

# SAFETY FLASH



## Preventing Fatalities in Construction: *SPECIALTY TRADES*

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, the *Specialty Trades* sector suffered 1,302 fatalities. This was the highest among the construction sectors [Figure 6] with a total of 56% of all construction fatalities occurring within the specialty trades. They are typically small establishments with 1 to 9 employees. Small establishments accounted for almost 50% of fatalities between 2010 and 2012 [Figure 17]. As a general contractor it is very important that Haselden helps to control this by consistently implementing and enforcing our safety measures and safety culture with these specialty trades. We want to help them through performing hazard identification, education, training, and enforcement.

Figure 6. Number and Percentage of Fatalities, by Sector, 2010-2012

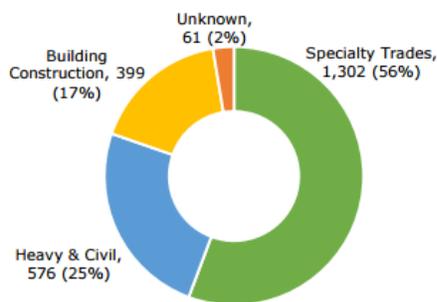
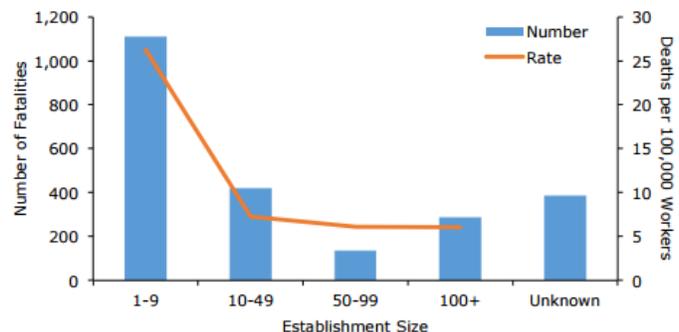


Figure 17. Number and Annual Rate of Fatalities, by Establishment Size, 2010-2012



## Small Construction Entities

According to data from the 2012 Economic Consensus, roughly 80% of construction establishments are small companies, employing less than 10 people. Between 2010 and 2012, small construction establishments employed 25% of the total construction workers and experienced 47% of the total fatalities resulting in the highest fatality rate. These high fatality rates could be due to a lack of written safety policies and procedures. The lack of continuous improvement training programs and hazard awareness programs can also contribute to these statistics. Lack of resources can often lead to a less qualified workforce, ultimately exposing employees to more risk. As Haselden continues to utilize small entities, it is important that we help protect these companies through hazard identification, education, training, and enforcement.

## Best Practice!

- Ensure small contractors provide written project-specific safety plans prior to starting work on our projects.
- Ensure small entity contractors provide and identify qualified people when required by OSHA.
- Consistently audit and inspect all contractors on site and help with hazard identification and correction.
- Continuously provide small entity contractors with safety training and education opportunities.