Transcript
Video 102a: Overview of Workplace Falls

GENAG 712
Occupational and Agricultural Injury Prevention

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Kansas State University

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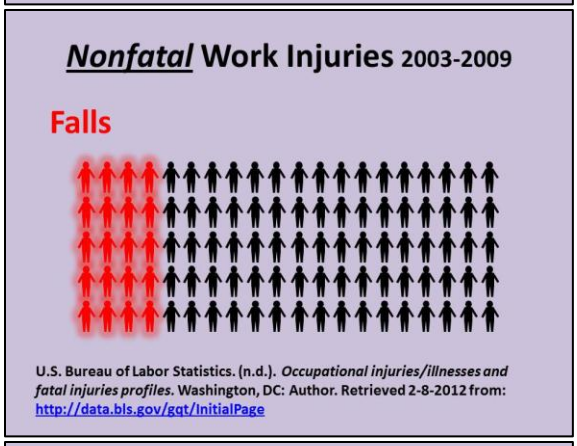
Welcome. This film presents a brief overview of some causes and consequences of workplace falls.

Illustrated transcripts are available on Kansas State University's GENAG 712 course website and through a link provided on our YouTube channel.

Falls contribute to many workplace deaths. In fact, data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (n.d.) indicates that falls account for about 14% of on-the-job fatalities—that's about one out of every seven occupational deaths.



Falls account for an even greater percentage of non-fatal incidents—with 20% (or one out of five) lost lost-time injuries resulting from falls (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, n.d.).

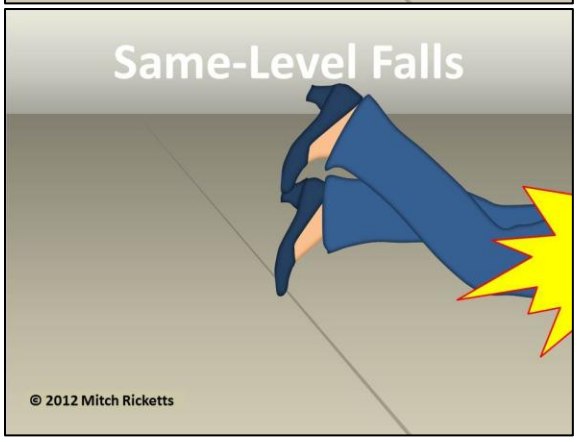
Another 3% of lost-time injuries results from slips, trips, or loss of balance without an actual fall.

On-the-job falls are not just common—they're also expensive. According to Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety (2011), falls account for over one-fourth of the total cost of all workers compensation claims in the U.S. In fact, falls resulted in over $13 billion in direct costs to American employers in 2009.

Falls are often categorized as either "same-level falls" or "falls from heights."

Same-level falls occur when a worker…

…slips, trips, or falls…



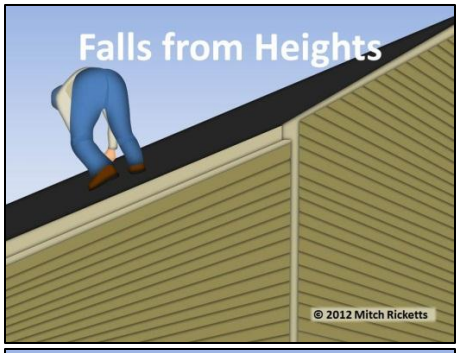
…but does not land on any level that is lower than the walking surface.

Same-level falls are especially common when walking surfaces are slick…

…when loose tripping hazards are present…

…when walkways are rugged…

…and when people are engaged in activities that lead to distraction, obstructed vision, or loss of balance.



In contrast, falls from heights occur when…

…workers fall…

…and land on surfaces that are lower than the level where they had been standing.

Falls from heights include falls from roofs…

…ladders…

…vehicles…

…scaffolds…

…stairs, and other elevations.

Most Hazardous Industries

Falls are especially common in certain industries.

Incidence rates from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (n.d.) indicate that after accounting for the size of workforces, the risk of falling is especially high in the industry categories of…

Transportation & Warehousing Video

…transportation and warehousing…

…construction…

…and the combined category of agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting.

This has been a brief introduction to falls in workplaces. The remaining films in this unit will explore causes of falls in more detail, along with safeguards that can prevent many of these incidents.

References

Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety. (2011). *Liberty Mutual workplace safety index.* Hopkinton, MA: Author.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (n.d.). *Occupational injuries/illnesses and fatal injuries profiles.* Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved 2-8-2012 from: http://data.bls.gov/gqt/InitialPage