

# Road Construction Hazards Fact Sheet

Prepared By

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- For Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) members, employment in the road construction industry is hazardous. An internal survey of death certificates for LIUNA members who died on the job showed that while only 38% of the LIUNA's membership were employed in road construction activities, over 73% of the on-the-job fatalities occurred in road and highway construction. (Source: "Fatal Occupational Trauma Among LIUNA Construction Laborers 1988-1989," Laborers' Health and Safety Fund of North America.)
- In construction work nationwide, heavy and highway construction activities (SIC 1611) are among the most hazardous. Consider the following average annual fatality rates in the United States:

Activity	Average Annual Fatality Rate (Deaths per 100,000 workers)*
Heavy and Highway Construction (SIC 1611)	39
All Construction Activities, Except SIC 1611	19
All Industries, including SIC 1611	6

\* Source: 1992 and 1993 US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Occupational Injuries (CFOI) data for all states, and Employment and Wages Annual Averages.

- In the United States, a 120 to 130 workers die each year in road construction activities. Of this total, approximately 23% of the fatalities are due to pedestrian workers being struck by traffic vehicles. Over 62% of the fatalities are not directly related to traffic issues.
- The major causes of fatalities and serious injuries in road construction work are summarized below:

<i>Fatalities<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Serious Injuries<sup>2</sup></i>
<p><i>74% of all fatalities in SIC 1611 are due to the following hazards:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pedestrian Workers Struck-by Traffic—23%</li> <li>2. Pedestrian Workers Struck-by Work Zone Construction Vehicles—18%</li> <li>3. Work Zone Vehicle Operator and Occupant Events (e.g. Rollovers)—18%</li> <li>4. Highway Travel Traffic Accidents—15%</li> </ol>	<p><i>67% of the non-fatal serious injuries experienced by 20 road construction contractors were due to the following hazards:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Overexertions—27%</li> <li>2. Falls—23%</li> <li>3. Struck by other Objects (e.g. Tools, Materials, Parts of Equipment, and Trees)—17%</li> </ol>

\* Sources: <sup>1</sup>BLS CFOI data, 1992-1996; and <sup>2</sup>SIC 1661 Contractor OSHA 200 data.

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The document was created in August 1998. If you have any questions, please contact [Kenneth Hoffner](#) in Laborers' Health & Safety Fund of North America.