

Real Estate Agents and Managers

Stats and Facts

FACTS

1. **Violence & Assault Risk:** Agents may face aggressive clients or intruders during showings—especially if working alone or in vacant properties—necessitating situational awareness and possible use of personal alarm systems.
2. **Slip, Trip & Fall Hazards:** Visiting construction sites or properties under renovation exposes agents to uneven terrain, incomplete flooring, tools, debris, and poor lighting—requiring sturdy footwear and hazard awareness.
3. **Exposure to Construction Site Dangers:** Agents entering active jobsites may be struck by falling objects, collide with machinery, or trip over materials—making hard hats, hi-vis vests, and eye protection critical.
4. **Asbestos & Indoor Air Pollutants:** Pre-1980s properties may contain asbestos in insulation, drywall, or flooring. Agents touring these homes risk inhalation without proper respiratory masks.
5. **Roadway Traffic Hazards:** Driving between properties and standing outside for showings expose agents to traffic—requiring high-visibility clothing and safe parking practices.
6. **Heat & Weather Exposure:** Outdoor open houses or property tours in extreme temperatures without proper hydration, sun-protection or weather-appropriate gear may lead to heat stress or hypothermia—climate change is worsening such exposure.
7. **Ergonomic & Vehicle-Related Injuries:** Frequent driving and handling of promotional materials or signage may cause musculoskeletal strain; safe lifting techniques and ergonomic seating are essential.

STATS

- WorkSafeBC reported 5–10 annual fatalities in real estate-related roles in British Columbia (2020–2023), with struck-by incidents (15%) and falls (25%) during site visits as key risks, underscoring the need for HVSA and fall protection.
- CCOHS 2023 data showed that workplaces enforcing HVSA and proper footwear reduced injuries by 18% in service industries, including real estate, particularly during outdoor or construction site visits.
- In 2024, Ontario introduced fines up to \$500,000 for repeat OHS violations, including PPE non-compliance, impacting real estate firms failing to provide appropriate safety gear for site inspections.
- In 2024, OSHA recorded 5,190 workplace fatalities, with real estate having a lower share (1%, ~52 cases). However, falls from ladders or roofs during inspections and struck-by incidents near traffic posed risks, emphasizing the need for HVSA and fall protection.
- In 2024, PPE violations (29 CFR 1910.132) ranked 6th across industries, with 1,876 citations. While not specific to real estate, citations for improper PPE during construction site visits by agents highlight the need for compliance.
- A 2022 NIOSH report noted that 25% of workers in service industries, including real estate, lacked proper PPE training, increasing risks during tasks like inspecting unfinished properties.