









# Safety Connection

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## SAFETY RESEARCH

-  **2025 Construction Industry Safety Challenges.** The American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) and J.J. Keller released a new joint research report, the [2025 Construction Industry Safety Challenges study](#), which examines the barriers, trends and opportunities shaping safety performance. Key themes include: the construction industry is balancing long-standing practices with more proactive approaches to safety; companies are exploring modernized training methods; new technologies show promise, though cost and integration challenges remain; and worker well-being – including mental health – is gaining greater emphasis.
-  **First-Ever Construction Helmet Ratings: Modern Designs Can Save Lives.** The Virginia Tech Helmet Lab recently released the first [ratings system for construction safety helmets](#). The ratings have been developed by analyzing information from falls in worksite environments and draw a sharp distinction between traditional “hard hats,” known as Type I helmets, and Type II helmets that include interior energy-absorbing materials. The results show that shifting to Type II helmets on average will reduce fall-related concussion risk by 34 percent and the risk of skull fracture by 65 percent, with the lab’s top-rated helmets showing risk reductions of 48 percent and 77 percent, respectively.
-  **Nudging Managers and Workers Towards Better Struck-By Prevention Planning.** To help address persistent challenges in the awareness and adoption of struck-by prevention practices, a new study by CPWR - The Center for Construction Research and Training applied behavioral economics—specifically, the use of nudges such as signage/posters, stickers, feedback, and incentive—to improve decision-making across multiple levels of the construction workforce. [The study](#) found that low-cost, readily available, scalable nudges, when embedded within planning frameworks and aligned with organizational context (safety climate/culture), can improve safety decision-making.
-  **Major Perception Gap Between Workers and Safety Leaders.** A new research report from the National Safety Council [Frontline Worker Perspectives on Musculoskeletal Disorder Prevention](#) reveals frontline workers' perspectives on musculoskeletal disorder (MSD), which are soft tissue injuries that affect the muscles, tendons, nerves, ligaments, or joints. Key findings include: most workers are aware of their organization's safety initiatives, but many lack a clear understanding of MSDs and how to report symptoms; nearly 30% of workers who experience pain at work don't report it; older workers are less likely to understand their organization's safety programs, report pain promptly, and feel confident in their workplace's ability to prevent injuries; newer employees are less likely to suggest safety improvements compared to more tenured workers; and safety leaders consistently rate their workplace culture more positively than frontline employees.

## CONSTRUCTION SAFETY TRENDS

-  **US Department of Labor releases 2024 injury, illness data.** The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) released its [2024 workplace injury and illness data](#) collected from its Injury Tracking Application. Under federal recordkeeping regulations, employers are required to electronically submit injury and illness data to OSHA. Data shows construction continues to stand out as a high-risk sector, experiencing a disproportionately high share of serious incidents related to fall protection failures, ladders, scaffolds, and struck-by or caught-in hazards.
-  **2025 IPAF Global Safety Report.** The International Powered Access Federation (IPAF) [annual safety report](#) provides a comprehensive look at fatal and major injury trends in the powered access industry with a focus on Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPs), also known as boom, aerial and scissor lifts. Key takeaways include: a 26% decrease in MEWP-related fatalities in 2024 compared with 2023; most incidents occur on construction sites; and the top causes of fatal MWEF accidents were overturns, entrapment, and falls from the platform.