

## FY 2018 Houston Area General Industry Falls\*

Overall in FY 18 there were a total of 13 fatalities and 120 serious injuries reported related to falls in the workplace, compared to 23 fatalities and 96 serious injuries in FY 17.

Let's all participate in this year's National Safety Stand Down to Prevent Falls so we can continue working towards eliminating fall hazards and incidents in the workplace.

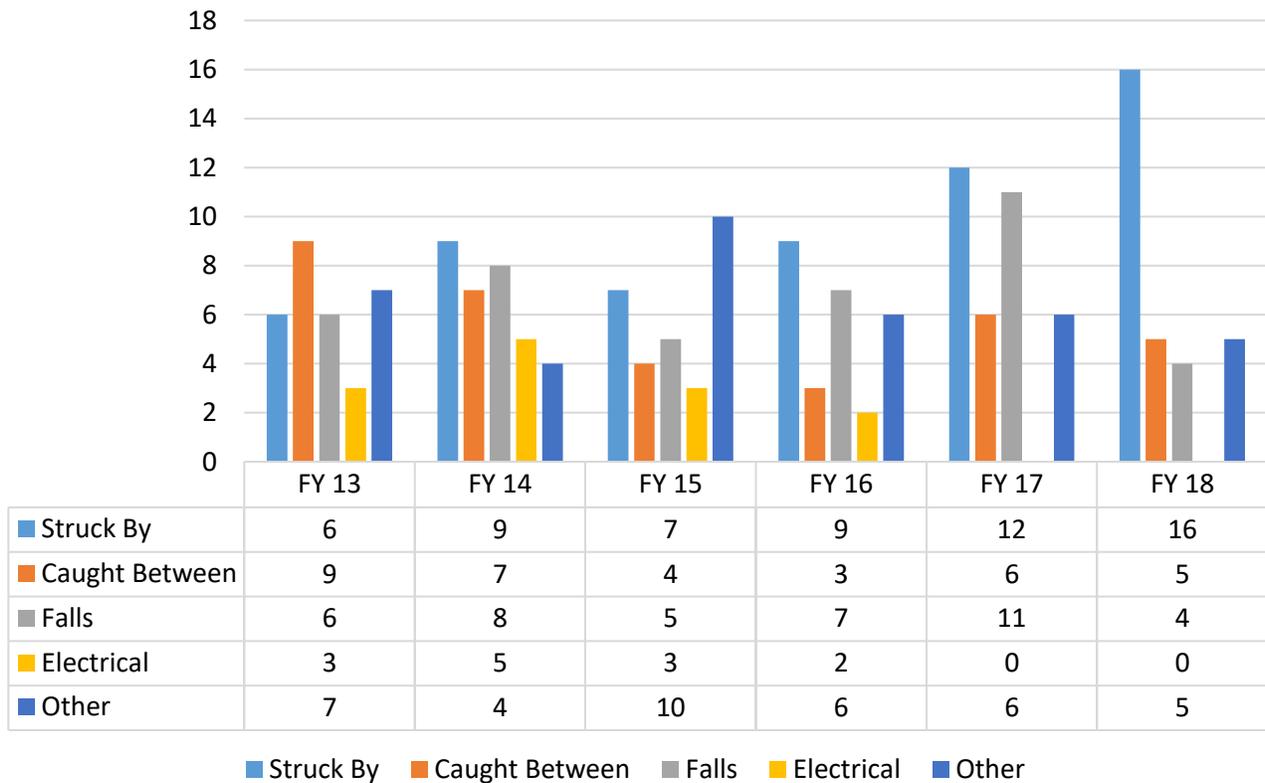
<https://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/>

## National Safety Stand-Down

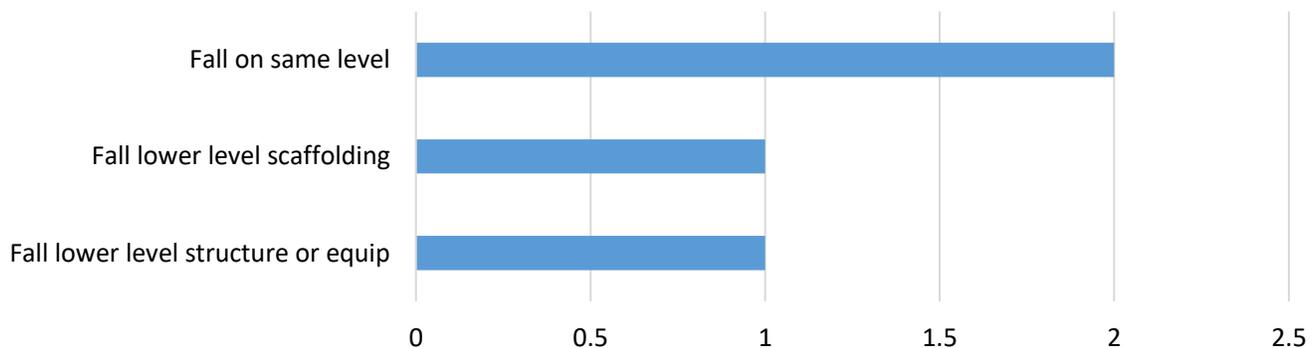
To Prevent Falls in Construction

**MAY 6-10, 2019**

### FY 18 Houston Area Gen Industry Fatal Incidents by Focus 4



### FY 18 Houston Area General Industry Fall Fatalities by Event



## FY 18 Houston Area General Industry Fall Fatalities by NAICS

NAICS	Industry	Incidents
532412	Construction, Mining, and Forestry Machinery and Equip Rental & Leasing	2
111411	Mushroom Production	1
441310	Automotive Parts and Accessories Stores	1

## FY 18 Houston Area General Industry Fall Fatality Narratives

Fall lower level scaffolding

- Employee erecting a scaffold platform 52' off the ground fell from scaffold.

Fall lower level structure or equipment

- The decedent was performing her assigned daily task of checking for diseases on the mushrooms. She was climbing the mushroom racks by putting one foot on the tray side of the mushroom rack and the other foot on the wall board while straddling the open aisle space of approximately 2 feet. It's thought she was working at a rack level approximately 7.5 feet above the cement floor. A coworker heard the fall and ran over to find the decedent face down on the ground. She died of her injuries the next day.

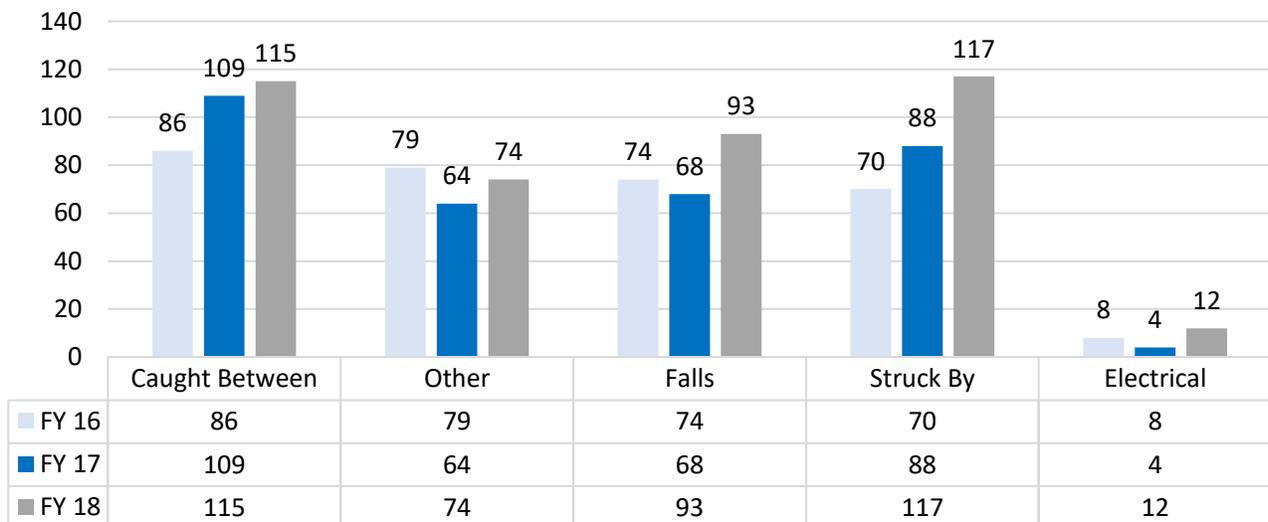
Fall on same level

- Employee was walking in a hallway when he fell and struck his head. Approximately one hour later, he began to complain of headaches. After his conditioned worsened 911 was called and the employee was taken to the hospital. He underwent emergency surgery for a subdural hematoma and later died.
- A business owner slipped and fell on ice outside the building. He had headaches and ended up being admitted to the hospital with a subdural hematoma. He later passed away.

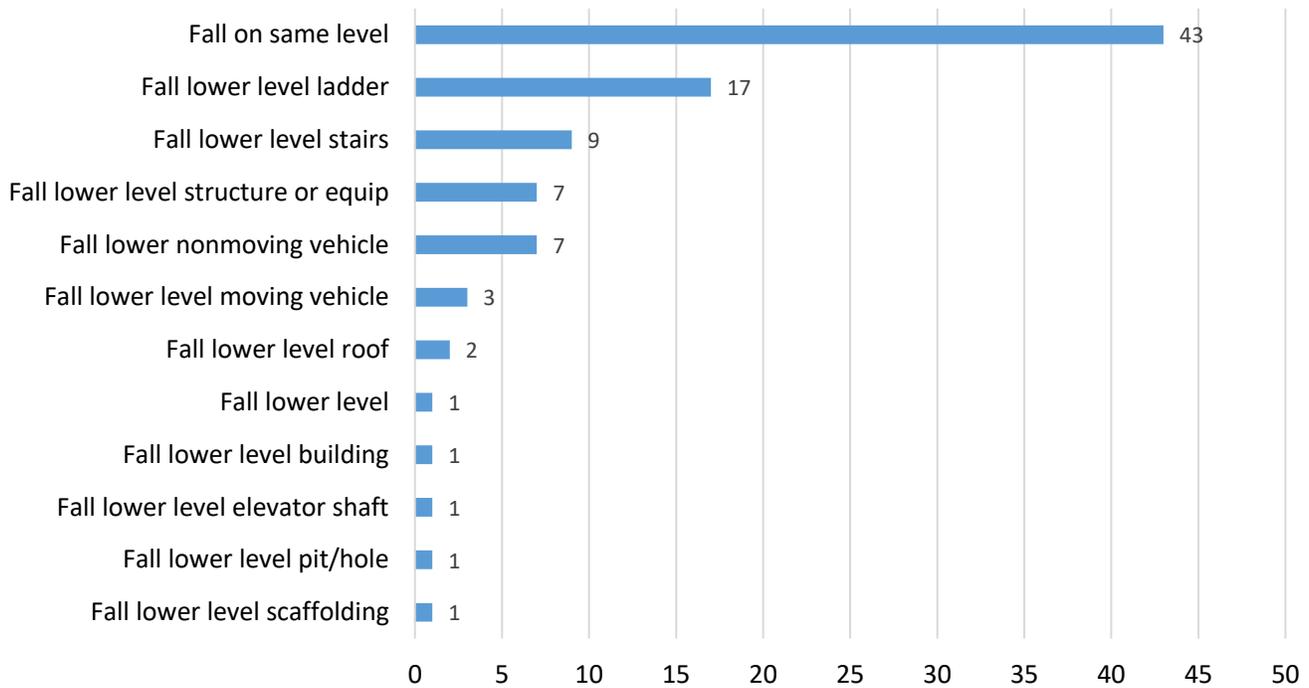
## Serious Incident Reports (SIRs)

An In-patient hospitalization, amputation, or loss of an eye that occurs within 24 hours of the incident must be reported to OSHA within 24 hours.

**FY 18 Houston Area General Industry SIRs by Focus Four**



### FY 18 Houston Area General Industry Fall SIRs by Event



### FY 18 Houston Area Fall SIRs by Major NAICS Subsector\*\*

NAICS	Industry	Incidents
561	Administrative and Support Services	7
622	Hospitals	7
332	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	5
441	Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	5
722	Food Services and Drinking Places	5
424	Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	5
423	Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	4
541	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	4
484	Truck Transportation	3
325	Chemical Manufacturing	3
488	Support Activities for Transportation	3
517	Telecommunications	3
22	Utilities	3
452	General Merchandise Stores	3
445	Food and Beverage Stores	2
562	Waste Management and Remediation Services	2
213	Support Activities for Mining	2
448	Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	2
339	Miscellaneous Manufacturing	2
491	Postal Service	2
531	Real Estate	2
442	Furniture and Home Furnishings Stores	2
444	Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers	2

453	Miscellaneous Store Retailers	2
493	Warehousing and Storage	2
621	Ambulatory Health Care Services	1
811	Repair and Maintenance	1
61	Educational Services	1
623	Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	1
312	Beverage and Tobacco Product Manufacturing	1
324	Petroleum and Coal Products Manufacturing	1
333	Machinery Manufacturing	1
447	Gasoline Stations	1
524	Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	1
611	Educational Services	1
813	Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, and Similar Organizations	1

## FY 18 Houston Area General Industry Fall SIR Narratives

### Fall lower level

- The employee was making rounds for freeze protection checks in the unit and was walking down a ramp. He slipped on an icy surface, fracturing his left leg.

### Fall lower level building

- Employee was conducting an inspection of a warehouse under construction. She opened a door that did not have a landing and fell through it about 4 feet, fracturing her left wrist.

### Fall lower level elevator shaft

- An employee was moving a load of chicken on a rolling rack into a freight elevator. He opened the door of the elevator and began to push the rack into the elevator. He didn't notice that the limit switch on the elevator was not working correctly. The rack and the employee fell 16' down the elevator. He was hospitalized with possible broken ribs, lacerations on the back and left side of his head above his ear.

### Fall lower level ladder

- Employee was coming down from a fixed ladder when he lost his balance and fell to the ground.
- The employee was performing blasting work from an 8' stepladder. His foot or weight shifted, causing him to lose his balance and fall, fracturing his right leg.
- Employee fell/jumped from ladder when an overhead door became unstable during a maintenance procedure on the torsion bar for one of the springs. The employee fractured his right femur.
- Employee was filling a generator on a mounted semi-trailer. The fill port was on top of the trailer accessed by a ladder attached to the back of the trailer. While trying get a fitting loose to fill the generator he lost his balance and fell 6' off the ladder, fracturing his ribs and suffering a concussion.
- An employee was putting merchandise on the shelf and stepped off the two-step ladder onto a box and fell, breaking her left hip.
- Employee was pulling parts off a shelf while standing on a 12' ladder. Two boxes were stuck together. He pulled harder, and when they gave way, he lost his balance and fell. He suffered contusions on his head, left hand, and left elbow.
- Employee was retrieving new brake pads for the customer from a storage self and fell off a ladder, fracturing his left ankle and shoulder.

- An employee was hanging banners at a community event. He fell from the ladder, suffering a contusion on the pelvis and lacerations requiring stitches between his middle and ring fingers of his left hand.
- The employee was up on a ladder grabbing a rug from a shelf. His hand slipped and he fell down the ladder, fracturing his right ankle.
- Employee on a vessel slipped and hit his head going down the steps of an angled ladder. He sustained a cut to his head and a scraped elbow.
- Employee was going up a ladder with equipment. He fell approximately 4' and landed on his feet, lost his balance and fell backwards. He struck his head on the concrete surface, fracturing his skull.
- Employee was removing an existing aerial wire by using a ladder and fell 16' off the ladder, breaking his arm, toe, ankle and left knee.
- Employee fell off of a ladder while checking a signal (line maintenance) receiving two fractured right upper ribs and a fractured jaw.
- Employee was in transition from the ladder to the roof of the residence and fell, landing on his head, suffering a brain injury.
- Worker was setting a projector from a ten' A-frame ladder fell fracturing his pelvis and lower vertebrae.
- Employee was going down a ladder from one roof elevation to another to wash windows. When the employee was about half way down the ladder the bottom of the ladder slipped out causing the employee to fall, rupturing a disk in his back.
- Employee climbed ladder and stood on top of step ladder to enter the 8' ceiling of the restaurant using a 6' step ladder. He fell through the ceiling and hit his head on the floor below.

#### **Fall lower level moving vehicle**

- Employee was delivering a reach truck (forklift) to a customer. Employee was driving the truck up a ramp when the truck bottomed out causing it to roll down the ramp, ejecting the employee. Employee suffered neck injuries.
- A forklift operator was transporting a product and there was not enough overhead clearance. The equipment hit the door, ejecting him and causing a fracture of his fibula and dislocation of his ankle.
- Employee was moving a pallet from truck and when the truck pulled away from the dock. The employee jumped from the jack plate on the dock to the back of the truck and fell off to the ground. He suffered a skull fracture and concussion.

#### **Fall lower level nonmoving vehicle**

- Employee was making a delivery and he entered the box truck to move pallets around. He was using a hand truck to help move the pallets. The hand truck, while rolling, became stuck to the floor, which caused the employee to lose his balance. He fell 48" off the back of the truck, striking the concrete. He sustained a subdural hematoma and a fractured clavicle.
- Employee was unloading windows from the back of a flatbed truck when he fell off the truck. The windows landed on his right lower leg, fracturing it.
- An employee was climbing down the side steps of a tractor trailer. He missed a step and fell to the concrete. He sustained a hematoma of the brain.
- Employee was standing in the rear section of the lead trailer that was hooked to another trailer. He was attempting to identify a shipment that needed to be off-loaded. He stepped down out of the trailer and fell backwards and his right knee hit the tongue-side of the dolly 13.75 inches below. He fell another 34.50 inches to the ground, suffering fractured knees and injuring the tendons in both knees.

- Employee was walking on the top of the back of his flatbed trailer where he had just finished securing a load. He tripped on the top surface of the flatbed trailer and fell to the concrete slab approximately 3.5' below. He fractured his right scapula, right clavicle, and several ribs.
- An employee was climbing out of a box truck box and slipped. His leg hit a broken part of the truck bumper, causing a severe laceration to his right calf requiring surgery to repair his leg.
- Employee was unloading from the side cooler door of truck trailer. He had stacked several cases for another stop on the platform of the ladder to access the remaining cases for unloading. He then stepped back and lost his footing on the platform, falling backwards onto the pavement, striking his head on the curb. Bleeding inside the skull and scalp laceration.

#### **Fall lower level pit/hole**

- Employee was working on an elevated deck portion of structure dismantling form work to move to another area. He was assisting another employee with bringing plywood to his level when he took a step back into a blocking area which was no longer supported by the decking scaffold in place. He fell through a hole, hit the scaffold, and fell 15' to the ground, breaking six ribs and puncturing his lung.

#### **Fall lower level roof**

- Employee was delivering shingles to customer on the roof of a house under construction. He fell approximately 12' from the roof.
- Employee used an extension ladder to access the roof. He slid off of the roof to the ground, fracturing his elbow and breaking ribs on left side.

#### **Fall lower level scaffolding**

- The employee was descending the ladder of a scaffold when he misjudged the last step and stepped off the ladder too early. Attempting to catch himself, he grabbed for the ladder and his ring was caught, tearing the skin on his finger. The left ring finger required amputation.

#### **Fall lower level stairs**

- Employee had lunch and was walking back to the parking lot of the hotel he was working at. He fell from the last step onto the parking garage, breaking his left hip.
- Employee was climbing stairs in the mechanic shop. Stairs were slippery from rain and he fell, landing on his left leg, suffering a laceration from metal strapping at the bottom of the stairs.
- The employee was working from the top of a stock cart, stocking items. She turned around and began descending the cart, not facing the cart, when she slipped and fell. Her back struck the cart steps, breaking her ribs.
- Worker was checking a/c units on the roof when he slipped coming down the roof access stairs. He sustained a slipped disk in the back.
- Employee was coming down the stairwell and was using the handrail when another employee started up the stairwell. As the first employee was crossing over to the other side of the stairwell, she slipped and fell, landing on her wrist and backside suffering a collapsed vertebra and fracture of left radius.
- An employee was returning from a business trip and was at the airport. As she was going down the escalator she lost her balance and fell backwards fracturing her wrist and neck vertebrae.
- Employee was getting ready to walk down stairs at a high school stadium and fell, fracturing his hip.
- Employee was walking down stairs with his lunch. His hands were full and he tripped and fell approximately 2-3 steps, landing on his left shoulder. He sustained a closed radial head fracture.

- Employee was walking down the steps in the auditorium and missed the last step and fell, twisting and rolling her left ankle. Later hospitalized for bilateral pulmonary embolisms from deep vein thrombosis related to immobility from the injury.

#### **Fall lower level structure or equipment**

- Employee was working from an electric distribution wood pole removing an electric conductor when the pole he was working from broke and fell 40' to the ground. The employee was utilizing fall protection. The pole had rotted inside. He was treated for broken ribs, broken left wrist and a lacerated liver.
- Contractor and co-worker were installing structural steel. The contractor was in the process of traveling to the next level below, approximately 3', to an existing pipe rack when he lost his balance and fell, lacerating the left side of his head and sustaining a concussion.
- The employee was working on machinery at a height of approximately 15' and fell into a pit under the hydraulic press, breaking his arm and ribs.
- Employee was conducting a product inventory when he fell approximately 5' from an order picker. The employee unhooked his fall protection to reach a higher level. When he stepped on to the platform to read a label he miss-stepped and fell to the concrete floor below him, fracturing five ribs.
- An employee using a step stool slipped and fell, fracturing her right wrist.
- Employee standing on top of gas tank pumping gas when he fell off the gasoline tank, breaking three ribs.
- Employee was working from the top of a tank on a truck and was opening a dome lid to relieve pressure. He slipped and fell approximately 7' to a concrete surface, injuring his spine.

#### **Fall on same level**

- Employee was pulling a wire while walking backward. The wire came loose and the employee fell over a tree limb. He broke three ribs and collapsed a lung.
- Employee tripped and fell while leaving for the day. She was 6 months pregnant and was required to stay overnight in a hospital due to stress put upon the baby.
- Employee stepping over a torque machine slipped and fell, sustaining a severe laceration to the arm.
- Employee that was leaving work for the day and fell while walking across the building lobby, breaking his hip.
- The employee was walking to a golf cart to get more tools for a job task he was doing. He felt a sharp pain in his lower leg and fell, fracturing both lower leg bones.
- A laboratory employee went around a corner and tripped over a box on the floor, fracturing the femoral hip.
- Gathering material for the assembly department, an employee tripped and fell onto a metal A/C duct, causing a serious laceration to the right forearm between the wrist and the elbow that resulted in surgery.
- An employee was walking backwards while operating an overhead crane and tripped. He fell over a pallet. His right elbow struck the frame of the crane, fracturing it.
- Employee was walking around a pallet that was on the floor and their shoe lace caught on the corner of the pallet, causing the employee to trip and fall to the floor, fracturing his right femur.
- Department store worker lost her balance and fell as she turned toward a customer to answer his question, breaking her right hip.
- The employee walking near the exit door with tripping hazards on the floor fell, fracturing his right hip.
- Employee walking across the work floor slipped on a knee mat and fell, hitting his head. He sustained bleeding inside of head.
- Employee walking in the rebar shop fell, suffering contusions to his face and injury to a vertebrae in his neck.

- Employee was stocking meat items and dropped a package of meat. He reached to pick it up while resting one hand on a shopping cart. The shopping cart rolled and he fell, fracturing their upper right femur.
- Employee was mopping the floor and fell, sustaining a broken right hip.
- Employee was pressure washing the sidewalk when he tripped and fell on the hose.
- An employee working at the register tripped over a cord and fell, fracturing her right hip.
- Employee was walking and tripped on a bag handle that was sticking out and fell, breaking her left hip.
- Worker fell while handling shopping carts, breaking his pelvic bone.
- The employee had just finished consulting at the pharmacy with a customer and was walking toward the back. She tripped on the corner of a mat and fell, sustaining a fracture of the femoral head.
- Employee tripped and fell on broken concrete, lacerating his chin which later became infected and he was hospitalized.
- Employee was unhooking a tractor trailer in the parking lot and he fell. He was impaled by a piece of rebar.
- Employee was delivering the mail and parked the mail truck in a parking lot. As she was stepping out her right foot slipped in a puddle and she broke her right ankle.
- Carrier exited their vehicle and went around the mail truck to open the back and slipped in some mud, breaking her right foot.
- Employee walked across the parking lot at the warehouse to speak to a truck driver. He slipped on a patch of ice and fell backwards, striking his head on the concrete, and suffering head injuries.
- Employee opening the overhead door to a personal storage unit when he slipped on the rainy surface. He sprained his right ankle, knee and shoulder.
- An employee was leaving work and fell hitting her head, fracturing her skull.
- Employee was walking through the coffee bar area and slipped on a slippery substance on floor. She fell, fracturing her right femur and left elbow.
- Employee was assisting a contractor to close a barbed wire gap. While attempting to close the gap, he walked backwards on the construction mats that had been placed there that morning and stepped in a hole between the mats that are normally filled with sand. He fell backwards, fracturing his right hip/femur.
- Employee was walking from one vehicle to another when she slipped on the ice and fell, fracturing her nose.
- The employee was walking toward a sink in the bathroom and slipped on water that had accumulated on the floor of the bathroom. She hit her head on the floor, suffering a concussion.
- Employee stepping up to enter the guard shack lost his balance and fell, breaking his femur.
- Employee walking from the job site to the truck slipped and tripped on the curb, breaking his left ankle.
- Employee was walking when she tripped over her feet and fell, suffering head injuries.
- Worker was walking between buildings when she slipped on ice, breaking bones in her face and suffering a concussion.
- Employee was walking down the sidewalk when she lost her balance and fell, breaking her hip.
- Employee tripped and fell in breakroom, fracturing their right hip.
- Employee fell after exiting the elevator, fracturing her arm and bumped her head.
- Employee was walking and slipped and fell, fracture the left arm and sustaining a head injury.
- Employee slipped and fell in the dish room while bringing dirty pots to the sink for washing, injuring his left elbow and the back of his head.
- Employee was delivering a pizza and when doing so they slipped on ice, suffering head injuries.
- Employee was cleaning cars and slipped and fell, fracturing a bone in lower left leg.
- Employee was walking and having a conversation and tripped and fell. She had been walking over a transition between two different types of flooring when she fell, breaking her pelvis.

**PLAN** ahead to get the job done safely  
**PROVIDE** the right equipment  
**TRAIN** everyone to use the equipment safely

**RESOURCES**

	<p>OSHA Fall Stand Down Webpage  <a href="https://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/">https://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/</a>          Resources, and tools to help have a successful fall stand down</p>
	<p>CPWR Stop Construction Falls  <a href="http://stopconstructionfalls.com/">http://stopconstructionfalls.com/</a>  <u>Lots</u> of resources and tools useful for a fall stand down. You can order free 2019 hard hat stickers for your workers too</p>
	<p>Houston North Ladder Flyer  <a href="mailto:shelton.james@dol.gov">shelton.james@dol.gov</a>          Ladder safety information and Houston ladder specific incidents</p>
	<p>NIOSH Preventing Falls in Construction Campaign  <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/construction/stopfalls.html">https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/construction/stopfalls.html</a>          Resources and tools related to fall prevention and also some great infographics on different fall hazards that can be downloaded. Pretty nice. I stopped working on this flyer to download every one of them</p>

\*Fatalities, catastrophes, and SIRs are logged or recorded in various mediums and reports generated using various criteria. Late reporting, natural causes which may have generated an initial report, fatalities transferred to other jurisdictions, and other factors may affect the overall numbers over time. Houston specific data is edited to determine a count of fatalities/catastrophes under OSHA jurisdiction and may change over time as records are updated. Incidents were editing e.g. cases such as natural causes, epilepsy cases, automobile accidents as best as possible. Narratives are rewritten/edited for brevity and may not reflect the final results of an investigation. Data in many cases is used 'as is'. The information is for accident prevention purposes and trending and is not intended to be a statistical study or evaluation. For questions email Jim Shelton at the HNAO at: [shelton.james@dol.gov](mailto:shelton.james@dol.gov)

\*\*Due the large number of NAICS general industry is categorized by subsector.