

SAFETY FLASH



Preventing Fatalities in Construction: DAY & TIME

The Associated General Contractors (AGC) of America commissioned a study that takes a deeper dive into existing information on fatalities, using fatality reports from 2010-2012. In this study, Monday through Thursday accounted for almost 75% of total fatalities. Wednesdays and Thursdays had the highest rate for fatalities throughout the week. Fatalities fell to a minimum over the weekend (11%), with 6% on Saturday and 5% on Sunday [Figure 10]. When looking at the time of day, The highest number of fatalities also occurred around noon (15%) and 52% of all fatalities occurred between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. [Figure 11]. This illustrates that mid-day had the highest rates for fatalities, especially at noon. Based on these results, it can be concluded that employees are at the highest risk of a fatality on Wednesday and Thursday between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Figure 10. Number and Percentage of Fatalities, by Day of the Week, 2010-2012

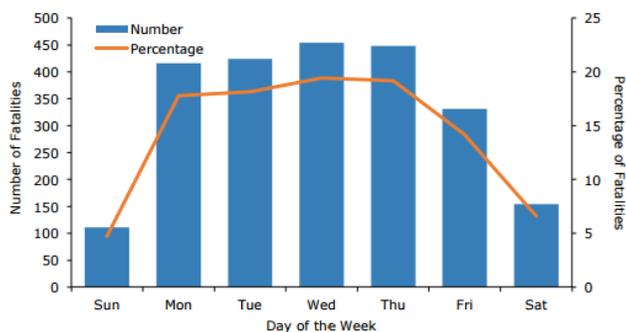
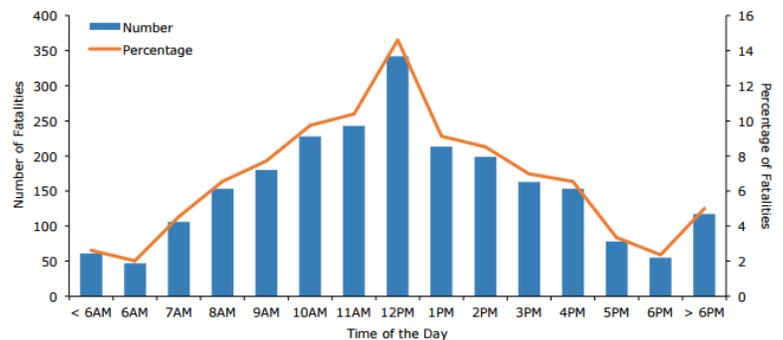


Figure 11. Number and Percentage of Fatalities, by Time of Day, 2010-2012



Proactive Actions To Help

With the majority of fatalities occurring Monday through Thursday, it is obvious that more work is being conducted on weekdays compared to weekends. It is important to communicate and dispel the myth with workers that certain work days are safer than others. We must be vigilant every day because the risk of dying on the job is approximately the same Monday through Friday. Conducting safety meetings on a Tuesday or Wednesday could help bring a higher level of awareness during peak fatality days. Based on this recent analysis, we must inform workers they are also at the highest risk for a fatality during mid-day time frames from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Consider scheduling additional toolbox talks or safety meetings around noon, and particularly on Wednesdays or Thursdays.

Best Practice!

- Conduct safety meetings or toolbox topics on Wednesday or Thursday.
- When conducting safety meetings or toolbox topics, make an effort to conduct those around the lunch break.
- Communicate and dispel the myth that certain work days are safer than others. The risk of dying is approximately the same.
- Conduct safety audits and inspections on Wednesday or Thursday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to heighten awareness during these potentially riskier time frames.