

Report for the Labour-Management Network May 2024

Monthly Statistics

Reporting Month	Fatalities	Critical Injuries	Total
March 1 – March 31, 2024	2 + 1 (added from Feb.12)	36	38
March 1 – March 31, 2023	1	19	20

Fatality & Critical Injury Year-to-Date Overview – Construction

Reporting Months	Fatalities	Critical Injuries	Total
January 1 – March 31, 2024	3	83	86
January 1 – March 31, 2023	3	85	88

Helping you achieve compliance on construction projects and window cleaning operations

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[Hygiene](#)

[Forms, formwork, falsework, and](#)

[Housekeeping, fire protection, public way protection, traffic control, and hot tar or bitumen tankers or kettles](#)

[Asbestos on construction projects](#)

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Disclaimer: This information has been prepared to assist workplace parties in understanding their rights and duties under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and its regulations. This information does not constitute legal advice. To determine your rights and duties under the OHSA, please contact your legal counsel or refer to the legislation.

Section 1 – Senior Manager’s Comment

With this year’s National Day of Mourning on April 28, 2024, I wanted to take an opportunity to draw attention to all workplace fatalities.

We often speak about the tragic loss of workers due to a traumatic incident, but we do not always take the time to review the loss of workers when the fatality was the result of occupational illness. Its not difficult envision the impact of not tying off or working haphazardly around equipment with large blind spots, but we often do not respect the risks of working unprotected around hazardous substances like silica or asbestos. As humans we do not attribute the same level of risk to working around something that has a long latency period as we do with something that presents an immediate hazard.

As Constructors, Employers, Supervisors and Workers, we all have the duty to identify hazardous substances, develop procedures on how to address them and use or wear the appropriate PPE to protect ourselves and our coworkers.

Additionally, we all have the duty to stop when we encounter a substance that we haven’t planned for and address it with respect it is due.

If you are unsure as to how to protect yourself or your workers, Health and Safety Associations like the Infrastructure Health and Safety Association or clinics like the Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers have tools and resources to help. I would encourage you to check out tools like the new *Silica Control Tool* [Silica Control Tool - OHCOW](#)



Source: [Fatalities | Provincial statistics \(wsib.on.ca\)](https://www.wsib.on.ca/fatalities)

Notes:

- Since 2012, Occupational Disease has, on average, accounted for 72% of allowable fatality claims by the WSIB.
- This data is for all sectors; it is not exclusive to Construction
- Specific data is listed as 0 or <5
- COVID is not included in these numbers

Sincerely, Brian Barron

Senior Manager

Construction Health and Safety Program

Occupational Health and Safety Branch

Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development

Section 2 – What's New

Fall Protection Saves Lives When Used Correctly

Earlier this year, the MLITSD was made aware of an incident where a worker lost his footing and fell from height while flying a panel out using a tower crane.

Fortunately, the worker was wearing his fall arrest harness and had it anchored properly, enabling the fall protection system to do as it was designed and arrested the fall. Despite some minor injuries consistent with the harness engaging, the outcome could have been much different had the worker not been tied off.

Although preference will always be that the worker did not fall to begin with, this is a great example that when protective measures are available and used as designed it will save a life, and likely the mental well being of those like family, friends and co-workers, who would otherwise have been left behind.

Heat Illness – Now is the time to organize plan and prepare

It is important to understand that heat affects individuals differently.

As we come into the summer months, now is the time to be thinking about your heat illness protection plans and start organizing so that you're ready when the heat hits.

Considerations:

- Alter schedules so that strenuous work is done during cooler parts of the day
- Enable workers to have more frequent rest periods
- Rest areas that are shaded from the sun
- Training to ensure workers know the signs and symptoms of heat illnesses
- Awareness of your control measures to combat heat illness
- Ensure you have necessary supplies and materials to aid workers

[Updated training standards for working at heights](#)

Newly updated standards for mandatory [working at heights training](#) are now online. These updated standards address one of the leading causes of workplace deaths in industries like construction and will help improve the quality of training and the safety knowledge of participants when working with ladders, skylights, damaged equipment and more.

See the updated [program standard](#) and [provider standard](#)

[Health and safety compliance initiative schedule for 2024-25](#)

This year's [schedule of compliance initiatives](#) to protect workers' rights under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and increase employers' awareness of their responsibilities is now available. Inspections start this month in three focus areas across two sectors::

- Industrial sector: Material handling
- Construction sector: Struck-by material, equipment and vehicles
- Construction sector: Falls from heights in single family residential and multi-family residential construction

Learn what inspectors are looking for and how to prepare: [Industrial](#) | [Construction](#)

[Learn more](#)

For the latest what's **new** – MLITSD articles, see: [What's New!](#)

Section 3 – Court Bulletins

Workplace Fatality Results in \$120,000 Fine for Richmond Hill Equipment Rental and Earthworks Company

Convicted: TMI Contracting and Equipment Rental Ltd., 19-13085 Yonge Street, Suite 426, Richmond Hill, Ontario.

Location of Workplace: 14301 Highway 48, Township of Whitchurch-Stouffville, Ontario

Description of Offence: A worker was fatally struck by a dump truck at a landfill site. TMI Contracting and Equipment Rental Ltd. failed, as an employer, to protect a worker by ensuring the safety measures and procedures required for a signaller were carried out, as outlined in [106\(3\) of Regulation 213/91](#) of the [Occupational Health and Safety Act](#).

Date of Offence: December 9, 2021

Date of Conviction: March 21, 2024

Penalty Imposed:

- Following a guilty plea in the Ontario Court of Justice, Newmarket, TMI Contracting and Equipment Rental Ltd. was fined \$120,000 by Justice of the Peace Rhonda Shusterman. Crown Counsel was Giuseppe Ferraro.
- The court also imposed a 25 per cent victim fine surcharge as required by the *Provincial Offences Act*. The surcharge is credited to a special provincial government fund to assist victims of crime.

Background:

- TMI Contracting and Equipment Rental Ltd. was sub-contracted to provide equipment and workers for the grading of soil being brought into a landfill site.
- On December 9, 2021, a TMI worker was acting as a signaller for dump trucks unloading soil. The job entailed guiding trucks to the tipping face of the landfill.

- That afternoon a truck arrived to dump its load. Contrary to safety procedures, the signaller did not give verbal direction to the driver. Instead, they left their vehicle, walked up the hill towards the dump location and attempted to guide the driver to the proper location. At this point, the driver reversed up the hill and fatally struck the signaller.
- TMI Contracting and Equipment Rental Ltd. failed to ensure that the signaller communicated with the truck driver by means of a telecommunication system or, where visual signals were clearly visible to the driver, by means of prearranged visual signals, contrary to subsection [106\(3\) of Regulation 213/91](#), violating s. 25(1)(c) of the [Occupational Health and Safety Act](#).
- Last November, [Waste Management of Canada Corporation](#) – the owner of the landfill site – pled guilty and was fined for the same offense. Charges were also brought against other sub-contractors involved and the driver of the dump truck. Those cases are ongoing.

Considerations from a Root Cause point of view:

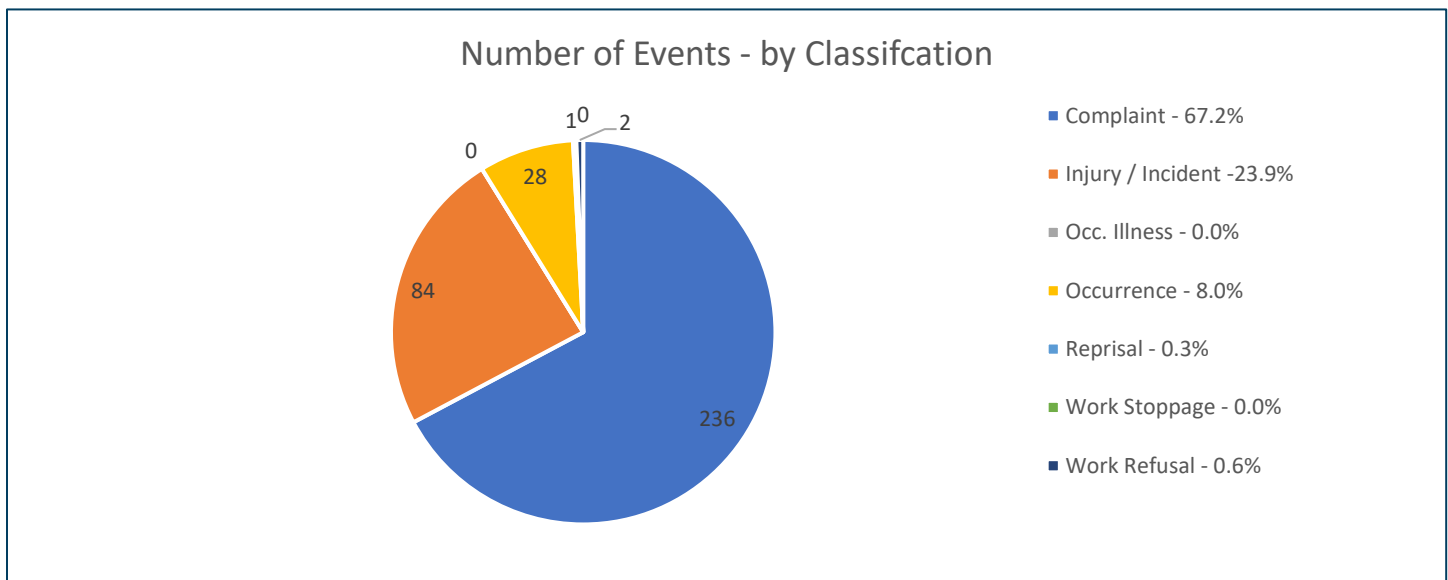
1. *Why did the signaller not use verbal directions?*
 - a. *Was there a language barrier?*
 - b. *Did the worker attempt to use verbal directions but then give up due to noise? Misunderstanding? Unable to communicate verbally for some reason?*
2. *Statement indicates that there were multiple trucks. Were pre-arranged communications provided for all drivers between them and the signaller?*
3. *Why was the project set up to allow for a lengthy reverse up a hill?*
4. *As the appointed signaller, why did the signaller not remain in the line of sight of the driver?*
 - a. *A properly trained signaller would have communicated, however he/she should have also been aware of all other requirements of a signaller, including the wearing of a vest and remaining in view of the driver.*

Court Bulletins can be found here: <https://news.ontario.ca/en>

Section 4 – Enforcement Trends – March 2024

MLITSD Construction Inspectors conducted 1,444 field visits at 1,103 workplaces during the month of March 2024. They responded to 351 **events*** throughout the province during that month and issued **319 Stop Work Orders****. Of those, 262 were issued during a pro-active inspection and 57 were issued during an investigation stemming from an event.

Stop Work Orders – Top 5 under O.Reg. 213/91 - March 2024				
	Section	Requirements	# of STWs	Remarks
1	26.3	Guardrail	79	Of the 319 Stop Work Orders, the Top 5 account for a total of 254 (79.6%) . **A stop work order is issued where imminent danger is observed at the time of inspection requiring the work to be stopped until the appropriate remedial action can be taken to make the situation safe for workers to work.
2	77.2	Stair	56	
3	135	Scaffold	44	
4	26.1	Fall Protection	42	
5	128	Scaffold	33	



*Events consist of complaints, work refusals, critical injury, fatality, an occurrence, or injury as prescribed

63% of all Part 1 tickets issued by MLITSD Construction Inspectors in March 2024 were in relation to either a **lack of, or inadequate use of fall protection equipment.**

NOTE: Other contraventions where Part 1 Tickets were issued include all other requirements within O. Reg 213/91

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Section 5 – Critical Injuries & Fatalities

Year-to-Date Overview and Comparison - Construction Sector

Injury Type	2024 March	2024 January 1 – March 31
Critical	36	83

Injury Type	2023 March	2023 January 1 – March 31
Critical	19	88

NOTE: These figures represent preliminary data and are not to be considered official statistics from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. Official statistics will be issued quarterly by the Program Analysis, Evaluation and Outcomes Unit of the Occupational Health and Safety Branch of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. Data are subject to change due to updates in the enforcement database. Only events reported to the ministry are included here. Except for fatalities, event categories in the ministry's data set are based on what was assigned at the time of the initial report to the ministry. The reported event category may not represent what occurred at the workplace.

March 2024

March 2024 CRITICALS	RESS	INST	RESM	INDU	ROAD	EXCA	COMM	NECC	RAIL	POWP	ETTL	HYDR	SEWW	BRID	TUNN	TELE	WIND	MARE	PAVE	GAS	MINP	PIPE	CAIS	TOTAL	
Falls from Heights	1		2																						3
Falls From Equipment			1																						1
Falls from Ladders			2							1															3
Same level slips and trips	1		4				1							1	1							1			9
Struck by equipment	1	3			1										1										7
Struck by material			3		1				1	1															6
collapse of structure	2																								2
Electrical Contact																									0
Excavation Collapse																									0
Other, including multiple factors, i.e. fall resulting from scaffold being struck by equipment.	1		2		1		1																		5
TOTAL																									36

March 2024 FATALS	RESS	INST	RESM	INDU	ROAD	EXCA	COMM	NECC	RAIL	POWP	ETTL	HYDR	SEWW	BRID	TUNN	TELE	WIND	MARE	PAVE	GAS	MINP	PIPE	CAIS	Total	
Falls from Heights	1				1																				2
Falls From Equipment																									0
Falls from Ladders																									0
Same level slips and trips																									0
Struck by equipment																									0
Struck by material																									0
collapse of structure																									0
Electrical Contact																									0
Excavation Collapse																									0
Other, including multiple factors, i.e. fall resulting from scaffold being struck by equipment.																									0
TOTAL	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	

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Year to Date 2024

Year to Date 2024 CRITICAL	RESS	INST	RESM	INDU	ROAD	EXCA	COMM	NECC	RAIL	POWP	ETTL	HYDR	SEWW	BRID	TUNN	TELE	WIND	MARE	PAVE	GAS	MINP	PIPE	CAIS	TOTAL	
Falls from Heights	7			6	1			1																	15
Falls From Equipment				1																					1
Falls from Ladders	3			6				2		1															12
Same level slips and trips	3			8	3			1						2	1							1	1		20
Struck by equipment	3	3			1	1									1										10
Struck by material	1			6	3				1	1			1			1									14
collapse of structure	2																								2
Electrical Contact																									0
Excavation Collapse																									0
Other, including multiple factors, i.e. fall resulting from scaffold being struck by equipment.	3			4		1	1																		9
TOTAL	22	3	31	8	2	1	4	1	1	2	0	0	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	83

Year to Date 2024 FATALS	RESS	INST	RESM	INDU	ROAD	EXCA	COMM	NECC	RAIL	POWP	ETTL	HYDR	SEWW	BRID	TUNN	TELE	WIND	MARE	PAVE	GAS	MINP	PIPE	CAIS	Total	
Falls from Heights	1				2																				3
Falls From Equipment																									0
Falls from Ladders																									0
Same level slips and trips																									0
Struck by equipment																									0
Struck by material																									0
collapse of structure																									0
Electrical Contact																									0
Excavation Collapse																									0
Other, including multiple factors, i.e. fall resulting from scaffold being struck by equipment.																									0
TOTAL	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3

Critical Injury Summary – March 2024

Upon review of the Critical Injuries for March 2024, details of the incidents resulting in a critical injury revealed that although there were 36 sustained on a construction project, 28% of the critical injuries occurred during non-task related circumstances.

While it is acknowledged that the injuries occurred on an active construction project and therefore meet the criteria of critical injury, it is also important to recognize that injuries such as fracturing an ankle while exiting a vehicle or being distracted while descending stairs are not related to a specific work task and are likely more related to a lack of concentration that could have happened anywhere, and not necessarily exclusive to the work taking place.

	Date of Incident	Municipality	Sector	Occupation	Details (as reported to MLITSD)	Reported Cause
1	March 4, 2024	Stratford	Excavation	Electrician	Loss of Consciousness	Laceration leading to LOC

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	Date of Incident	Municipality	Sector	Occupation	Details (as reported to MLITSD)	Reported Cause
					after cutting leg with a knife	
2	March 5, 2024	Kleinburg	Single Family Housing	Labourer	Worker suffered 2 nd degree burns as after propane cylinder exploded while changing tanks for heaters	Explosion
3	March 5, 2024	Sault Ste. Marie	Industrial Building Construction	Steel Worker	Worker suffered fractured hand after being struck by drill while passing the equipment from worker to worker	Struck by – Equipment
5	March 6, 2024	Oshawa	Apartment & Other Multiple Housing	Carpenter (young worker)	Worker suffered significant loss of blood after making contact with an operating circular saw, resulting in 17 stiches to the hand	Significant loss of blood
6	March 6, 2024	Vaughan	Apartment & Other Multiple Housing	Worker	Worker fell approximately 4ft from ladder while descending, resulting in fractured arm	Fall – From Ladder

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	Date of Incident	Municipality	Sector	Occupation	Details (as reported to MLITSD)	Reported Cause
7	March 6, 2024	Milton	Highway & Road Construction	Truck Driver	Worker suffered a loss of consciousness while walking toward his truck	Loss of Consciousness
8	March 7, 2024	Toronto	Apartment & Other Multiple Housing	Pipefitter	Worker suffered loss of consciousness as a result of an approximate 10ft fall	Fall – From Height
9	March 7, 2024	Mississauga	Apartment & Other Multiple Housing	Pipefitter	Worker threading pipe while working from a ladder. Worker lost balance and fell, resulting in a fractured elbow and wrist	Fall – From Ladder
10	March 8, 2024	Cambridge	Bridge Construction	Labourer	Worker sustained fractured leg after telehandler came into contact with formwork	Struck by - Equipment
11	March 8, 2024	Bowmanville	Industrial Building Construction	Worker	Worker sustained fractured arm when concrete bag fell from above.	Struck by - Material

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	Date of Incident	Municipality	Sector	Occupation	Details (as reported to MLITSD)	Reported Cause
12	March 8, 2024	London	Apartment & Other Multiple Housing	Worker	Worker fractured ankle while exiting truck	Slip – to ground
13	March 8, 2024	Toronto	Railway	Material Handler	Fracture to both hands after losing control of material, crushing both hands	Struck by - Material
14	March 11, 2024	Vaughan	Highway & Road Construction	Asphalt Worker	Worker's hand was fractured it was caught in the door of the vehicle	Struck by - Equipment
15	March 12, 2024	Toronto	Railway	Equipment Technician	Sustained fractured ankle after falling from 6ft ladder	Fall – From Ladder
16	March 13, 2024	Cobourg	Institutional Building Construction	Worker	Worker sustained fractured foot when the door of a container was struck by a boom truck and made contact with the worker	Struck by - Equipment
17	March 13, 2024	Toronto	Single Family Housing	Worker	Worker sustained a laceration on the top of his head resulting in loss of blood	Struck by – Equipment

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	Date of Incident	Municipality	Sector	Occupation	Details (as reported to MLITSD)	Reported Cause
18	March 13, 2024	Mono	Single Family Housing	Worker	Workers fell 3 storeys when stairs collapsed, resulting in one worker with a broken leg	Collapse of structure
19	March 13, 2024	Welland	Gas Service Connection	Technician	Worker rolled right ankle while walking on uneven surface, resulting fracture	Trip – Same Level
20	March 14, 2024	Stittsville	Apartment & Other Multiple Housing	Worker	Worker sustained loss of consciousness after lacerations to head and face	Lacerations
21	March 15, 2024	Toronto	Apartment & Other Multiple Housing	Worker	Fractured foot as a result of tripping on debris and falling down 4 stairs	Trip – Same Level
22	March 15, 2024	Toronto	Apartment & Other Multiple Housing	Labourer	Worker loss footing on stairs while looking up while descending the stairs, resulting in fractured left foot	Slip – At Height
23	March 16, 2024	Bowmanville	Industrial Building Construction	Worker	Worker hit his head causing him to fall, resulting in loss of consciousness	Stuck by - Equipment

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	Date of Incident	Municipality	Sector	Occupation	Details (as reported to MLITSD)	Reported Cause
24	March 18, 2024	Dwight	Single Family Housing	Worker	Sustained fractured elbow while slipping on ice while exiting his vehicle	Slip – Same Level
25	March 19, 2024	Toronto	Apartment & Other Multiple Housing	Labourer	Worker sustained fractures when dolly filled with granite slabs fell onto worker while trying to move the slabs	Struck by - Material
26	March 19, 2024	Mississauga	Bridge Construction	Worker	Fractured right wrist when worker try to brace his fall while slipping	Slip – Same Level
27	March 19, 2024	Toronto	Apartment & Other Multiple Housing	Rigger	Worker sustained fractured foot when struck by the plywood he was removing from the load	Struck by - Material
28	March 20, 2024	Scarborough	Apartment & Other Multiple Housing	Drywaller	Worker slipped and fell on ice while carrying multiple boxes, resulting in fractured foot	Slip – Same Level
29	March 20, 2024	Puslinch	Cable	Electrician	Worker lost control of cable reel causing it to fall	Stuck by - Material

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	Date of Incident	Municipality	Sector	Occupation	Details (as reported to MLITSD)	Reported Cause
					onto his foot, resulting in a fractured leg and ankle	
30	March 22, 2024	Gravenhurst	Single Family Housing	HVAC Technician	Stairs collapsed while worker was carrying furnace unit to the basement level, causing the worker to fall resulting in broken ankle	Collapse of Stairs
31	March 25, 2024	Oshawa	Apartment & Other Multiple Housing	Coffee Truck Owner	Worker did not put the truck in park before exiting the vehicle; while attempting to re-enter the truck, it ran over her foot, resulting in fracture	Struck by – Vehicle
32	March 25, 2024	Waterloo	Sewer/Watermain Construction	Worker	Sustained fractured ankle when he slipped while exiting his vehicle	Slip – Same Level
33	March 27, 2024	Ottawa	Apartment & Other Multiple Housing	Drywaller	Sustained loss of consciousness and loss of blood after falling approx. 2 ft from baker's scaffold	Fall – From Scaffold

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	Date of Incident	Municipality	Sector	Occupation	Details (as reported to MLITSD)	Reported Cause
34	March 27, 2024	Toronto	Commercial Building Construction	Worker	Worker lost control of job box while on a sloped surface; sustained a fractured left wrist when he fell attempting to avoid the job box that fell over	Fall – Same Level
35	March 27, 2024	Toronto	Apartment & Other Multiple Housing	Worker	Loss of consciousness after beam became loose, striking the worker in the face	Stuck by – Material
36	March 27, 2024	Waterloo	Single Family Housing	Window Installer	Worker sustained broken bone in neck after falling from height	Fall – From Height

Fatality Summary – March 2024

Injury Type	2024 March	2024 January 1 – March 31
Fatal	2 + 1 (added from Feb.12)	3

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Injury Type	2023 March	2023 January 1 – March 31
Fatal	2	3

	Date of Incident	Municipality	Sector	Occupation	Details (as reported to MLITSD)	Reported Cause
1	February 12, 2024	Ottawa	Industrial Building Construction	Welder	Worker succumbed to fatal injuries as a result of 5 story fall from mast climber	Fall – From Height
2	March 17, 2024	Toronto	Industrial Building Construction	Worker	Worker succumbed to fatal injuries on April 18, 2024 as a result of a fall from heights	Fall – From Height
3	March 28, 2024	Waterloo	Single Family Housing	Worker	Worker succumbed to fatal injuries on April 4, 2024 as a result of falling from heights	Fall – From Height

SECTOR DESCRIPTION	SHORT DESC
Asbestos Removal - Type 1	ASB1
Asbestos Removal - Type 2	ASB2
Asbestos Removal - Type 3	ASB3
Bridge Construction	BRID
Cable	CABL
Caisson	CAIS
Cofferdam	COFF
Commercial Building Construction	COMM

Diving Construction	DCON
Diving Environmental	DENV
Diving Industrial	DIND
Diving Mining	DMIN
Electrical Towers & Transmission Lines	ETTL
Excavation	EXCA
Gas Service Connection	GAS
Excavation - Grading	GRAD
Hydro	HYDR
Industrial Building Construction	INDU
Institutional Building Construction	INST
Marine Construction	MARE
Mining Plant Construction	MINP
Moving of a Building/Structure	MOVE
NEC – Construction (NEC: not elsewhere captured)	NECC
NEC – Diving (NEC: not elsewhere captured)	NECD
Asphalt Paving	PAVE
Pipeline	PIPE
Hydroelectric Power Plants & Rel	POWP
Railway	RAIL
Apartment & Other Multiple Housing	RESM
Single Family Housing	RESS
Highway & Road Construction	ROAD
Sewer/Watermain Construction	SEWW
Shaft Construction	SHAF
Shipbuilding & Repair	SHIP
Subway	SUBW
Telephone	TELE
Trenching	TREN
Tunnel	TUNN
Well Drilling	WELL
Window Cleaning Services	WIND