

Injury Fact Sheet—Construction



Building Repair Carpenters—Fall Injuries

279 building repair carpenters were seriously injured falling off ladders, roofs, scaffolds and other elevated surfaces in the years 2000-2004.



These injuries were so serious, the workers had to take time off work to recover, or in some cases were permanently disabled. These serious injuries are costly and affect your industrial insurance premiums. They contribute to the reason for the base rate of \$2.97 per hour per employee paid by building repair contractors who employ carpenters in 2006. If your company had a higher than average number of injuries (claims), your “experience rating” could increase by as much as 25% in one year to \$3.68 per hour per employee for 2006.

Stated in another way, if you have 5 full-time carpenters and have an average rate of injuries (claims) you would pay about \$29,700 in premiums in 2006. If your experience rating increased by 25% because of higher than average injuries, you would pay about \$7,100 more or \$36,800 in premiums.

Causes of fall injuries

Carpenters were most often injured falling off ladders because the ladder moved, fell over or they slipped on the rungs.

Carpenters were also injured falling off roofs or scaffolds because there was no guardrails or they were not wearing fall protection.



Can't use this ladder !



Don't stand on top rung !

Ways to prevent fall injuries

Ladder safety is an important part of building repair work because of their frequent use. Here are some basic rules for use:

- ◆ Have both hands free when climbing the ladder
- ◆ Face the ladder when climbing or descending
- ◆ Keep ladders free of oil, grease and dirt
- ◆ Make sure the ladder is secure at the base
- ◆ Place the ladder at the proper angle against a building
- ◆ Extend the ladder least 3 feet above the top surface
- ◆ Stay off the top rungs of step ladders
- ◆ Don't over-reach. Move the ladder as needed.