

The Construction industry has the 3rd highest work fatalities in Australia

60,000 fatalities per year around the world **one death every 9 minutes**

Australian construction workers

9% of workforce

16% of work-related deaths

Victoria, Australia

(2019-20)

162 Incidents involved falls

from heights

- 52 from ladders

- 34 from scaffolds

Benefits of accident prevention in construction

\$ Outweighs costs of accident prevention by 3:1

Direct benefits

Savings in insurance premiums, medical expenses, compensation claims, damage materials, accident investigation, litigation

Indirect benefits

Productivity improvement, savings of sick pay, savings on working day lost, lost time, cleaning/waste disposal, staff morale, job satisfaction

USA

(2017)

9.5 fatalities per 100k full time construction workers

cf. 3.5k/100k full time workers all other industries

Europe

(2015)

21% work fatalities took place in construction

UK

(2018)

1.64 fatalities per 100k full time construction workers (4x average rate other industries)

(2007/8)

66% of migrant worker deaths were in construction

Opportunities

Design

Explore opportunities to make scaffolding more effective
- Erecting prior to a build starting
- Adding an additional horizontal bar

Inspect & regulate

More frequent inspections and higher fines for non-compliance
- Lead to better implementation of safety standards for scaffolding and decrease of fatalities by falling (US OSHA)

Training

Toolbox talks and safety messages by trained foremen (US 2013)
- Increase in daily mentoring and talks that were more interactive and relevant to individual worksites and work tasks

<https://research.iscrr.com.au/prevention/workplace-risks/prevention-first-global-scans>