

# Construction Safety Campaign: Common Accidents and Toolbox Safety Tips

## Falls

From falling equipment to collapsing buildings, construction sites are some of the most hazardous workplaces out there.

Here, we explore some of the most common accidents that account for approximately 50 percent of all construction accidents

reported in the U.S. each year, and the numbers are on the rise. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number of construction deaths due to falls, slips, and trips increased by 5.9 percent in 2021.

Slip-and-fall accidents on construction sites can result in severe and even fatal consequences. Some common injuries construction workers sustain during slip-and-fall accidents include:

- » Fractured and broken bones
- » Spinal cord injuries
- » Traumatic brain injuries
- » Lacerations and puncture wounds
- » Sprains, strains, and tears

## TOOLBOX TIPS TO HELP

Site managers, supervisors, and workers at construction sites can reduce the number of slip-and-fall accidents that occur in their workplaces by taking appropriate safety precautions, including:

- » Installing safety nets and guard rails to prevent falls and



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## Falling Objects

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The threat of falling or moving objects is a significant concern on construction sites. The Center for Construction Research and Training reports that 22 percent of fatal injuries that construction workers experience on the job are due to harmful contact with objects and equipment. When tools or cargo fall from heights or a piece of heavy equipment swings into a worker's body, they can inflict serious damage, including concussions, broken bones, and back injuries.

Construction sites are dynamic environments where tools, equipment, and materials are frequently elevated or moved overhead. Common scenarios involve objects inadvertently slipping from elevated platforms, scaffolding, or cranes, posing a danger to workers below. These falling objects can range from tools and building materials to debris, and the impact can result in severe head injuries, fractures, and other traumatic injuries.

### TOOLBOX TIPS TO HELP

Construction workers can take proactive measures to enhance their safety and mitigate the risks associated with falling objects on construction sites. Here are some ways to help improve safety from falling objects:

- » Properly tethering tools and other items to prevent them from falling.
- » Wearing appropriate personal protective equipment, including hard hats.
- » Regularly inspecting scaffolding, cranes, and other equipment for stability and integrity.





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## Improper Training

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When employees don't receive adequate training, they can make fatal mistakes. According to a 2022 survey by the Center for Construction Research and Training, approximately 23 percent of construction employers believe lack of training is the primary cause of struck-by injuries on construction sites.

### TOOLBOX TIPS TO HELP

Well-developed training programs and policies are essential components of a successful construction company. They may include things like:

- » Requiring all operators of heavy machinery to be certified.
- » Clearly posting rules for using different types of equipment.
- » Prohibiting the use of distracting devices while using construction equipment.
- » Conducting consistent training sessions and frequently reviewing safety procedures.
- » Placing posters and signage around worksites to identify and communicate risks.

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## About the Article

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Written by the Blog Editors at [Shulman & Hill](#), one of the top injury law firms in New York City that has built its success on client service and advocacy. The aftermath of a construction accident can be overwhelming, especially when dealing with a traumatic injury; that is where the experienced lawyers at Shulman & Hill provide help. A law firm that prioritizes its clients, they focus