



Health and Safety Snapshot

Fall from heights - Construction

A few facts on the construction industry

Residential Construction

36 serious injuries (63%)
292 non-compliances

Commercial Construction

16 serious injuries (27%)
58 non-compliances

Civil Construction

6 serious injuries (10%)
6 non-compliances

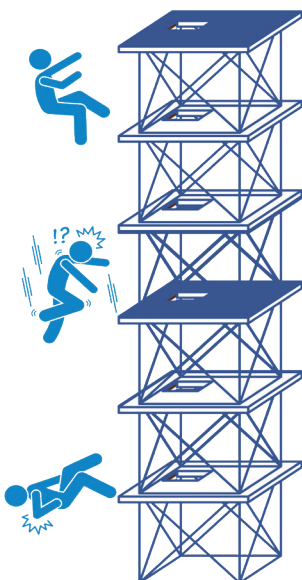
In 2023:

- There were 105 serious injuries reported to SafeWork SA, an increase of 36% on the previous year
- 55% of these were in construction, the highest of all industries
- There were 399 non-compliances identified across all industries with the construction industry accounting for 89%
- Workers in the residential sector continue to sustain the most injuries and were at most risk of a fall from height within the construction industry.

Within the construction industry:

- 83% of serious injuries occurred below 3 metres
- 64% of serious injuries between 2 and 3 metres were associated with ladders and roof work.
- 40% of serious injuries below 2 metres were from a ladder
- 17% of serious injuries are associated with the occupation of carpentry

Risk of fall requiring compliance action



ABOVE 6 METRES

4%

associated with roof work, scaffolds

6 METRES

26%

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

29% of non-compliances were associated with high risk construction work requiring a Safe Work Method Statement

ABOVE 3 METRES

58%

associated with roof work, including roof truss installation, wall frames, voids, ladders

ABOVE 2 METRES

10%

associated with voids, unprotected edges, ladders

1 METRE

2%

associated with unprotected edge

Injury and risk

Top 6 activities - injury + risk of injury



Working near a live edge including stair voids

153 6 serious injuries
147 non-compliance consisting of 67 stair voids



First fix carpentry including steel frame

150 13 serious injuries with 30% being an apprentice
137 non-compliances



Finishing trades

117 9 serious injuries
108 non-compliance



Working from a scaffold

102 5 serious injuries
97 non-compliances



Ladder use

79 35 Serious injuries
44 non-compliances



Working on a Roof

77 14 serious injuries
63 non-compliances

10

apprentices were seriously injured

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:

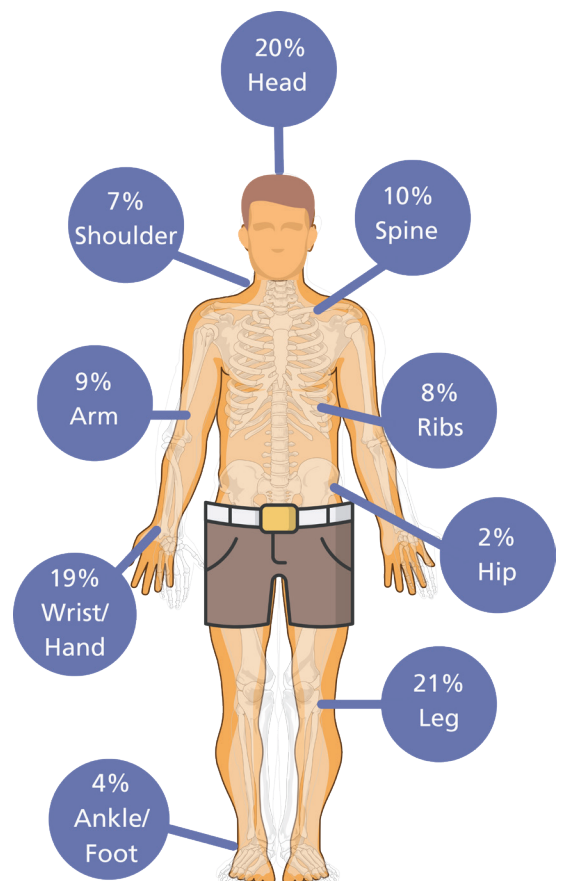
Most effective



Least effective

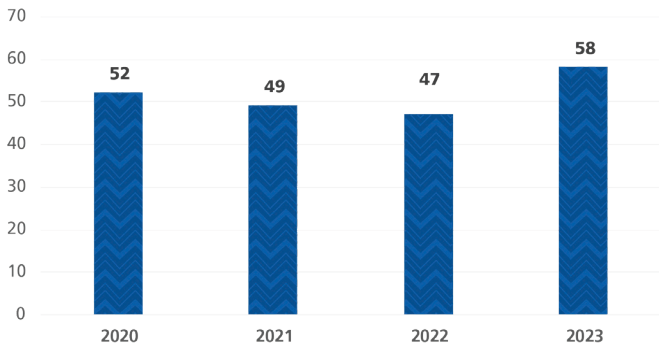
- Eliminate the risk by, where practicable, doing all or some of the work on the ground or from a solid construction.
- Use a passive fall prevention device such as scaffolds, perimeter screens, guardrails, safety mesh or elevating work platforms.
- Use a positioning system, such as a travel-restraint 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

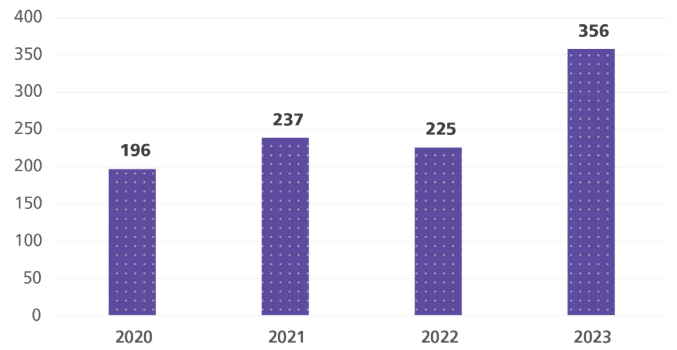


Trend data

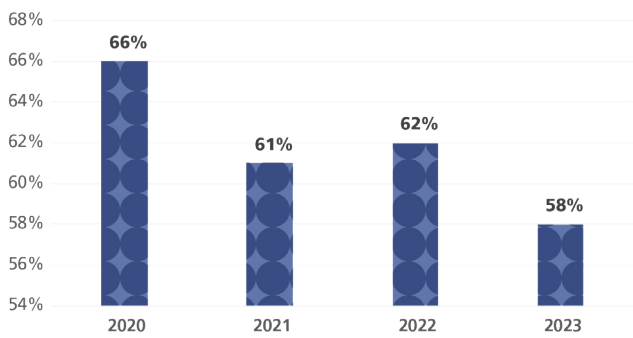
SERIOUS INJURIES



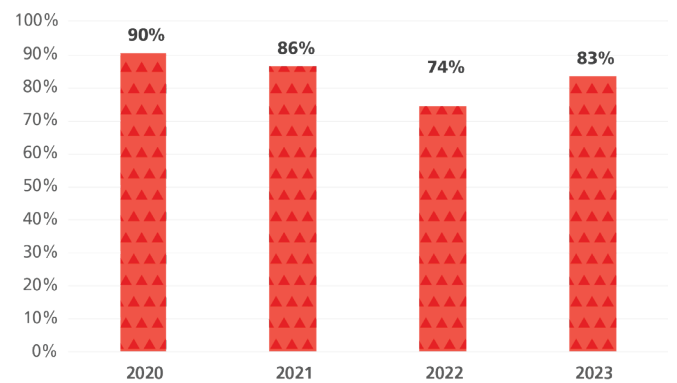
NON-COMPLIANCE IDENTIFIED



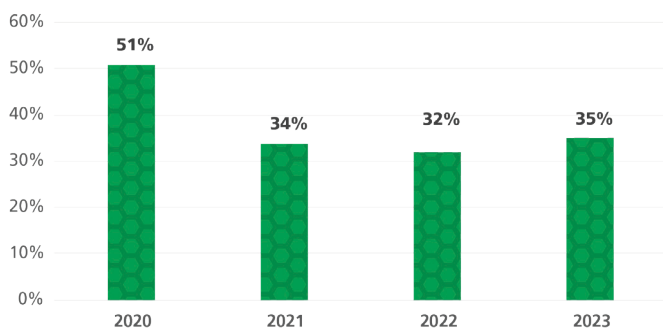
SERIOUS INJURIES FROM A LADDER BELOW 2 METRES



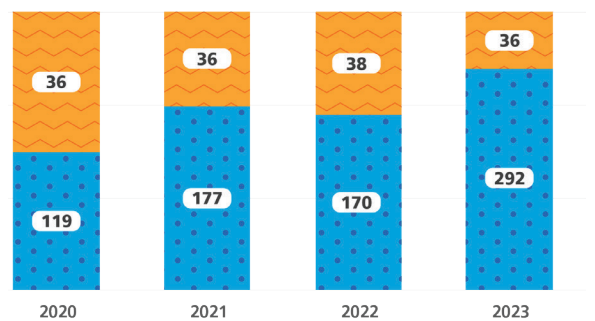
SERIOUS INJURIES BELOW 3 METRES



FAILURE TO MANAGE HIGH RISK CONSTRUCTION WORK



RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION SECTOR



■ Non-compliance (total) ■ Injuries (total)