

Occupational Statistics

Occupational safety is the most important task or job skill new workers can master. It is just as important as learning to read plans, measure materials, use tools, and maintain equipment. Future workers need to learn how to protect themselves and their co-workers. On average, 15 workers die in the United States each day from work related injuries, and nearly 3,450 are injured in private industry. Of those injured, most have a year or less on the job. Therefore, it is vitally important to you and your students that they learn to take the proper safety precautions before they enter the workforce.

The leading causes of injuries continue to be overexertion, contact with objects or equipment, and falls.

Type of Injuries, Number Injured, and Percentage of Total Injuries

Sprains, strains, tears	525,390	41.7%
Bruises	114,680	9.1%
Cuts, punctures	114,140	9.0%
Fractures	94,040	7.4%
Heat burns	18,510	1.4%
Carpal tunnel syndrome	18,710	1.4%

The median number of days lost from injury in 2004 was 7 days, with one fourth of all injuries resulting in 31 or more days off. Non-construction laborers were most likely to have days off of work because of injury, followed by truck (heavy) drivers, nursing orderlies/aides, construction laborers, truck (light) drivers delivery services, janitors and cleaners, retail salespersons, carpenters, stock clerks and order fillers, general maintenance & repair workers, in that order.

Median Number of Days Off Work by Injury in 2004

Carpal tunnel syndrome	28
Fractures	28
Amputations	25
Repetitive motion	20
Trauma to knee	15
Trauma to wrist	14

Body parts most affected by injury during 2004 were:

