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Construction Safety Data – What the Numbers Tell Us

If we really want to get down and dirty with the numbers, we need to look at statistical data provided by government regulatory agencies.

According to OSHA, in 2021, the construction industry got 5 of the top ten spots in the Top 10 most frequently cited OSHA standards violated.

Take a look at the OSHA's top 10:

1. Fall Protection, construction – (29 CFR 1926.501)
2. Respiratory Protection, general industry – (29 CFR 1910.134)
3. Ladders, construction – (29 CFR 1926.1053)
4. Hazard Communication, general industry – (29 CFR 1910.1200)
5. Scaffolding, construction – (29 CFR 1926.451)
6. Fall Protection Training, construction – (29 CFR 1926.503)
7. Control of Hazardous Energy (lockout/tagout), general industry – (29 CFR 1910.147)
8. Eye and Face Protection, construction – (29 CFR 1926.102)
9. Powered Industrial Trucks, general industry – (29 CFR 1910.178)
10. Machinery and Machine Guarding, general industry – (29 CFR 1910.212)

As you can see, the construction industry is a significant source of concern for OSHA in the United States due to the high number of infractions.

The Center for Construction Research and Training – CPWR – provides some fascinating insights into injuries within the construction industry. According to a Data Bulletin published in February of 2021, the construction industry is still “one of the most dangerous industries in the United States.”

The bulletin details the highest risk of fatality in construction among the middle-aged (45-64). That means it is the group of workers with experience and likely some bad habits of assuming over-confidence with safety within their work environment.

Tell your team members the above fact if they complain about safety meetings.

What does the age group fatality data tell us? It tells us that refresher training is vital in preserving safety for team members. However, we must also refrain from singling out an age group because the rate of injuries and fatalities to young and inexperienced workers is not far behind.