



Weekly Safety Tip

Prevent Falls in Construction Stand-Down



For “Prevent Falls in Construction Stand-Down”



By the numbers: Falls in construction

By Barry Butts, associate editor

Falls are the leading cause of death in the construction industry. They're also the second leading cause of nonfatal injuries. Slips, trips and falls contributed to 421 construction worker deaths in 2023, according to Injury Facts – an online statistical database maintained by the National Safety Council. And 2024 marked the 14th straight fiscal year that Fall Protection – General Requirements (1926.501) was the standard most often cited by OSHA inspectors who found safety violations. Here's a closer look at the numbers, using the most recent data available.

1,075
The number of construction workers who were killed on the job in 2023 – a 46% increase from 2011.

39% of all construction deaths in 2023 were a result of slips, trips and falls.

The number of fatal falls in the construction industry has increased **61%** since 2011.

Each year since 2013, construction workers have experienced more than **300 fatal falls** and **20,000 nonfatal fall-related injuries**.

48% of all fall-related deaths in 2023 occurred in private construction.

Falls to a lower level resulted in **404 deaths** in 2023, accounting for **96% of all fall-related fatalities** in the industry.

Attribution: National Safety Council



In 2022, fatal falls most often occurred between **10 a.m. and 12:59 p.m.**



The construction occupations that experienced the most fall-related deaths in 2023:

Roofing
110 deaths
Residential building construction
62 deaths
Nonresidential building construction
27 deaths
Heavy civil engineering
19 deaths

Now annual: The National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction

In 2012, the National Occupational Research Agenda Construction Sector Council, with leadership from NIOSH, OSHA and CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training, launched the inaugural National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction. Since then, those groups, together with the Department of Labor, the National Safety Council, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, annually sponsor the stand-down. The event is intended

to encourage employers to focus on preventing fall-related deaths by raising awareness of hazards and the importance of fall protection. In 2024, 3,994 stand-down events took place, marking the second-highest total in the event's 14-year history. Those events reached 415,793 workers in the construction industry. This year's stand-down is set to take place May 5-9. Visit [OSHA.gov/stop-falls-stand-down](https://osha.gov/stop-falls-stand-down) to plan your event.

70.3% of the fatal falls that occurred in 2021 and 2022 involved workers in organizations with 10 or fewer employees.

The states with the most deaths caused by slips, trips and falls in 2023:



Falls accounted for **30% of DAFW*** cases in 2021-2022.
• 44% of those cases involved a fall to a lower level.
• 33% involved a fall to the same level.
*Days away from work

David A. Varwig, CSP-retired for the Safety Council of Northwest Ohio

Weekly Safety Share



SAFETY SHARE

Hot Car Fatalities Are a Year-Round Threat to Children and



A FAMILY SAFETY SHARE



Hot Car Fatalities Are a Year-Round Threat to Children and Pets

Testing shows it does not take scorching temperatures for a hot car to pose life-threatening risk to small children

Heatstroke can be a four-season threat in some parts of the country. About 39 children die each year from vehicular heatstroke, according to [Kids and Car Safety](#) and [NoHeatstroke.org](#).

Heatstroke is the leading cause of death in vehicles (excluding crashes) for those 14 and younger.

There were 40 hot car deaths in 2024, according to Kids and Car Safety. **In most cases, the children were unknowingly left behind in the vehicle.** While it may be difficult to believe that you or your friends and family could face such a sad event, it's important to remember that research shows these tragedies can happen to anyone.

Historically, about **25%** or one quarter of hot car deaths have been the result of the **child gaining access to the car on their own**, according to NoHeatstroke.org.

As temperatures rise and more kids are playing outside, parents and caregivers need to be extra mindful of their children's whereabouts. And they need to **keep vehicles locked in the garage or driveway, and the keys out of children's reach**. Even if you don't have children, it's important to take those precautions to protect neighboring families.

If your child is missing, always remember to first check your pool, if you have one, and then your vehicle, including the trunk.

It's never safe to leave a child unattended in a vehicle. Even with windows cracked or the vehicle parked in the shade, the car's interior temperatures can reach dangerous levels in very little time.

Why Cars Heat Up. Closed cars get hot quickly because sunlight heats up inside elements, including the dash, upholstery, and steering wheel, according to NoHeatstroke.org. Those elements radiate their heat into the air, increasing the ambient temperature inside the car.

Why cracked windows aren't enough. Partly opened windows allow some heat to escape, but as long as the heat source (the sun) continues to beat down and heat up the inside car elements, the temperature can stay dangerously high. (see graphic on last page)

TIP: Don't be fooled by the thermometer:

On days with mild temperatures, the heat inside a closed vehicle can reach dangerous levels within an hour, posing serious risk to small children or pets left inside.

Consumer Reports testing found that:

*even when it was **61° F** outside, the temperature inside a closed car reached more than **105° F in just 1 hour**,*

an extremely dangerous and potentially fatal level for a child.

So, the Consumer Reports test results help dispel the myth that hot car deaths or heatstroke happen only on blisteringly hot days in the dead of summer.



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