

SIC/Industry

2001 Indemnity Claims

CONSTRUCTION

17 Special Trades Contractors	552
15 General Building Contractors	227

Special Trades Contractors

Analysis

Workers in this industry experienced more accidents/claims than any other group in New Mexico in 2001. This is a large group made up of workers involved in the following: plumbing, heating and air-conditioning; painting and paper hanging; electrical work; masonry, stonework, tile setting and plastering; carpentry and floor work; roofing, siding and sheet metal work; concrete work; water well drilling; structural steel erection; glass and glazing work; excavation work; wrecking and demolition work and installation or erection of building equipment.

Falls from elevation (121 claims) are a major problem for workers in this industry. The categories of being struck by or against objects resulted in 98 claims. Back injuries from overexertion, lifting objects resulted in 60 claims. Falls on the same level were responsible for 55 claims. Other significant claims activity involved bodily reaction; being caught in, under or between (machines/objects); overexertion, welding; overexertion, pulling or pushing objects/unspecified and motor vehicle accidents. Parts of body most involved were the back (108); multiple body parts (68); knees (62); fingers (43); hand and trunk (39 each); feet (34); wrists (26) and ankles with 25. Although not industry-specific, it is important to note that Truck Drivers were number two on the List of Occupations with the Twenty Highest Newly Reported Indemnity Claims in New Mexico for 2001 with 278 claims. Helpers, Construction Trades were fifth with 192 claims. Carpenters were sixth with 170 and Construction Laborers seventh with 169. Young workers/new employees significantly populate this industry, are at risk and require attention. Attention is also needed to overcome safety problems presented by multiple languages in use at construction sites throughout the state. We need to consider ways and means to develop a safety language that everyone understands.

This checklist is intended to enhance knowledge and assist in preventing injuries within this industry. Please use the information to coordinate efforts and direct attention to your specific areas of concern.

17/Special Trades Contractors

YES / NO /N/A

Fall Protection

*At elevations above six feet, employees are
Protected by guardrails, safety net systems
Or personal fall arrest systems
Employees use appropriate footwear for the
Walking/working surface
All ladders, locking step ladders and stools are
Checked for condition prior to use
Defective equipment is disposed of
Trained employees use the equipment properly
Special precautions are used during wet or icy
Conditions
Floor holes and skylights are covered or guarded
Skylight screens are constructed so that they can
Withstand a 200- pound load*

Scaffolding

*Sound footing is in use for all scaffolds as
Recommended by the competent person
Proper platform is in use and able to handle
Four times the intended load
Safe access is provided to all working levels
Scaffolds are equipped with guardrails,
Mid rails and toe boards
Hard hats are required where workers work or
Pass under in-use scaffolding
Platforms are clear of tools, materials and debris
All scaffold-specific rules are followed*

Ladders

*Are in good condition and can be properly extended and secured
Portable ladders extend at least 3 feet above roofs or platforms
Workers are trained by a competent person
Damaged ladders are removed from the job site
Contact with electrical lines is avoided*

Struck by or Against Objects are types of indemnity Claims which are the second leading cause of death At work in New Mexico. The industry had 98 of these Claims in 2001 from moving, stationary, falling and Flying objects and striking against objects.

Bodily Reaction is a type of indemnity claim which Refers to body motions that cause physical Stress or strain. An example is a shoulder strain Injury resulting from an overextended reach. The Industry had 39 of these claims in 2001.

Situational awareness and knowledge of our Individual limitations are the key elements in Preventing these injuries

Understanding Safety Procedures

Workers need to understand and respond to Safety language – signs, rules, verbal and non-verbal Signals and emergency actions
Training should include identification of all essential Tools and equipment that the employee needs for The job – symbols help convey meaning
Understanding, not language, is most important
The internet can be used as a training resource for Safety information in many languages

Personal Protective Equipment

YES / NO / N/A

Protective equipment has been issued and is Used by trained employees as needed.
Examples Include the following:

- Hard hats/bump caps
- Protective glasses
- Face shields
- Respirators
- Wire-mesh gloves
- Steel-toed work shoes or boots

- Slip-resistant footwear*
- Personal fall arrest systems*
- Protective clothing, gloves and aprons*
- Fall restraint systems*
- First-aid kits*
- Fire extinguishers*
- Hearing protection*
- Communications capabilities*

YES / NO / N/A

*Other equipment which may be required
To perform specific tasks*

Back Injury Prevention

*Employees are made aware of the dangers of lifting
Employees ask for help from others to lift heavy
Objects*

*Through training, employees know how to lift
Management has minimized lifting tasks by providing
Lifting equipment and mechanical devices*

*Repetitive motion injuries are prevented by stretch
Breaks and exercises*

*Loading docks are visible and well maintained
New employees are given special attention and
Supervision to ensure that lifting is done properly
If used, back support belts are worn properly and
Are used only for lifting*

Fall Prevention

*Floor openings are covered or guarded
Stairs and walkways are clear and debris removed
Lighting is adequate*

*Floors are kept clean and dry
Spills are cleaned up immediately
Employee footwear is adequate for the job
All stairs have handrails on both sides
Tripping hazards are identified, highlighted
And controlled or eliminated*

Housekeeping is monitored for effectiveness

Hazardous Materials

YES / NO / N/A

Chemicals are stored properly
Chemical containers are clearly labeled
Chemical spill control supplies are readily Available
The list of all chemicals is available
Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are Accessible to employees who need them
MSDS can be understood by trained employees
Personal protective equipment is used
Fire extinguishers are accessible
First aid kits are accessible

Electrical

All electrical equipment is properly grounded
All power tools are approved and double insulated
Ground fault circuit interrupters are in use
If used, extension cords are inspected before each shift
Overhead power lines are marked and avoided
Lockout/tagout procedures are used by employees And service/repair personnel

Shop Areas

Tools are in good condition
All electrical equipment is grounded
All machine guards are in place
Fire extinguishers are accessible
Flammables are properly contained
First aid kits and personal protective equipment (PPE) Are accessible
Spray painting booth has explosion-Proof fixtures and is well ventilated
Smoking is prohibited

Fire Safety

YES / NO / N/A

*Fire extinguishers are adequate and accessible
Workers know how to use the extinguishers
Flammable materials are stored separately and
Properly using approved containers or cabinets
No smoking signs are posted as necessary
911 or fire emergency numbers are posted*

Emergency Preparation

*The location of the nearest healthcare facility is
Known to all
First aid kits are adequate, accessible and are
Refilled as necessary
At least one worker per shift has been trained
In first aid and CPR
Heat stress symptoms are known to all
911 or emergency numbers are posted*

Power and Hand Tools

*Only the proper tools are used for the job
Guards and safety devices are operable and in place
Pinch and shear points are guarded
Employees are trained and knowledgeable
All power tools are grounded
No tool is stored in an overhead location
All tools are inspected frequently and are well
Maintained
Employees use appropriate PPE for the job*

Material Storage and Handling

*Materials are properly stacked, blocked and secure
Fire extinguishers are adequate and accessible
Flammable liquids are stored in approved containers
Workers handle loads properly and seek help as needed
Security, including fencing and lighting, is adequate*

Job Site Housekeeping and Sanitation

YES / NO / N/A

*Debris and trash removal is adequate
Floor openings are covered or guarded
Stairs and walkways are clear
Drinking water has been provided
Toilet and washing facilities are adequate
Lighting and ventilation are adequate
Phones for emergency use are accessible*

Welding and Cutting

*Operators are trained and well qualified
Personal protective equipment is in use
Cylinders are secured
Fire extinguishers are accessible
All fittings are free of oil and grease
Specified gauge settings are maintained
All hoses and cords are well maintained*

Excavation and Trenching

*All excavation trenches are properly shored or
Sloped according to the on-site competent
Person's recommendations
Excavations have proper means of entry and exit
Excavations have been protected from equipment
Vibration hazards
There is no way that a person could be trapped
In a trench*

Cranes

*The rated load capacities are clearly visible to the operator
A competent person inspects the equipment before each use
All areas within the swing radius are barricaded to prevent injury
Proper clearance distances from electrical lines are maintained
A thorough annual inspection is conducted and documented*

Compressed Gases

YES / NO / N/A

*Storage areas are well ventilated, fireproof and dry
Cylinders are clearly labeled
Cylinders (both full and empty) are secured and
Separated by type
The valve protection cap is not removed until
The cylinder is secure and ready for use
Empty cylinders are never stored with or near
Full ones
Flammable and nonflammable gases are stored
Separately and properly
Smoking is prohibited
Employees are trained and knowledgeable*

On-Site Motor Vehicles

*Audible back-up alarms are operable and in use
Regular inspections are conducted
If used, forklifts meet all standards and operators
Are trained and certified
Rollover protection is installed and adequate
Seatbelts are installed and used*

Confined Space Entry

*All employees who are required to enter into
Confined or enclosed spaces have been trained
On the hazards involved, the necessary precautions
To be taken and in the use of required protective
And emergency equipment. They have been
Specifically authorized to do the work.*

*The employer has complied with all specific
Regulations that apply to work in dangerous or
Potentially dangerous areas.*

Motor Vehicle Accident Prevention

Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death at work in New Mexico. Motor vehicle accidents tend to result in more serious injuries than other types of accidents – almost 30 percent of all compensable fatalities are of this type.

Causes

*Failure to wear seat belts
Lack of attention while driving
Excessive speed
Violations of state law and company policy
Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs
Failure to drive with regard to road conditions*

Ideas for Employers

*Develop a company policy that covers driving while at work.
Consider including the following:
The use of seat belts in company vehicles is mandatory
Only specifically authorized employees with valid and company
Verified licenses may operate company vehicles or
Personally owned vehicles on company business
Prohibit alcohol and drug use in company vehicles
Offer Defensive Driving courses to employees
Develop a vehicle safety inspection and maintenance program
Establish a safety awards program to recognize good drivers*

Ideas for Employees

*Wear seat belts and ensure your passengers do the same
Never drink and drive or take medications that make you drowsy
Obey all traffic laws
Inspect your vehicle before driving and report defects to a
Supervisor-check mirrors and gas level before leaving
Do not drive the vehicle if safety problems are not corrected
Be alert to changing road conditions and drive defensively*

Young Workers/New Employees

In 2001, workers in their first year of employment filed a large share of the indemnity claims with 46.9 percent of the total in New Mexico. Each year this statistic hovers around 50 percent. What follows is information specifically designed to address the needs of these workers.

Five Steps For A Safer Workplace

Start your workers out right

- *Welcome them*
- *Orient them*
- *Introduce them*
- *Train them*
- *Check them out on tools and equipment*
- *Observe and assist them*

Account for all accidents

- *Keep records of NOAs, E-1s, E-6s and OSHA logs*
- *Cost out the loss to the organization*
- *Assist supervisors with accountability*
- *Evaluate safety performance*

Managers plan safety

- *Plan safety into each job*
- *Use job planning/hazard analysis tools*
- *Make sure the workers know what to do*

Hold safety meetings

- *Choose specific topics (fall prevention)*
- *Use examples (Jane hurt her back when...)*
- *Keep it brief*

Reinforce safety performance/recognize good work

Administration

YES / NO / N/A

*The Workers' Compensation Act Poster
Is available, has been filled in with the name
Of the insurance company/claims representative
As required and the Notice of Accident Forms
Accompany the poster
The organization's Annual Safety Inspection
Has been done and is documented
OSHA posters and logs are available
Department of Labor information is available*

Organization Information

Inspector Information and Date

Internet Resources

*New Mexico Occupational Health and Safety Bureau
<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/ohsb>*

*National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/>*

*Associated General Contractors of America, New Mexico Building Branch
<http://www.agc-nm.org>*

*Home Builders of America, Central New Mexico Branch
<http://www.hbacnm.com/>*

*Construction Safety Council
<http://www.buildsafe.org/>*

