

TEXAS MUTUAL SAFETY ALERT



JANUARY 2020

As a service to our policyholders, Texas Mutual shares common workplace injuries reported to our claims department. Our goal is to help you ensure these types of accidents do not happen in your workplace. Find tips and suggested e-Learning training courses below to help keep your employees safe on the job.

If you have questions, we encourage you to call our safety services support center at **844-WORKSAFE (967-5723)** between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. CST.

IN THIS ALERT

2019 incident trends

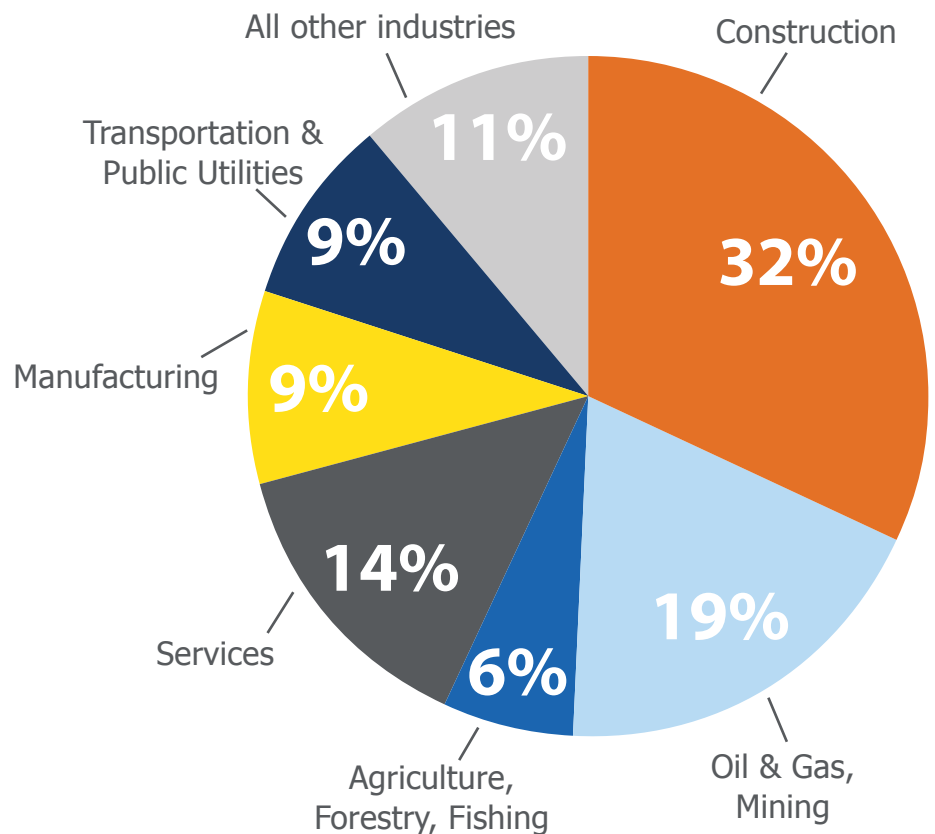
- Motor vehicle crashes
- Working at heights
- New employees

2019 INCIDENT TRENDS

To kick off the new year, we're sharing workplace injury trends from 2019. Over the course of last year, about 500 serious claims were reported to Texas Mutual. We're looking back at data from these claims to help employers identify areas of concern and training opportunities in their workplaces to prevent similar instances from occurring.

The chart to the right shows the percentage of claims broken up by industry. Continue reading to find more information on significant trends and safety tips for reducing these types of incidents.

Serious incidents by industry in 2019



MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES

Driving incidents accounted for about 27% of the reported serious claims in 2019. From 2016-2018, the National Safety Council estimates that the U.S. experienced about 40,000 roadway deaths each year. Among the serious driving incidents reported to Texas Mutual, there were three common trends.

- **Struck by another vehicle.** Don't trust other drivers to follow the rules of the road. Always be aware of other vehicles, reduce your speed in bad weather, make sure your lights are on and slow down gradually instead of slamming on your brakes.
- **Leaving the designated lane.** Never operate a vehicle when fatigued or otherwise impaired, and avoid distractions such as cell phones, eating or grooming.
- **Being involved in a crash as a passenger.** Wear your seat belt at all times and don't be afraid to speak up if you notice any driver acting in an unsafe manner. Remember that your life is at stake too.

Texas Mutual offers free online defensive driving and distracted driving courses. Email safety@texasmutual.com for more information.



e-Learning course suggestions:

Driving Preparation
Driving Hazard Recognition
Alert Driving

WORKING AT HEIGHTS

Slips, trips and falls accounted for about 25% of the serious claims reported and the majority involved falls from heights. Of those incidents, workers were mainly injured during falls from three positions.

- **Ladders.** It's crucial to find a ladder that reaches the necessary height, set it up with appropriate footing and make sure it's completely stable before climbing.
- **Roofing.** Before starting work, check the area for potential fall hazards, including holes and unguarded edges to make sure controls are in place. Confirm that your personal fall arrest system is connected to an anchorage point at all times.
- **Scaffolding.** Do not perform work on a scaffold that does not have proper guardrails and decking in place. Always access the scaffold levels with the designated ladders.



e-Learning course suggestions:

Ladder Safety
Fall Prevention/Protection
Supported Scaffold Safety

NEW EMPLOYEES

Employees are most vulnerable to injuries within the first year of a new job. About 34% of serious reported injuries involved an employee who had been on the job for less than six months. It's important to cover your company's injury and illness prevention program and all your expectations of the employee before they begin on-the-job training.

- Never perform job tasks until you have been fully trained to do so.
- Follow the guidelines laid out by your supervisor and alert them if another employee is directing you to do a task that you haven't been trained on.
- If you are uncomfortable with a job or situation, don't hesitate to ask a more tenured employee or supervisor for assistance or clarification.



e-Learning course suggestions:

Basic Safety & Health

Emergency Action Plan

PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)

GET FREE SAFETY RESOURCES

Texas Mutual policyholders have access to thousands of free training materials in our multimedia [safety resource center](#), including 400 free e-Learning online training courses. With e-Learning, you can assign safety courses to your employees to help train them and keep them safe.

To access the free materials, log into your [texasmutual.com](#) account and select Safety Resources. If you need help accessing the safety resource center or you have a workplace safety question, call us toll-free at **844-WORKSAFE (967-5723)**.