

Case Study of a Nationwide OSH Effort: National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls

A national safety stand-down to reduce construction worker falls

Jessica Bunting, Christine Branche, Chris Trahan, and Linda Goldenhar. Journal of Safety Research, February 2017.

Overview

Falls are the leading cause of death and third leading cause of non-fatal injuries in construction. The National Campaign to Prevent Falls in Construction, a coalition of government agencies, construction employers and labor organizations, launched an annual National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls to increase awareness of the hazard and promote action. As part of the Stand-Down, the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), a main Campaign partner, offered a certificate of participation. Researchers reviewed the data submitted by participants who obtained these certificates in the 2014 and 2015 Stand-Downs in an effort to assess the Campaign's reach and draw lessons for future initiatives.

Key Findings

- In 2014, 4,882 companies and organizations obtained certificates after holding a stand-down event; in 2015, 3,759 did.
- Although the number of organizations reporting stand-downs declined, the number of participating workers grew. The 2014 events reached a reported 770,193 participants; in 2015, that number increased to 1,041,307.
- While we cannot determine impact, the reach of the Stand-Down has surpassed expectations. Respondents were enthusiastic and reported a variety of activities.
- This research helped show how organizations can partner to create targeted national occupational safety campaigns and solicit participation by industry stakeholders. The findings can be used to replicate our efforts for other safety and health initiatives in construction as well as other industries.

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See abstract:

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