



# 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

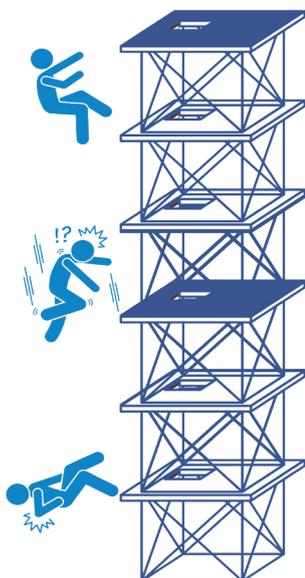
#### In 2023:

- 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:

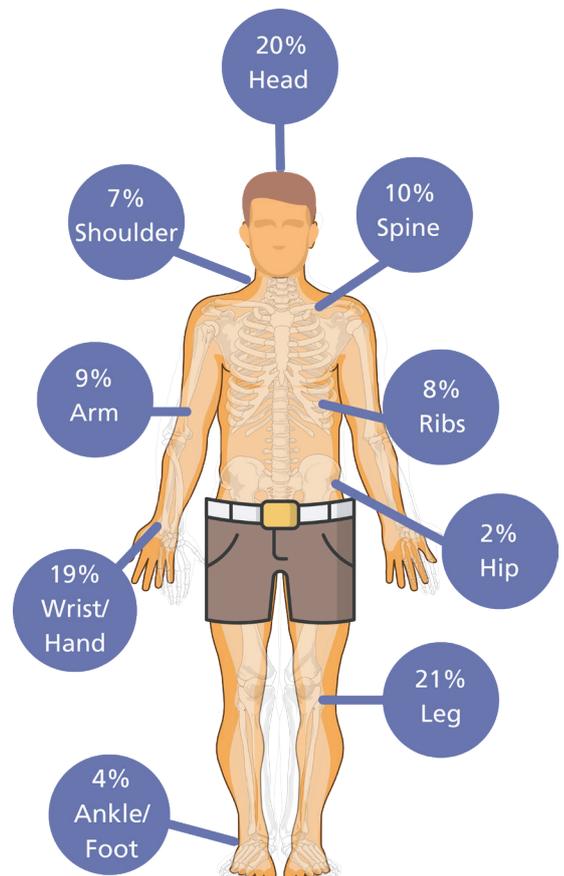
Most effective



Least effective

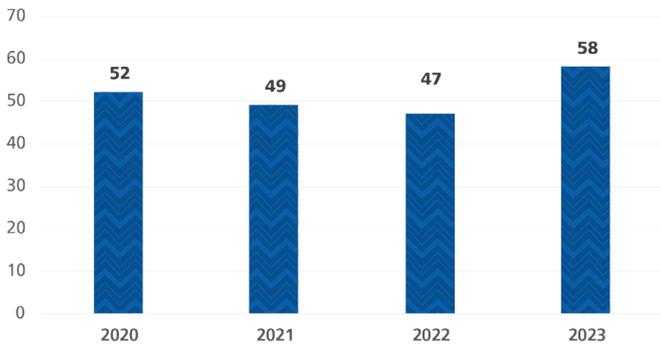
- Eliminate the risk by, where practicable, doing all or some of the work on the ground or from a solid construction.
- Use a passive fall prevention device such as scaffolds, perimeter screens, guardrails, safety mesh or elevating work platforms.
- Use a positioning system, such as a travel-restraint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

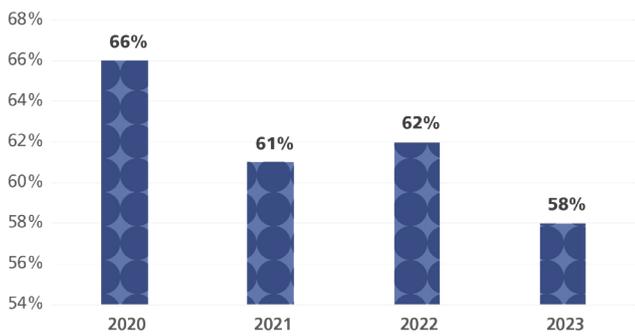
## SERIOUS INJURIES



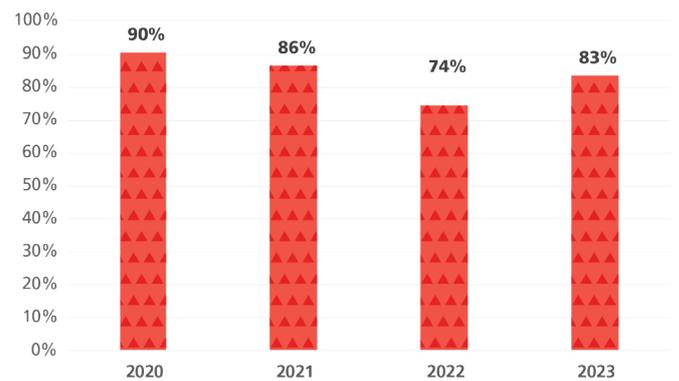
## NON-COMPLIANCE IDENTIFIED



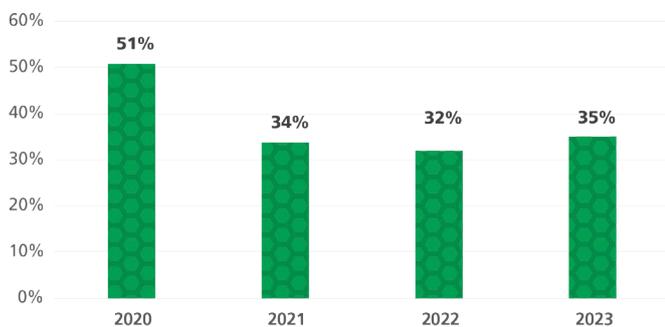
## SERIOUS INJURIES FROM A LADDER BELOW 2 METRES



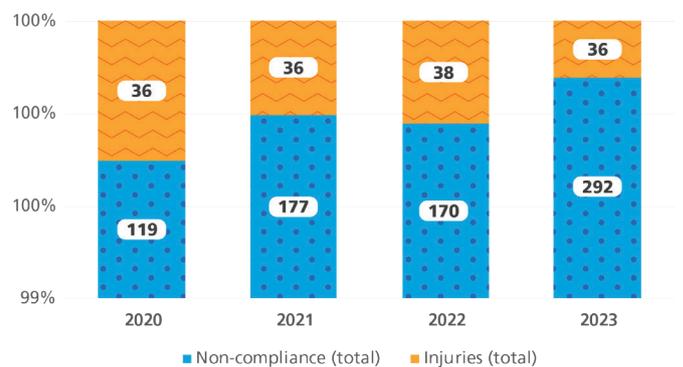
## SERIOUS INJURIES BELOW 3 METRES



## FAILURE TO MANAGE HIGH RISK CONSTRUCTION WORK



## RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION SECTOR



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