By the Numbers: Why Accident Prevention is Important

The most recent work-related fatality information reinforces the need for an ongoing focus on incident and injury prevention.

Canada

- Canadian workers compensation boards reported that 904 workers died due to work-related causes in 2016.
- Among provinces with over 100,000 workers, Saskatchewan's five-year average injury fatality rate ranks highest (6.3 deaths per 100,000 workers) followed by Alberta (3.8 per 100,000) and Newfoundland and Labrador (3.2 per 100,000).
- Since 2011, most jurisdictions have experienced declining injury fatality rates. However, a comparison of the average 2011-2013 rate to the average 2014-2016 rate revealed an 83% increase in New Brunswick's rate and a 32% increase in Newfoundland and Labrador's rate. https://www.uregina.ca/business/faculty-staff/faculty/file_download/2018-Report-on-Workplace-Fatalities-and-Injuries.pdf

U.S.

- 5,190 workers were killed on the job in 2016 [https://www.bls.gov/news.release/cfoi.nr0.htm] (3.6 per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers) – on average, more than 99 a week or more than 14 deaths every day.
- Out of 4,693 worker fatalities in private industry in calendar year 2016, 991 or 21.1% were in construction – that is, one in five worker deaths last year were in construction.
- Overdoses from the non-medical use of drugs or alcohol while on the job increased from 165 in 2015 to 217 in 2016, a 32-percent increase. Overdose fatalities have increased by at least 25 percent annually since 2012.

https://aflcio.org/reports/death-job-toll-neglect-2017