

## OSHA's Fatal Four

The top four causes of construction fatalities are: Falls, Struck-By, Caught-In/Between and Electrocutions. Excluding transportation incidents, these four causes are responsible for about sixty percent of work-related fatalities.

Falls are the leading cause of death among construction workers. They account for about thirty-nine percent of fatalities. Hazardous locations related to falls include ladders, ledges, scaffolds, cranes, rooftops, wall openings and holes in floors. These areas should be closely monitored and inspected to ensure compliant controls are in place. Struck-By Objects account for about eight percent of construction industry fatalities.

Struck-By injuries occur when workers are hit by objects, tools, equipment or materials. Work areas should be monitored and inspected for the prevention and control of flying objects, falling objects, swinging objects, and rolling objects.

Electrocutions account for about seven percent of workplace fatalities. Electrocution is caused by electric shock from electric current passing through the body. Electrocution can result from contact with overhead power lines, contact with energized sources like damaged wires, and the improper use of extension cords.

Caught In/Between injuries result in about five percent of industry deaths. These incidents occur when workers are caught, crushed, squeezed, pinched, or compressed between two or more objects. Common caught in/between hazards include machinery with unguarded moving parts, machinery not locked out during maintenance, unprotected excavations and trenches, heavy equipment that tips over, collapsing walls during demolition, and working between moving materials and immovable structures, vehicles, or equipment.

