



# Safety Connection

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## SAFETY RESEARCH

- ⚠ **Fatal opioid overdoses tied to workplace injuries.** A new Massachusetts [study](#) shows workers who were previously injured on the job are 35% more likely to die of an opioid-related overdose. Other findings include construction and mining industries have higher rates of fatal opioid overdoses and most overdose victims were male, Latino, and common work-related injuries were back sprains and puncture wounds.
- ⚠ **Framework for Promoting Employee Mental Health Through Supervisor Supportive Behaviors.** A recent National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) funded [study](#) identified behaviors that are proven to support workers' mental health and a six-part framework developed that supervisors can follow, which includes active behaviors such as emotional and practical support and reactive behaviors such as reducing stigma and warning sign recognition and response.
- ⚠ **Workers comp claims by tenure on-the-job.** According to a new [report](#) nearly 40% of workers' compensation claims in California come from workers with less than one year of tenure on-the-job and these workers are also more than twice as likely to have a claim relative to the statewide average driven by those working in physical labor industries, such as construction.
- ⚠ **Trenching Injuries, Citations and Penalties in Construction.** A new CPWR - The Center for Construction Research and Training [data bulletin](#) examined trenching fatalities. Key findings include the construction industry accounted for 85% of fatal trenching injuries from 2011 to 2021 and 90% of nonfatal injuries from 2011 to 2022, from 2011 to 2023, over a third of fatal trenching injuries in 2022 were among Hispanic workers, and violating OSHA's trenching standard comprised of 4% of citations and 9% of penalties in construction.
- ⚠ **Nanomaterials in Construction.** Engineered nanomaterials, such as nano silica, graphene, & carbon nanotubes found in paints, coatings, cementitious materials, insulation, and lubricants, may pose health risks to workers. A new [study](#) looked to characterize how nanomaterials are used in construction, identify nanomaterials exposure scenarios, and evaluate the quality of safety data sheets (SDS) for nano-enabled construction products.
- ⚠ **NYC construction deaths drop to lowest in nearly 10 years.** A recent New York City's Department of Buildings [report](#) shows NYC had the lowest number of construction-related fatalities last year in almost a decade, with 7 construction workers dying on the job in 2023 on the over 40,000 construction sites in the city. The report shows a 25% increase in the number of worker injuries on the jobsite with 692 injuries in 2023. Falls remained the leading cause of injury and death in construction in NYC, which is also the leading cause nationwide.

## CONSTRUCTION SAFETY TRENDS

- ⚠ **Selecting Head Protection for Construction Work.** CPWR has developed a [bulletin](#) that explains the different styles and protection levels of headgear and describes key factors that construction contractors should be considered when purchasing.
- ⚠ **Passenger vehicle traffic deaths fall for second straight year; uptick in truck crash deaths and injuries.** A [report](#) from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration shows an estimated 40,990 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes in 2023, a decrease of 3.6%, even as the number of miles traveled increased by 2.1%. However, a separate NHTSA [report shows](#) fatality and injury an increase in crashes involving medium- and heavy-duty trucks—both commercial and non-commercial—in 2022 with 5,936 fatalities and 160,608 injuries.
- ⚠ **Daily marijuana use is now more common than daily drinking.** According to a new [analysis](#) published using data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, about 17.7 million people in 2022 documented daily or nearly daily use of marijuana, compared to the 14.7 million who reported the same habits for alcohol, marking the first time in the past 30 years that daily marijuana use exceeded alcohol use.