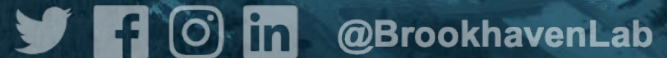




TAKE FIVE for Safety- Severe Injuries

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May 13, 2025

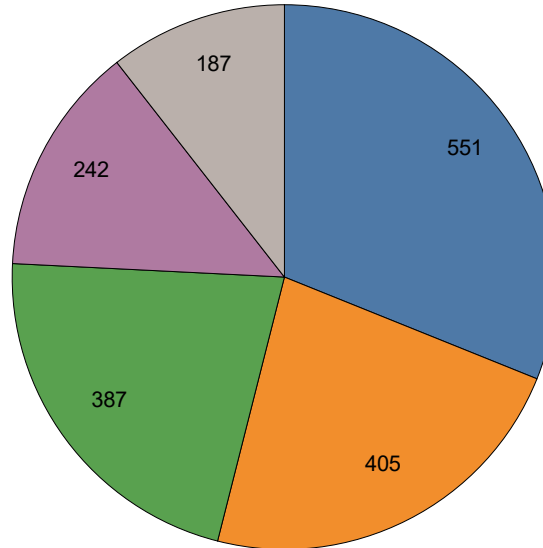


What is a “Severe” Work-Related Injury

- OSHA requires most employers to promptly report severe work-related injuries.
- OSHA defines Severe Injury as: an amputation, in-patient hospitalization, or loss of an eye.
- Severe Injury Reporting has been in place since January, 2015.

Causes of Top 5 Severe Injuries Reported to OSHA in 2024

Top 5 Events and Exposures



- Fall on same level due to slip or trip
Count: 551
- Struck by running powered equipment during maintenance, cleaning
Count: 405
- Caught, entangled in running powered equipment normal operation
Count: 387
- Other fall to lower level unspecified
Count: 242
- Struck by other falling object n.e.c.
Count: 187

Reference: SIRs are coded according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics [Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System \(OIICS\)](#).

Prevention Strategies: Focus on Potential and Precursors

- Metrics based on injuries and lost-time incidents represent **what has happened**; examining precursors and potential shifts the focus to **what could happen**.
- Identifying precursors such as unsafe acts, unsafe conditions, or flawed systems, policies and procedures is a key to putting proper controls in place to prevent or mitigate a potentially serious or fatal incident.
- Answering four questions can help identify work activities and situations with greater potential for severe injury:
 - What high-risk activities are workers involved in?
 - What precursors could lead to a significant injury or fatality?
 - What incidents could result from these precursors?
 - What are the potential results of these incidents?
- For example,
 - Working at elevated heights is a high-risk activity.
 - A precursor could be an improperly installed guardrail or the use of damaged fall protection PPE.
 - A potential incident could be an employee falling to the ground.
 - The result of the incident could be a severe injury or fatality.

Identifying Precursors to Severe Injuries and Fatalities (SIF)

- Precursors generally have three key aspects:
 - A high safety-risk situation;
 - Safety management controls are absent, ineffective, or not complied with; and
 - Could result in a serious injury or fatality if allowed to continue.
- For a situational example of precursors with the potential for SIF, consider the utility industry and working on power lines.
 - This work is inherently high-risk because it takes place at height around high voltage lines,
 - *SIF* precursors include a worker not provided or not using the appropriate PPE, or if the training on how to properly operate the lift has lapsed.
 - These breakdowns in safety management controls, if allowed to continue, could result in a serious injury or fatality for this particular work.

Another Perspective on Risk- “Risk Amplifiers”

- High-risk situations include tasks that are known to be associated with high risk – such as working at height, or confined space entry.
- Worker engaged in these tasks can face increased risk when risk amplifiers are present. A risk amplifier is an environmental condition or other situational factor, which increases the severity or the probability that an incident will occur. Examples include weather conditions, a work interruption, or a breakdown in communication or teamwork.

Managing and Reducing Risk through Planning

- All work creates some “Risk”
- Identification/mitigation of precursors/risk amplifiers during planning reduces the risk.
- Combination of controls are used to provide overlapping prevention.
- Overlapping mitigations are especially needed for jobs with higher risk.

