

Analysis of NIOSH FACE reports shows that more than half of workers killed by falls lacked access to Personal Fall Arrest Systems (PFAS)

Fatal falls and PFAS use in the construction industry: Findings from the NIOSH FACE reports

Xiuwen Sue Dong, Julie A. Largay, Sang D. Choi, Xuanwen Wang, Chris Trahan Cain, and Nancy Romano. Accident Analysis and Prevention, May 2017.

Overview

This study analyzed the Construction FACE Database (CFD), a quantitative database developed from reports of the Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The CFD contains detailed data on 768 fatalities in the construction industry reported by NIOSH and individual states from 1982 through June 30, 2015. Researchers examined injury characteristics and use of PFAS in the report on each fall fatality.

Key Findings

- Falls accounted for 42% (325) of the 768 fatalities included in the Construction FACE Database.
- One-third of the fatal falls were from heights of over 30 feet, and 26% from heights of 15 feet or less.
- PFAS were not available to more than half of the fall decedents (54%); nearly one in four fall decedents (23%) had access to PFAS, but were not using it at the time of the fall
- Lack of access to PFAS was especially pronounced (~70%) among residential building contractors and roofing, siding, and sheet metal sector contractors.
- The findings provide strong evidence in favor of fall protection requirements by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). In addition to stronger enforcement, educating employers and workers about the importance and effectiveness of fall protection is crucial for compliance and fall prevention.

For more information, contact:

Sue Dong: sdong@cpwr.com

See article

<http://bit.ly/2oYI90D>

©2017, CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training. All rights reserved. CPWR is the research, training, and service arm of North America's Building Trades Unions, and works to reduce or eliminate safety and health hazards construction workers face on the job. Production of this Key Finding was supported by Grant OH009762 from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of NIOSH.



**THE CENTER FOR CONSTRUCTION
RESEARCH AND TRAINING**

WWW.CPWR.COM