

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.