



SAFETY INCENTIVE PROGRAM
950 Keynote Circle, Suite 10
Cleveland, Ohio 44131-1802
Telephone (216) 398-9860
Fax (216) 398-9801

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SIP TIP: REAL-LIFE CLOSE CALLS IN CLEVELAND.

Please Read This. Your Life Could Depend On It!!

You often hear stories about close calls. Many of them don't affect you because it is nobody you know, or happens in another state. Well, here are a few that have been relayed to safety professionals in the Cleveland area over the past several years. The number of reported **construction work-related deaths** in the category nationwide from 2003 as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics is included in parentheses.

Heat Stress: A worker passed out at a construction site after working during part of a hot, very humid day. Fortunately, other workers were nearby and recognized the symptoms and were able to get medical help quickly. **(9 deaths)**

Rebar Caps: Several stories of rebar or mushroom caps impaling workers, this is the reason why the OSHA standard requires impalement protection. **(Fortunately, 0 deaths)**

Forklift: A forklift was suspending a box frame. Two workers were inside working on the frame when the forklift failed. The forklift had been left unattended by the operator. **(20 deaths from falling from non-moving vehicles)**

Trench Collapse: A worker was in an unprotected trench when part of the trench collapsed. The worker dug himself out. Unfortunately, this seems to be a story related over and over again. If the trench is greater than 5 feet in depth, it doesn't matter how competent the foreman or journeyman thinks the soil is: you must slope, bench, or shore the excavation, or shield workers within the excavation. **(44 deaths)**

Confined Spaces: A worker entered a confined space that had the potential for a hazardous atmosphere (lack of oxygen). He went in because he was only going to be working for a few minutes. **(10 deaths related to oxygen-deficiency)**

Scaffold Collapses: Improperly tied and guyed scaffolds after winterization resulted in winds collapsing the scaffolds. **(9 deaths from scaffold collapse)**

Eye Protection: A worker not wearing safety glasses was struck in the eye with molten solder. Statistics indicate 3 out of every 5 workers with an eye injury were not wearing any eye protection. Of those that did, 40% were wearing the wrong type. Your chances of losing vision as a result of an eye injury are approximately 30%. **(number of deaths from improper personal protective equipment not reported)**

Falls: A worker was throwing materials off a bridge deck when the material caught the worker's sleeve and pulled him off the bridge. Proper fall protection saved this worker's life. Another case involved a worker who had fallen off an elevated level twice. When asked why they would put themselves in that position a second time, the response was, "Well, I walked away the first time!" **(361 deaths)**



DON'T BE A STATISTIC