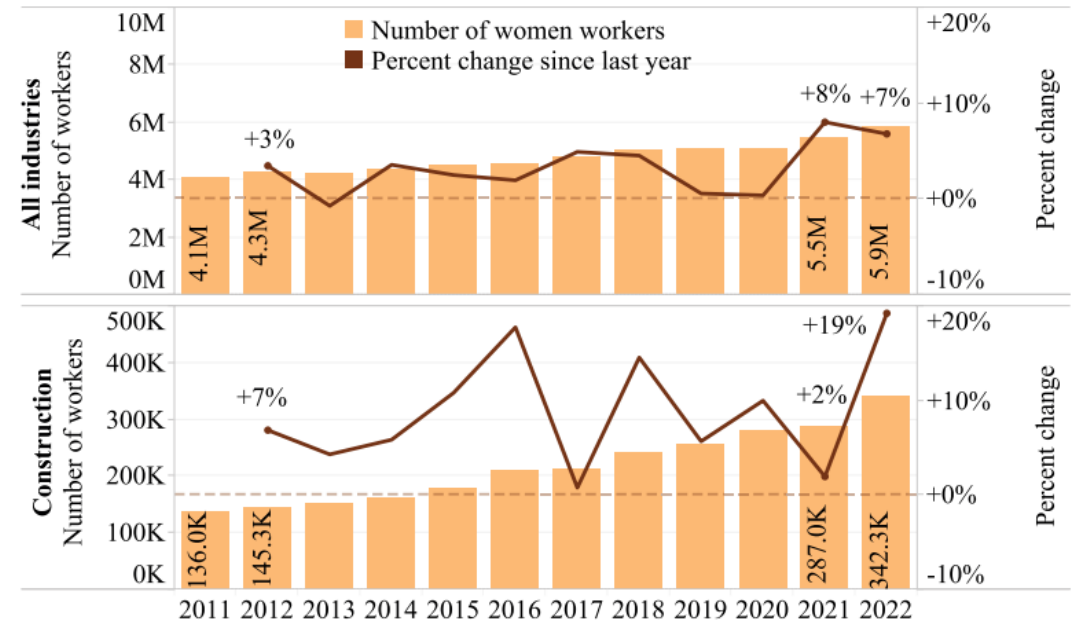
From 2011 to 2022, the percentage of women in the construction workforce increased from 9% to 11%, with blue-collar women workers rising from 2% to 4%.

Chart 1

From 2021 to 2022, the number of women in construction grew faster than women employed overall (4% versus 3%), and blue-collar women workers in construction grew almost three times faster than blue-collar women workers overall (19% versus 7%).

Charts 3 and 4

## 4. Blue-collar women workers by year, construction versus all industries, 2011-2022



Source: Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS), 2011-2022 Current Population Survey.



# Research to Practice (r2p)

Partnering to Address Priority Hazards in Construction

# 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Stand-Down to Prevent Struck-by Incidents



Preventing Struck by Incidents: Tips & Strategies

- April 17-21, 2023
- Official [Stand-Down webpage](#)
- [Kick-Off Webinar](#)
  - 570 live attendees
  - Hundreds of on-demand (YouTube) views

# Pilot Planning Program to Prevent Struck-by Incidents

## 2022 Survey Results



CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training  
**Pilot Planning Program to Prevent Struck-by Incidents**

CPWR is currently seeking feedback on this **FREE** resource to see if you are looking for construction contractors or project owners who would like to provide feedback.

The planning program is intended for project managers, safety managers, and other professionals keeping construction workers safe on the job. The tool includes a pre-job planning tool intended to help you think through the specific struck-by hazards at your site before work begins – both on any given project and on a project-wide basis. The tool provides more information to help you plan for preventing struck-by incidents. Links to supplemental resources to increase awareness and training are provided.

### FLYING OBJECTS

How will you prevent flying objects from pneumatic or powder-actuated tools?

How will you protect workers from materials that could be pushed or thrown with enough force to cause a collision injury?

How will you protect workers from flying projectiles from demolition or cutting of materials?

### Pneumatic or Powder-Actuated Tools: Flying Object Struck-by Hazards

Tools or equipment that eject an object using compressed air or a powder propellant charge automatically create flying object struck-by hazards. Powder-actuated fasteners are designed to go through concrete and steel, and can easily go through a person. Using compressed air to clear out a pipeline could eject something with enough force to injure or kill others in the surrounding area if it is not secured properly.

#### Protect workers by:

- Requiring use of personal protective equipment, such as hard hats, safety glasses, steel-toe footwear, and hearing protection.
- Using full sequential trigger nail guns, which are the safest trigger option.
- Inspecting tools to ensure that all safety devices are enabled and working properly (based on the manufacturers' specifications).
- Providing training on how to properly operate pneumatic and powder-actuated tools and safe work practices.
- Never using powder-actuated tools in explosive or flammable atmospheres.
- Reducing compressed air used for cleaning to 30 psi.
- Installing whip checks on pressurized air hoses to prevent them from flying around if there is a hose or coupling failure.

#### Planning Resources

- [CPWR's Nail Gun Safety Webpage](#)
- [Nail Gun Safety: A Guide for Construction Contractors](#)
- [CPWR's Head Protection Webpage](#)
- [Job Hazard Analysis](#)
- [Building Information Modeling \(BIM\) for Safety Planning](#)
- [Sequential Nail Guns](#)
- [OSHA Competent Person Resources](#)

#### Training Resources

- Toolbox Talks:
  - Nail Gun Safety ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
  - Eye Protection ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
  - Head Protection ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- Hazard Alert Cards:
  - Nail Guns ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
  - Eye Injuries ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
  - Preventing Head Injuries ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- Posters/Infographics:
  - Nail Gun Safety #1 ([English JPEG & PDF](#); [Spanish JPEG & PDF](#))
  - Nail Gun Safety #2 ([English JPEG & PDF](#); [Spanish JPEG & PDF](#))
  - Nail Gun Safety #3 ([English JPEG & PDF](#); [Spanish JPEG & PDF](#))
  - Eye Protection ([English PDF](#); [Spanish PDF](#))
  - Head Protection ([English PDF & JPEG](#))

#### Relevant Standards



### TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- I. Why should you have a plan to prevent struck-by incidents? .....
- II. Section 1: Identify the Risks .....
  - a. Falling Objects .....
  - b. Flying Objects .....
  - c. Rolling Objects .....
  - d. Swinging Objects .....
- III. Section 2: Make a Pre-Job Plan .....
  - a. Falling Objects .....
  - b. Flying Objects .....
  - c. Rolling Objects .....
  - d. Swinging Objects .....
- IV. Section 3: Nudges to Support Planning .....

# 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction



## PLANNING A MULTI-LAYERED APPROACH TO FALL PREVENTION AND PROTECTION

A recent CPWR survey identified **insufficient or ineffective planning as the number one underlying cause of falls from heights**. A lack of preparation can lead to a reliance on PPE as the only protective measure, but the survey also found that when employers didn't do any planning, the **odds of workers using their fall protection equipment were 71% lower.**

The table below is based on the [hierarchy of controls](#). The top of the table represents approaches that result in the most risk reduction and the bottom represents approaches that result in the least risk reduction. Contractors, owners, designers, and others should use this chart, beginning at the top and incorporating controls as feasible to prevent falls.<sup>2,3</sup>

Eliminate or minimize the fall hazard	Elimination	Plan, design, install, or move equipment to eliminate or minimize hazards associated with working at heights. <a href="#">Use Prevention Through Design</a> measures. Inspect and maintain equipment regularly to prevent failure.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt a building design with a single level at grade rather than multiple levels at elevations.</li> <li>Use parapet walls or permanent guardrails at least 39 inches high.</li> </ol>
	Substitution	Change the method of work to reduce the risk of falling.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move equipment or work to a lower height.</li> <li>Use safer equipment, for example replace ladders with aerial lifts.</li> </ol>
Prevent the fall	Passive Engineering Controls	Use passive fall prevention.	Install temporary guardrails or barriers, including around skylights and holes.
	Active Engineering Controls	Use active fall prevention.	Use fall restraint systems that secure workers via an anchor point, connector, lanyard, and harness to prevent the worker from reaching the fall hazard.
	Administrative Controls	Establish and use safe operating procedures when working at heights and provide comprehensive training in a language understood by workers.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make sure a competent/qualified person is present on the job site.</li> <li>Train workers for the specific task and unique fall hazards faced.</li> </ol>
Minimize the impact of the fall	Personal Protective Equipment & Other Protective Measures	Supply and use personal protective equipment (PPE) such as a personal fall arrest system. <sup>2</sup>  Plan ahead to reduce the risk of injury or death if a fall does occur.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make sure fall harnesses fit workers properly.</li> <li>Plan ahead with input from the competent or qualified person to ensure certified anchor points, lanyard type and length, etc.</li> <li>Provide rescue equipment and training.</li> <li>Make sure the fall clearance is sufficient to avoid both swing hazards and the ground or nearest obstruction below.</li> <li>Select PPE that includes trauma straps or loops or a personal rope ladder to avoid suspension trauma.</li> <li>Provide hard helmets with chinstraps.</li> <li>Have a trained first aider on site when possible.</li> </ol>

- 500,000 hardhat stickers & 428,000+ hazard alert cards
- Event Ideas – [English](#), [Español](#)
- Planning and PPE Fit – [English](#), [Español](#)
- [Bilingual Social Media Guide](#)
- [New Tipsheets](#) (Rescue planning, Planning a multi-layered approach, Hispanic workers)
- Infographics in [7 new languages](#)
- Webinars:
  - [Protección Contra Caídas y los Planes de Rescate](#)  
260 attendees; 242 on-demand views
  - [Preventing Falls through Improved Design](#)  
695 attendees; 820 on-demand views

# New FSL4Res Training Program



- **OSHA-approved elective**
- 2.5 hours and **highly interactive**
- Targets foremen, supervisors, and other front-line leaders
- Teaches **critical leadership skills**
- Presents many **safety scenarios**
- Includes Instruction Guide, PPT, and Student Handout

# Upcoming FSL4Res Webinar

**Tuesday, May 30, 2023, 2:00 PM Eastern (1 hour)**

Panelists:

- Bradley Evanoff, MD, MPH, Chief, Division of General Medical Sciences, Department of Internal Medicine, Washington University in St. Louis
- Anna Kinghorn, MS, Clinical Research Coordinator, Division of General Medical Sciences, Department of Internal Medicine, Washington University in St. Louis

Registration:

<https://cpwr.webex.com/weblink/register/re4933c8eaa0a3c17f2dd384a1a409620>

# BBP

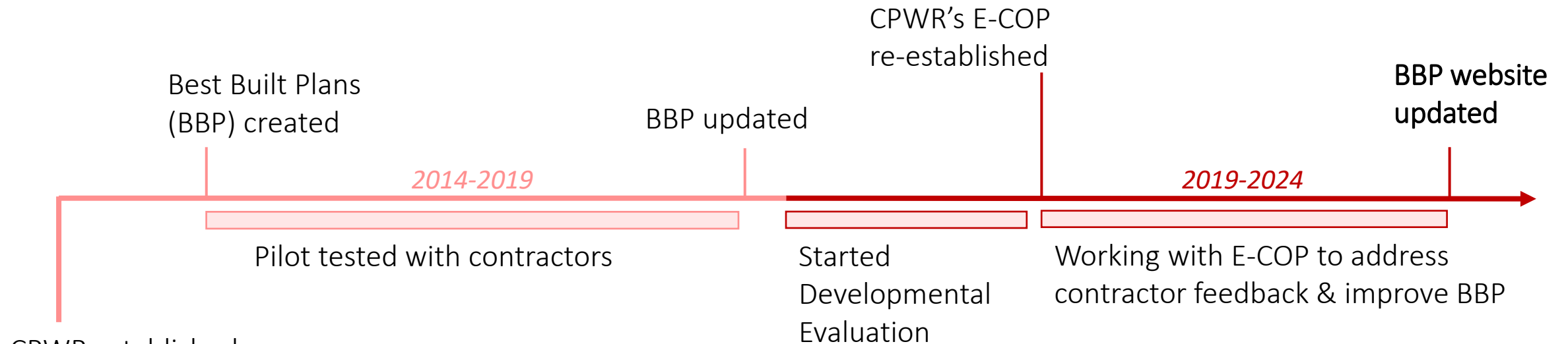
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- **Site Planning Tool:** to create and implement a manual materials handling hazard control plan at each project stage, from **bidding** to **pre-job**, **on-the-job**, and **look-back**.
- **Interactive Training & Coaching Exercises and Knowledge Tests**
- <http://bestbuiltplans.org/>



# History of Best Built Plans

Currently conducting Developmental Evaluation with the Ergonomic Community of Practice



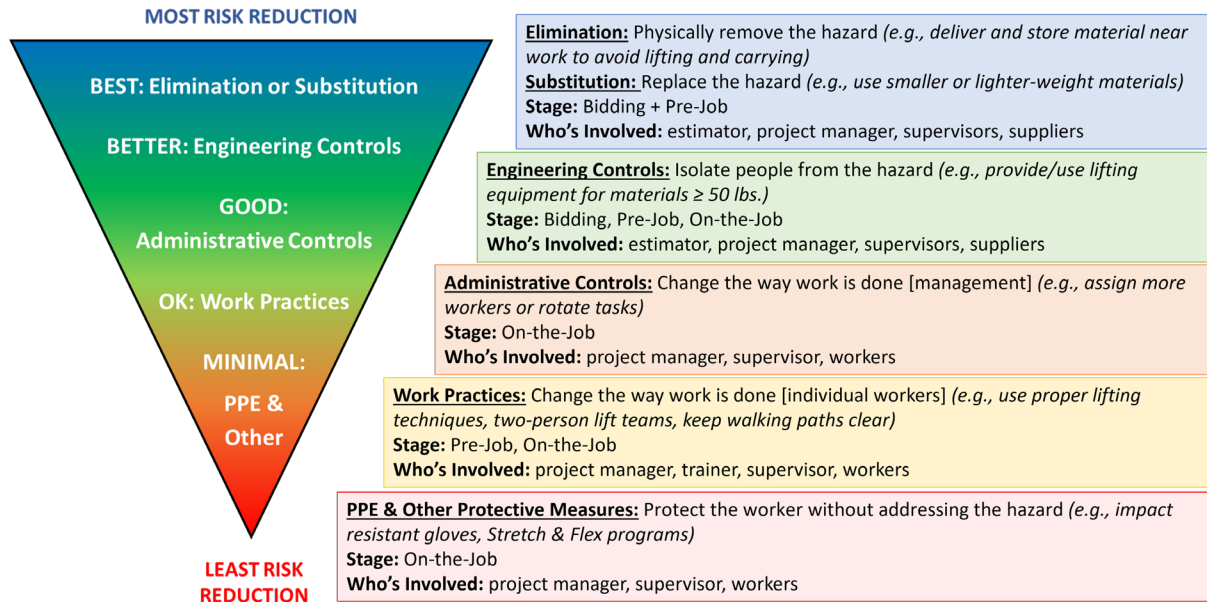
## Next Steps:

- New materials under development
- Testing updated website & new materials





## Hierarchy of Controls for Manual Materials Handling to Reduce Strain & Sprain Injuries



# BBP Updates

- **Revamped online site planning tool**
  - **Updated content** based on developmental evaluation and E-COP recommendations
  - **Clear reasoning** behind each stage
  - **Less scrolling** due to table format
  - **Cleaner navigation** between stages with NEXT buttons
- **New resources coming soon**
  - 3 Infographics
  - Look-Back Worksheet
  - Updated Contractor Training Program

# Heat Illness Prevention Resources

- [Updated Heat Topic Page](#)
- Infographics
- COMING SOON:
  - Heat Illness Prevention Program checklist
  - Daily Heat Illness Prevention checklist

January 2023

**DAILY HEAT ILLNESS PREVENTION CHECKLIST**

Before beginning work, ask yourself whether your crew will be exposed to heat or hot weather. Are you working outside in the heat or direct sunlight? Are you working indoors in an enclosed space with heat-generating machinery? If you and your crew might be at risk for heat-related illness or death, make sure you have a heat-illness prevention (HIP) program in place. A HIP program should include plans for training workers, monitoring heat conditions, ensuring controls and solutions are available when needed, acclimatizing workers, and more. The plan should be updated for each job site with clear guidance on when and how it will be implemented at the worksite for (new and experienced) workers. Use CPWR's Heat Illness Prevention Program Checklist before continuing to the checklist below if you do not have a solid program in place.

Once you have a HIP plan set up, use the following checklist to identify daily risks and preventive and protective measures that will be implemented accordingly. If you have questions about the items on the checklist visit [cpwr.com/heat](http://cpwr.com/heat) for more information.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Job site: \_\_\_\_\_

Heat Illness Prevention (HIP) Competent Person: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Are any of these risk factors for heat exposure present on your job site today?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Outdoor work in warm/hot weather and direct sun without effective shade or cool breeze
<input type="checkbox"/>	Radiant heat sources such as hot asphalt, power tools, machinery, furnaces, boilers, steam piping, and other radiant heat sources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Low wind speed and/or physical elements of the construction site that block wind
<input type="checkbox"/>	Work in confined spaces such as attics, crawl spaces, and/or the interior of tanks
<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate to strenuous physical activity performed in warm/hot indoor or outdoor environments
<input type="checkbox"/>	Heavy or non-breathable work clothes and/or personal protective equipment worn in warm/hot indoor or outdoor environments
<input type="checkbox"/>	High relative humidity combined with a warm/hot indoor or outdoor environment (heat index)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mobile work sites with the potential for variable levels of heat exposure
<input type="checkbox"/>	Workers that have not yet been trained on heat exposure and heat-related illness

CPWR  
THE CENTER FOR CONSTRUCTION RESEARCH AND TRAINING

August 2022

**PREVENTING HEAT-RELATED DEATHS IN CONSTRUCTION: THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCLIMATIZATION**

**Acclimatization** is how the body gets used to working in the heat through repeated exposure to a hot environment. During acclimatization, workers sweat more and sweat sooner, so it is important to drink more water while becoming acclimatized. Slowly increasing workload and duration builds physical capability and **reduces the risk of heat-related illness.**

Failure to acclimatize workers is the **number one factor** associated with heat-related deaths.<sup>1</sup> **Over 70%** of heat-related deaths occur during a worker's first week.<sup>2</sup>

Acclimatize workers that are new to the job, temporary, pregnant, or new to the region. Re-acclimatize workers returning after one week or more, and when working outdoors when weather is significantly warmer than on previous days.

14  
Days

Acclimatization is typically achieved by gradually increasing the amount of time spent working in the heat each day over a period of **7 to 14 days.**<sup>1</sup>

**MAKE A PLAN FOR ACCLIMATIZATION!**  
 learn more at: [www.cpwr.com/heat](http://www.cpwr.com/heat)

NIOSH MMWR: Heat Illness and Death Among Workers - U.S., 2012-2013. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6012a1.htm>  
OSHA: Protecting New Workers. <https://www.osha-slc.gov/heat-exposure-and-illness-06-08-2018>

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THE CENTER FOR CONSTRUCTION  
RESEARCH AND TRAINING

[A-Z Index](#)   [Lista de recursos en español](#)

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ABOUT CPWR

## Heat Hazards

Construction workers, who often work outdoors in direct sunlight or in hot, enclosed spaces, are at risk for heat-related illnesses and, in severe cases, death. Rising global temperatures in recent decades increase that risk. However, **these illnesses and deaths are preventable.**

The following resources contain information about heat hazards in construction, and ways to prevent related illnesses.

CLICK ON A TOPIC BELOW TO EXPAND FOR LINKS TO RESOURCES & MORE INFO

Heat Illness Prevention Planning

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Employee Training

---

Acclimatization

---

Exposure Monitoring

---

Water, Rest, Shade

---

PPE, Cooling Systems and Additional Solutions

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Rescue Planning

HEAT-RELATED DEATHS IN CONSTRUCTION

Construction workers accounted for only 7% of the U.S. workforce, but experienced **38%** of all heat-related deaths at work in 2020.<sup>1,2,3</sup>

Employment

7%

Heat-Related Deaths

38%

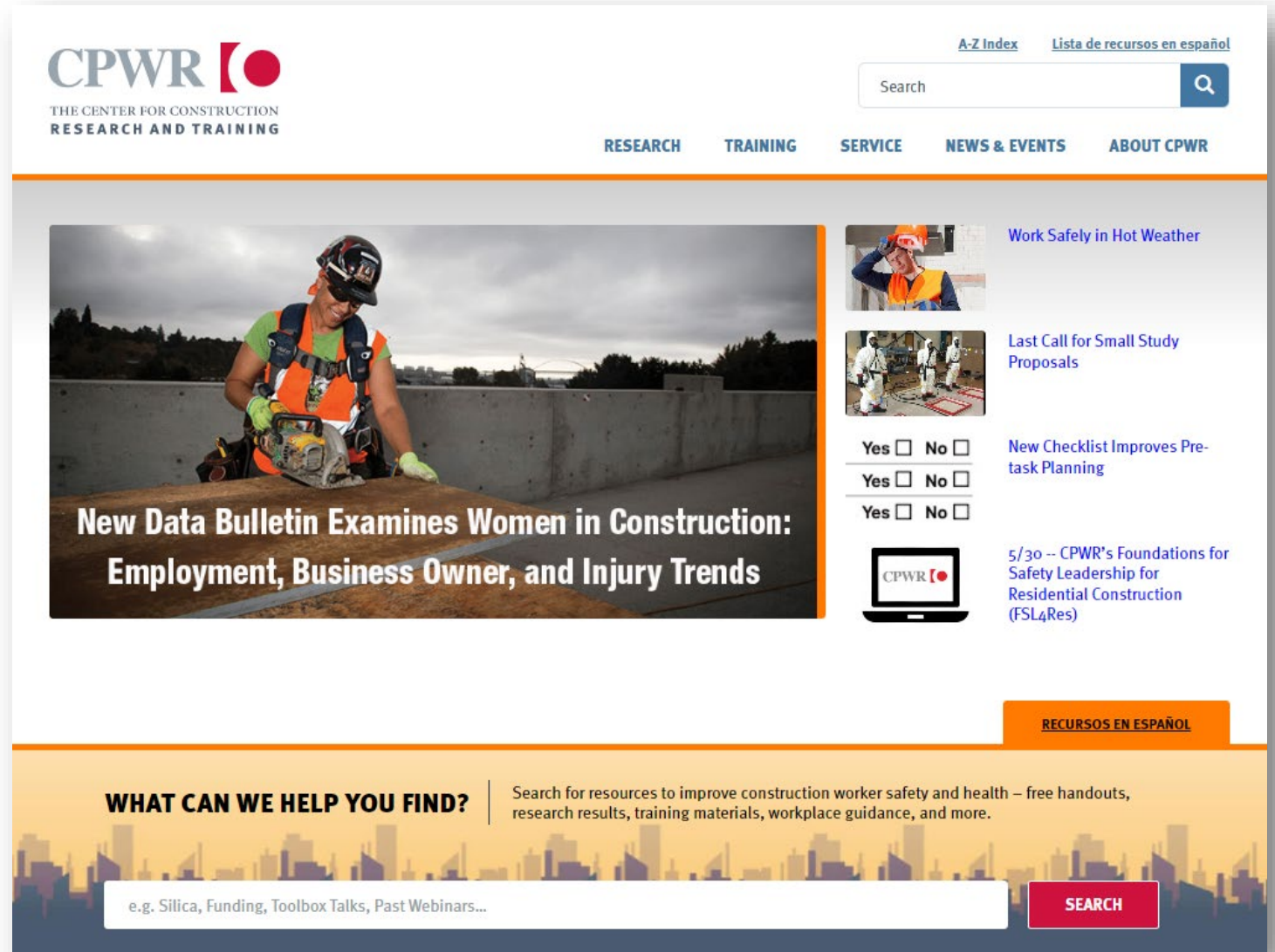
■ Construction
■ All other industries

# Questions?

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[ccain@cpwr.com](mailto:ccain@cpwr.com)



The screenshot shows the CPWR website homepage. At the top left is the CPWR logo with the tagline "THE CENTER FOR CONSTRUCTION RESEARCH AND TRAINING". To the right of the logo are links for "A-Z Index" and "Lista de recursos en español", and a search bar. Below the logo is a navigation menu with links for "RESEARCH", "TRAINING", "SERVICE", "NEWS & EVENTS", and "ABOUT CPWR". The main content area features a large banner image of a construction worker using a chainsaw, with the text "New Data Bulletin Examines Women in Construction: Employment, Business Owner, and Injury Trends". To the right of the banner are three smaller article teasers: "Work Safely in Hot Weather", "Last Call for Small Study Proposals", and "New Checklist Improves Pre-task Planning". Below these are three "Yes/No" checkboxes. At the bottom right of the main content area is a link for "5/30 -- CPWR's Foundations for Safety Leadership for Residential Construction (FSL4Res)". The footer contains a search bar with the text "WHAT CAN WE HELP YOU FIND?" and "Search for resources to improve construction worker safety and health – free handouts, research results, training materials, workplace guidance, and more." Below the search bar is a text input field with the placeholder "e.g. Silica, Funding, Toolbox Talks, Past Webinars..." and a red "SEARCH" button. A "RECURSOS EN ESPAÑOL" button is located in the top right corner of the footer area.