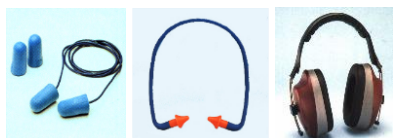


## NIOSH Warns – Many Workers not using Hearing Protection



More than half of all workers who are exposed to hazardous noise on the job don't consistently use hearing protection, results of a recent NIOSH study show.

Researchers reviewed nearly 40,000 worker responses to the 2007 and 2014 National Health Interview Survey. They found that of the more than 5,400 workers who experience hazardous noise exposure at work, 53% didn't "always" or "usually" wear hearing protection.

Industries with the highest prevalence of hearing protection device nonuse include Accommodation and Food Services (90%), Healthcare and Social Assistance (83%) and Education Services (82%). Construction came in high at (52%). The prevalence of hearing protection device **(continued page 2)**

## Slips, Trips and Falls



Fall hazards remain a common problem across multiple industries and workplaces. In 2019, worker deaths related to slips, trips and falls climbed 11.3% from the previous year, according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics data. Contributing factors related to slips, trips and falls include walking surfaces, obstacles, people and activity, footwear, cleaning, and contaminants.

Under OSHA's standard on walking-working surfaces for general industry (1910.22), employers must ensure "all places of employment, passageways, storage rooms, service rooms and walking-working surfaces are kept in a clean, orderly and sanitary condition."

NIOSH recommends that workers wear slip-resistant shoes when operating on wet or contaminated surfaces. The footwear should also be resistant to oil, chemicals and heat.

Falls are still the leading cause of death in the construction industry. CPWR – The Center of Construction Research and Training contends that falls are of particular concern in the residential construction sectors, which, one expert says generally is more scattered and features fewer resources as well as lower level of safety training.

In FY 2021, the top section cited under OSHA standard on fall protection – general requirements, with 3,706 violations, was 1926.501(b)(13), which states: "Each employee engaged in residential construction activities 6 feet or more above lower levels shall be protected by guardrail systems, safety net systems or personal fall arrest system unless another provision in paragraph (b) of this section provides an alternative fall protection measure."

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** NIOSH Warns – Many Workers not using Hearing Protection
- 1** Slips, Trips and Falls
- 2** Combating Opioid Abuse in Construction
- 2** Reminder!!!!
- 2** Did You Know?
- 2** Safety Tip of the Month
- 2** Note From the Editor

(continued from page 1) nonuse remains high. Increasing worker awareness and providing training about the importance of proper and consistent use can protect workers from the effects of hazardous noise. In addition, we need to overcome barriers to hearing protection device use by ensuring that workers have hearing protection devices that are comfortable and do not overprotect from noise so they can hear speech and other important workplace signals.

## Combating Opioid Abuse in Construction



Construction workers have the highest rate of overdose-related deaths among all occupations. An analysis from Washington University finds that construction workers prescribed opioids for musculoskeletal pain are more likely to use opioids long term and develop an opioid misuse disorder.

Among the agency's recommendations for employers:

- Identify work factors that pose a risk of injury and take action to eliminate or minimize them.
- Provide paid time off when a worker is injured on the job.
- Share information with workers on how to avoid opioid misuse and consult with medical providers about alternative pain treatment.
- Make sure workers have access to health benefits that cover comprehensive injury care, physical therapy, and mental health and substance use treatment.
- Provide an environment in which workers feel safe discussing mental health and substance use without fear of stigma or repercussions.
- Offer support and educational materials to workers in a language they understand using culturally appropriate information.
- Establish employee assistance and peer support programs (for large organizations).
- Speak to trusted community organizations and leaders to help workers get proper assistance

and support (for small organizations).

NIOSH provides links to videos, toolbox talks and other resources, including Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration guidance related to finding treatment.

Continued efforts to prevent injuries and expand opportunity for and education concerning alternative pain management, as components of an overall prevention plan will be critical according to NIOSH.

## Reminder!!!!

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration reminds employers that the agency began collecting calendar year 2021 Form 300A data on Jan. 2, 2022. Employers must submit the form electronically by March 2, 2022.

Electronic submissions are required by establishments with 250 or more employees currently required to keep OSHA injury and illness records, and establishments with 20-249 employees classified in specific industries with historically high rates of occupational injuries and illnesses.

Visit the [Injury Tracking Application Electronic Submission of Injury and Illness Records to OSHA](#) for more information and a link to the Injury Tracking Application.

## Did You Know?

Complacency is described as the "act of doing routine tasks without thinking about it". Complacency can increase the risk of injury on the job, regardless of worker age or experience level. For workers, complacency can be the impetus for unsafe actions, which can lead to injury.

## Safety Tip of the Month

Don't follow the safety rules because OSHA mandates it. Don't even follow the rules because your boss mandates it. Follow the safety rules for you and your loved ones, because the pain, suffering and economic loss due to accidents can be devastating. Safety is no accident..

## Notes From the Editor

Send articles or opinions to:

Bill Devinney, Owner/Safety Consultant  
Safetydude, LLC  
4836 Hardware Dr. NE Suite A  
Albuquerque, NM 87109  
Phone: 505-259-8556  
Or e-mail me at [devinneywilliamr@msn.com](mailto:devinneywilliamr@msn.com)