

Top 10 Causes of Workplace Injuries

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Overexertion and falls account for more than **\$25 billion** in workers' compensation costs in the U.S.

Being hurt by an object or equipment ranks third in workplace injury causes and claims costs in the Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety's 2014 Workplace Safety Index.

In its 15th year, the annual ranking of top 10 causes of serious, nonfatal workplace injuries is based on the company's workers' compensation claims data and data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the National Academy of Social Insurance.

The research institute examined 2012 claims data for injuries lasting six or more days and ranked the injuries by total workers' compensation costs.

10 Leading Causes and Direct Costs of Workplace Injuries in 2012:



1. Overexertion **\$15.1B** 25.3%
2. Falls on same level **\$9.19B** 15.4%
3. Struck by object or equipment **\$5.3B** 8.9%
4. Falls to lower level **\$5.12B** 8.6%
5. Other exertions or bodily reactions **\$4.27B** 7.2%
6. Roadway incidents involving motorized land vehicle **\$3.18B** 5.3%
7. Slip or trip without fall **\$2.17B** 3.6%
8. Caught in/compressed by equipment or objects **\$2.1B** 3.5%
9. Repetitive motions involving micro-tasks **\$1.84B** 3.1%
10. Struck against object or equipment **\$1.76B** 2.9%

The leading cause of injury on the list, overexertion, was typically related to lifting, pushing, pulling, holding, carrying or throwing. Other exertions, which came in at number five, includes injuries due to bending, crawling, reaching, twisting, climbing, stepping, kneeling, sitting, standing or walking.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, worker deaths in America are down. In 1970, there were on average 38 worker deaths a day and in 2012, the figure was down to 12 deaths a day. OSHA reports workplace fatalities have been reduced by more than 65 percent and occupational injury and illness rates have declined by 67 percent. At the same time, U.S. employment has almost doubled.

Ref. <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2015/01/16/354285.htm>

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REMINDER

OSHA Form 300A Summary requirements Feb. 1 to Apr. 30, 2015

OSHA's New Injury Reporting Requirements *(continued from February)*



Are these injuries reportable under new OSHA requirements?

An employer asked five questions about OSHA's new injury reporting requirements and got a response from the agency. OSHA's answers help explain just what is reportable – and what isn't.

As of Jan. 1, 2015, employers under federal OSHA must report all work-related amputations and losses of an eye to the agency within 24 hours.

In its most recent standard interpretation letter, OSHA answered five questions regarding this regulatory change:

1. **What's the definition of an amputation?** Amputation is defined under section 1904.39(b)(11) as “the traumatic loss of a limb or other external body part. Amputations include a part, such as a limb or appendage, that has been severed, cut off, amputated (either completely or partially); fingertip amputations with or without bone loss; medical amputations resulting from irreparable damage; amputations of body parts that have since been reattached. Amputations do not include avulsions, enucleations, deglovings, scalpings, severed ears, or broken or chipped teeth.”
2. **How do you distinguish between an amputation and an avulsion?** Rely on a healthcare professional's diagnosis. If there is no available diagnosis by a healthcare professional, the employer should rely on the definition and example of amputation included in section 1904.39(b)(11).
3. **If an employee loses the very tip of his finger, is that reportable to OSHA within 24 hours? What if the employee loses any part of the finger above the first joint?** If the tip of the finger is amputated, the work-related event must be reported. An amputation doesn't require loss of bone.
4. **Does loss of an eye include loss of sight?** Loss of an eye is the physical removal of the eye, including enucleation and evisceration. Loss of sight without the removal of the eye is not reportable under the requirements of section 1904.39. A case involving loss of sight that results in the in-patient hospitalization of the worker within 24 hours of the work-related incident is reportable.
5. **If an employee has to have a glass eye after an event, would this be a reportable event?** The reportability of the loss of an eye isn't determined by the type of medical care to treat the injury. The physical removal of the eye from the socket from a work-related incident is reportable.

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General Industry Toolbox topics:

- <http://toolboxtopics.com/Gen%20Industry/Gen%20Indus%20Contents.htm>
- <http://safetytoolboxtopics.com/Toolbox-Talks/>