



Health and Safety Snapshot

Fall from heights - Construction

A few facts on the construction industry

Residential Construction

36 serious injuries (72%)
177 non-compliances (74%)

Commercial Construction

12 serious injuries (24%)
55 non-compliances (23%)

Civil Construction

2 serious injury (4%)
6 non-compliances (3%)

In 2021:

- there were 103 serious injuries reported to SafeWork SA, 48% of these were in the construction industry, the highest of all industries
- there were 237 non-compliances identified in the construction industry associated with working at heights
- workers in the residential sector continue to sustain the most injuries and were at most risk of a fall from heights within the construction industry
- 86% of serious injuries occurred below 3 metres
- 61% of serious injuries below 2 metres were from a ladder
- 53% of serious injuries between 2 and 3 metres were associated with fragile roofing material
- there was a 6.7% increase in claims on the previous financial year and the numbers in Construction are more than 40% higher than any other industry
- in 2020-21 ReturnToWorkSA claims cost the construction industry nearly \$4 million, the highest of any industry. The costs for this financial year have grown to \$6.4 million.

Risk of fall requiring compliance action

ABOVE 6 METRES

3% associated with roof work, scaffolds

6 METRES

31% associated with roof work including roof truss installation, scaffolds, wall frames, ladders

41%

of non-compliances were associated with high risk construction work requiring a Safe Work Method Statement

ABOVE 3 METRES

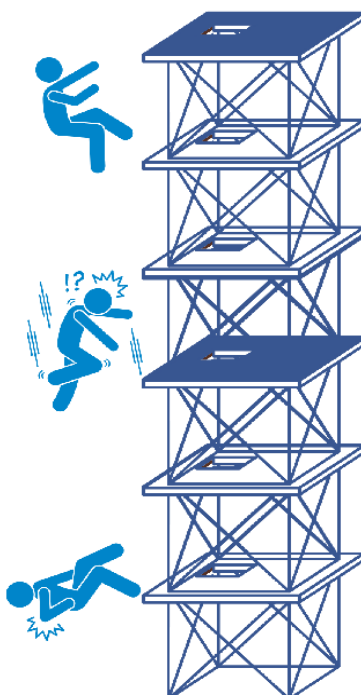
57% associated with roof work including roof truss installation, wall frames, scaffolds, ladders

ABOVE 2 METRES

5% associated with excavations, ladders, scaffolds

1 METRE

4% associated with excavations, ladders



Injury and risk

Top 6 activities - injury + risk of injury



Working on a Roof

83 19 serious injuries
64 non-compliance



First fix carpentry including steel frame

55 9 serious injury
46 non-compliance



Working from a scaffold

55 55 non-compliance



Ladder use

53 21 serious injuries
32 non-compliance



Finishing trades

44 9 serious injuries
35 non-compliance



Solar panel installer

24 2 serious injuries
22 non-compliance

1 in 5

serious injuries were to apprentices

Reducing the risk of a Fall

Injuries caused by falls are more likely to be life-threatening than most other types of injuries. Duty holders can, in accordance with the hierarchy of control:

Most effective



Least effective

- Eliminate the risk by, where practicable, doing all or some of the work on the ground or from a solid construction.
- Use a passive fall prevention device such as scaffolds, perimeter screens, guardrails, safety mesh or elevating work platforms.
- Use a positioning system, such as a travel-restraint system, to ensure employees work within a safe area.
- Use a fall arrest system, such as a harness, catch platform or safety nets, to limit the risk of injuries in the event of a fall.
- Use a fixed or portable ladder.
- Implement administrative controls

Injuries

