



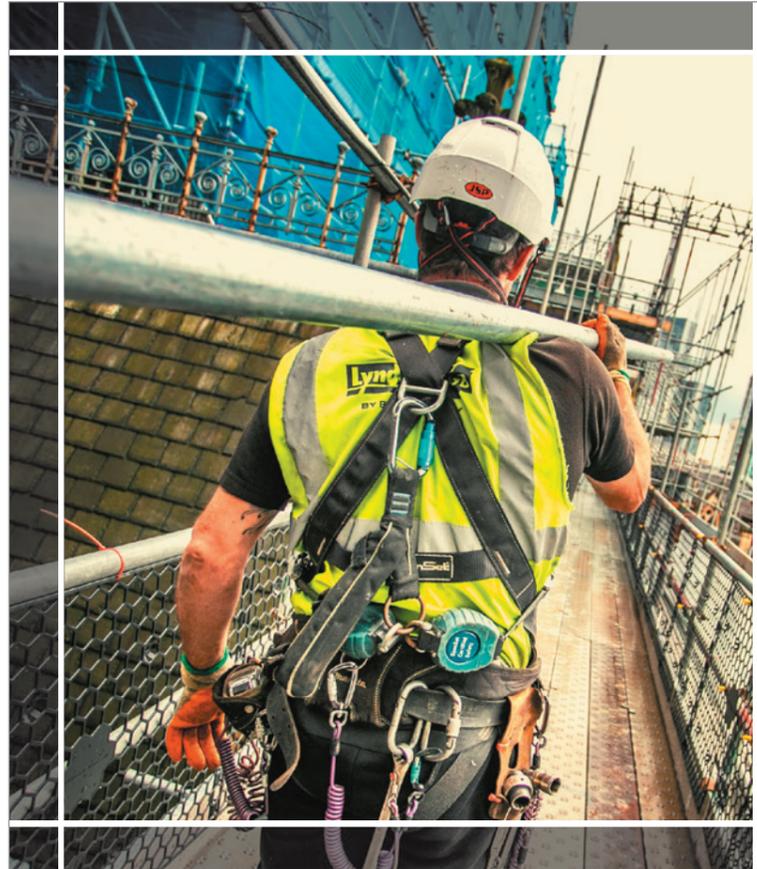
**NASC**

NATIONAL ACCESS AND  
SCAFFOLDING CONFEDERATION

**2022**

MAINTAINING HIGH STANDARDS IN SCAFFOLDING

**SAFETY REPORT**



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*Whilst every effort has been made to provide reliable and accurate information, we would welcome any corrections to information provided by the author which may not be entirely accurate, therefore and for this reason, the NASC or indeed the author cannot accept any responsibility for any misinformation posted.*

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# MANUAL HANDLING MATTERS

## TASK

Consider the activity, i.e. the lifting, lowering, carrying, pushing or pulling, repetitive movements, strenuous movements, long distances, or uneven weight distribution.

## LOAD

Consider the object that is being moved, is it heavy, bulky or unstable?

## ENVIRONMENT

Consider the area. Are there any space constraints? Is the floor slippery or uneven? Is there sufficient lighting? Are there any trip hazards?

## INDIVIDUAL

Consider your capabilities, how strong, fit or able are you? Do you need help?

\*Statistic derived from figures published in the last five annual NASC Safety Reports



REFER TO SG6 MANUAL HANDLING, AVAILABLE FROM THE NASC WEBSITE

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# PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



Welcome to the 2022 NASC Safety Report, which contains NASC Contractor member accident statistics and analysis relating to the 2021 calendar year.

This report contains a lot of numbers, which must on the one hand be taken at face value but on the other be viewed as a gateway to greater understanding about NASC Contractor member safety standards – what we're doing well and what improvements can be made.

Let's address the numbers first.

There were 90 accidents recorded by 237 NASC Contractor members during 2021. This shows that members continue to operate to exceptionally high safety standards.

Assuming the incidents befell 90 separate individuals, that means 15,530 of the 15,620 operatives employed by the NASC as a whole – equating to 99.4% – went through 2021 without incurring an 'over seven day' injury.

What's more, the data shows that 181 NASC Contractor members, 76% of the total, had no RIDDOR reportable accidents during 2021.

These are incredible statistics, ones that should be celebrated, because achieving them is no mean feat. It requires the desire to place safety and compliance at the heart of all activities, something that is central to the NASC's core objectives and ethos.

And yet, as we're the NASC, the trade body for access and scaffolding in the UK, we're always striving for better.

Which is why we want to look beyond the numbers to understand how the incidents recorded in this Report occurred and what can be done to prevent accidents from happening in the future.

We've taken giant safety strides in the past few decades. Table 1 on page nine shows just how far we've come, with core Health and Safety and Technical guidance combined with greater scrutiny of materials and equipment significantly improving standards, resulting in plummeting incident numbers.

The data seems to show that we've reached a plateau in recent years, with an average of just over 90 incidents recorded since 2013.

So, how do we push forwards?

We'll continue to do what we've always

done; produce, publish and review NASC guidance titles to make sure scaffolding contractors – NASC members and non-members alike – have the information they require to work safely and compliantly.

But we'll also do more to ensure this information is as accessible as possible.

We've recently uploaded all 100+ NASC guidance titles to the NASC ePortal, meaning that NASC Contractor members can call upon this information at the click of a button whenever they need it and wherever they are.

We're open to learning, drawing out trends in the incident data and implementing changes to address them. This report contains a number of areas for further work in the Key Findings and Next Steps section starting on page 19.

The NASC continues to set the standards for scaffolding and endeavours to equip contractors and the construction industry as a whole with the information required to work in a safe and compliant manner at all times.

Together we can drive our exceptional safety standards higher still.

Lynn Way, NASC President

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# COMPARISON OF NASC/HSE ACCIDENT STATISTICS

Rise Scaffold Services Ltd

Since 2005 the NASC has been comparing member companies accident statistics with those produced by the HSE for construction industry accidents in general.

The table below gives an overview of the reportable accident statistics recorded by all NASC full contracting members, which is a requirement of NASC membership, and the overall construction industry statistics compiled by the HSE from the RIDDOR reports they receive.

The table also identifies any scaffolder-related fatalities that have been reported by NASC members over the last 10 years – sadly one for 2021, the first in nine years.

In line with HSE reporting procedures, the NASC's Safety Reports are based on the reporting of accidents which result in the incapacitation of a worker for more than seven days. We have not had figures from the rest of the industry for some years as these figures are no longer made available by the regulatory authority.

## Comparison of NASC Accident and Construction Industry Statistics supplied by the HSE

	2012/13			2013/14			2014/15			2015/16			2016/17			2017/18			2018/19			2019/20			2020/21			2021/22		
	Fatal Injury	Major Injury	Over 3 day	Fatal Injury	Major Injury	Over 3 day	Fatal Injury	Major Injury	Over 7 day	Fatal Injury	Major Injury	Over 7 day	Fatal Injury	Major Injury	Over 7 day	Fatal Injury	Major Injury	Over 7 day	Fatal Injury	Major Injury	Over 7 day	Fatal Injury	Major Injury	Over 7 day	Fatal Injury	Major Injury	Over 7 day	Fatal Injury	Major Injury	Over 7 day

### Statistics derived from the NASC annual returns of reportable accidents

Number of NASC Operatives	14,098			13,749			14,988			14,954			17,005			16,433			16,758			17,138			16,084			15,620		
NASC	1	27	67	0	30	66	0	36	69	0	33	63	0	27	69	0	17	72	0	22	91	0	13	61	0	21	60	1	16	73

### Construction industry statistics provided by HSE from RIDDOR reports

Construction Industry General Statistics	39	1,913	3,133	42	1,900	3,293	35	1,833	3,581	43			30			38			30			40			39					
Scaffolding Industry	3	117	223	1	136	139																								

**Note:** The general construction statistics and the scaffolding fatalities include all those reported by NASC members. The NASC reporting period runs from January - December. The HSE reporting period runs from April - March. Changes in requirements now mean that separate figures for non NASC members are no longer available from 2013/14 and are simply added to the construction figure.



JDC Scaffolding Ltd

# FATALITIES & INJURIES TO OPERATIVES

It is a condition of the NASC membership criteria that every member is required to complete an annual accident return form. This Safety Report is based on factual information reported by all Contractor members of the NASC from January to December 2021.

## INJURIES TO OPERATIVES

The number of accidents reported by NASC members is based on RIDDOR reportable incidents.

There were 90 such accidents recorded in 2021 from a combined workforce of 15,620 operatives employed by 237 Contractor members.

This represents a slight increase in our accident frequency rate from the previous year [see Table 1 on the opposite page] by NASC members.

## FATALITIES TO OPERATIVES

There was sadly one fatality reported during 2021, the first since 2012.

## ANALYSIS

It is disappointing to see the number of fatalities to operatives as anything other than zero. Table 1 shows

how infrequent fatalities to NASC Contractor member operatives have been, particularly from 2005 onwards. However, one fatality is one too many.

Similarly, it is disappointing to see the number of injuries to operatives rise to 90.

To look at the positives, Table 1 shows that double digit rather than triple digit accident numbers have been the norm since 2013 and this continued in 2021.

The headline figures, as always, are not the most important aspect of the NASC's Safety Report.

Rather, the purpose of this Report is to analyse the data to identify trends, such as the causes of incidents and the age and experience of the injured operatives, to help us put preventative measures in place wherever possible to lower accident numbers – both recorded and reported by NASC Contractor members and those

suffered by non-NASC scaffolding contractors – in the future.

Recommendations can be found in the Key Findings and Next Steps section on pages 19 and 20.

The NASC remains committed to playing a leading role in scaffolding industry safety. As such, incident data will once again also be shared with the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and sub-groups such as the Construction Industry Advisory Network (CONIAN) to support them in the development of further regulation and safety campaigns.

**90**  
ACCIDENTS IN 2021

TABLE 1: NASC Accident Figures – Yearly Summary

Year	Number of Companies	Number of Operatives	Accidents	Incidence Rate	Frequency Rate	Fatalities	Fatal Incidence Rate
1980	46	8,160	532	65.2	3.26	3	0.36
1981	50	7,513	496	66.02	3.3	4	0.53
1982	41	6,833	546	79.91	4	0	0
1983	46	6,809	480	70.49	3.52	3	0.44
1984	44	5,930	421	70.99	3.55	1	0.16
1985	45	5,420	423	78.04	3.9	3	0.55
1986	45	6,840	523	76.46	3.82	3	0.43
1987	47	6,842	497	72.65	3.63	2	0.29
1988	47	8,094	576	71.16	3.56	1	0.12
1989	40	7,640	550	71.99	3.6	0	0
1990	29	8,435	447	52.99	2.65	2	0.23
1991	53	7,090	530	74.75	3.74	1	0.14
1992	54	6,603	283	42.86	2.14	1	0.15
1993	62	6,321	283	44.77	2.24	1	0.15
1994	70	7,520	264	35.11	1.76	1	0.13
1995	71	7,525	267	35.49	1.77	1	0.13
1996	68	6,816	248	36.38	1.82	1	0.14
1997	87	8,943	330	36.9	1.85	2	0.22
1998	81	7,871	232	29.48	1.47	0	0
1999	105	10,679	258	24.16	1.21	0	0
2000	110	10,779	253	23.47	1.17	1	0.09
2001	119	11,950	243	20.3	1.017	2	0.17
2002	122	10,721	189	17.63	0.88	1	0.09
2003	125	11,810	197	16.68	0.83	1	0.084
2004	138	10,499	198	18.86	0.94	1	0.095
2005	145	11,238	213	18.95	0.95	0	0
2006	148	11,994	169	14.09	0.7	0	0
2007	152	14,029	174	12.4	0.62	0	0
2008	174	13,760	170	12.35	0.62	0	0
2009	201	13,124	139	10.59	0.53	0	0
2010	201	14,686	121	8.24	0.41	0	0
2011	201	13,716	145	10.57	0.53	0	0
2012	201	14,098	134	9.5	0.48	1	0.07
2013	200	13,749	96	6.98	0.35	0	0
2014	202	14,988	105	7.01	0.35	0	0
2015	199	14,954	96	6.42	0.32	0	0
2016	211	17,005	96	5.65	0.28	0	0
2017	223	16,443	89	5.41	0.28	0	0
2018	225	16,758	113	6.74	0.35	0	0
2019	226	17,138	74	4.32	0.22	0	0
2020	229	16,084	81	5.04	0.24	0	0
2021	237	15,620	90	5.76	0.27	1	0

Method of Calculation:

INCIDENCE RATE =

$\frac{\text{No. of reported accidents} \times 1000}{\text{Average No. of Operatives}}$

FREQUENCY RATE =

$\frac{\text{No. of reported accidents} \times 100,000}{\text{Average No. of hours worked}}$

# CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS

The 2021 statistics, detailed in Tables 2.1, 2.2 and 3, log the number and cause of accidents to NASC operatives as well as third parties and members of the public.

## OPERATIVES – OVERALL INJURIES

Of the 89 non-fatal accidents suffered by NASC member operatives during 2021, 16 were recorded as Major injuries, with the remaining 73 recorded as over 7-days.

Manual handling was the most common cause of injury to operatives, with the 26 injuries reported accounting for just under one in three (29%) of the 2021 total.

In second place came slips and trips on the same level (24). This is the first time in 17 years that slips and trips was not the most common cause of injury.

All bar one of these incidents occurred on site.

The most common cause of these slips and trips was poor ground conditions such as uneven surfaces, poor house keeping, holes and obstructions due to waste materials etc.

There were 13 falls from height by persons during 2021, the same as recorded in 2020.

The number of falls reported from scaffolds / working platforms at or above 4m was 2, down from 5 recorded in the last report.

These incidents included operatives working in contravention of SG4, falls from ladders and falls from vehicles.

## OPERATIVES – MAJOR

The total number of Major incidents fell from 21 in 2020 to 16 last year.

Falls from height by persons and Other both accounted for 5 of these incidents, with slips and trips on the same level responsible for a further 4.

## OPERATIVES – 7-DAY

The most common accidents resulting in an absence from work for over 7 days were attributed to manual handling (26) closely followed by slips and trips (24). There were also

accidents involving 13 falls from height, 7 work equipment and 3 falls of materials.

## OPERATIVES – FATALITIES

A driver was killed after sustaining multiple injuries in a lorry loader incident. This is currently being investigated by the HSE.

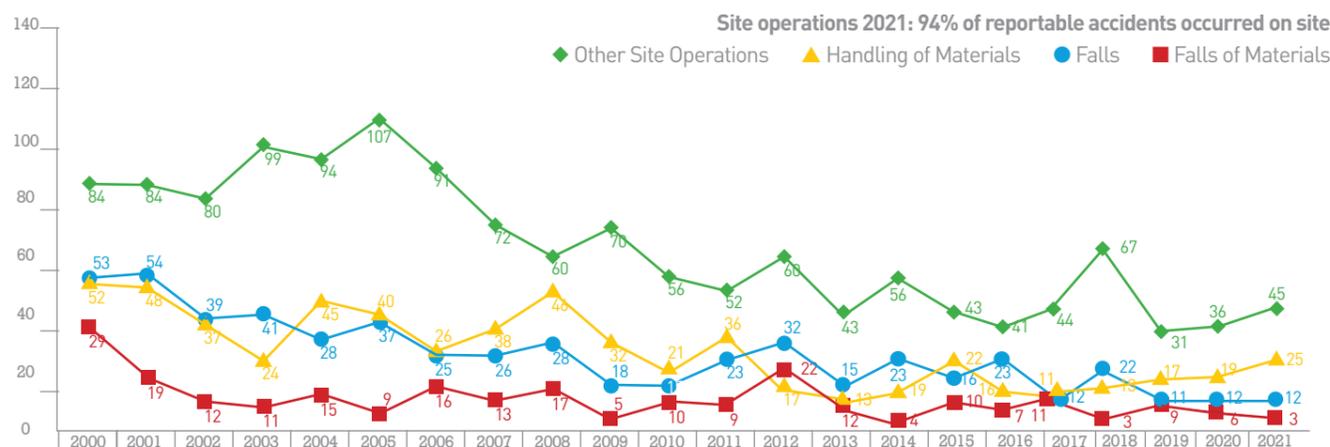
## THIRD PARTIES

The causes of these incidents were falls of materials (2), slips and trips on the same level (1) and fall of a person from height (1).

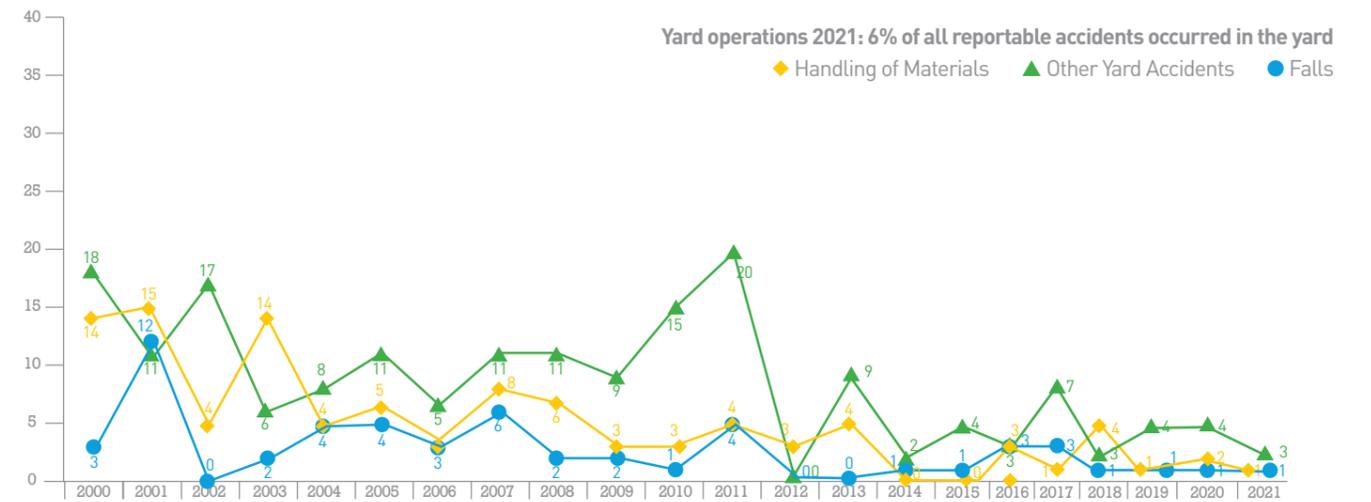
## MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There was a single incident involving a member of the public in 2021, the same as recorded in 2020. This incident and those involving third parties are explored in more depth on page 14.

**TABLE 2.1: NASC Accident Figures – Causes of Accidents to Site Operatives**



**TABLE 2.2: NASC Accident Figures – Causes of Accidents to Yard Operatives**



**TABLE 3: NASC Accident Figures – Causes of Accidents to Members of the Public, 3rd Parties and Operatives**

	Members of the public				3rd Party Injuries				Operatives			
	Fatal	Major	7 Day	Total	Fatal	Major	7 Day	Total	Fatal	Major	7 Day	Total
<b>FALLS</b>												
Scaffolds							1	1		2	1	3
Working Platforms										1	1	2
Ladder										1	3	4
Fall in yard												
Wagons											2	2
Floor												
Other										1	1	2
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>							<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>FALLS OF MATERIALS</b>												
Scaffolds							1	1			2	2
Working Platforms							1	1			1	1
Ladder												
Fall in yard												
Wagons												
Breakage i.e. displacement boards												
Other												
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>							<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>OTHER ACCIDENTS</b>												
Manual Handling										2	24	26
Slips and trips on the same level							1	1		4	20	24
Harmful Substance												
Work equipment											7	7
Electricity												
Other									1	5	11	17
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>							<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>							<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>90</b>



Vision Scaffolding Solutions Ltd

# ANALYSIS OF ACCIDENTS

This section breaks down the total number of accidents reported by the age and skill level of the injured operatives. The table on page 13 also cross references this information against the types of injuries suffered, helping us to spot any common trends.

The highest number of injuries by age were suffered by operatives aged between 31 and 40 (31), closely followed by the 21-30 bracket (27).

Those aged between 51 and 60 suffered 11 injuries. Operatives aged between 16 and 20 suffered 8 injuries and those between 41 and 50 suffered 9. Operatives aged over 61 accounted for 5 injuries.

The types of accidents reported makes for interesting reading when broken down by age bracket. The majority of the 31-40 and 21-30 groups' incidents are attributed to manual handling, with slips and trips on the same level. The next most common cause of injury.

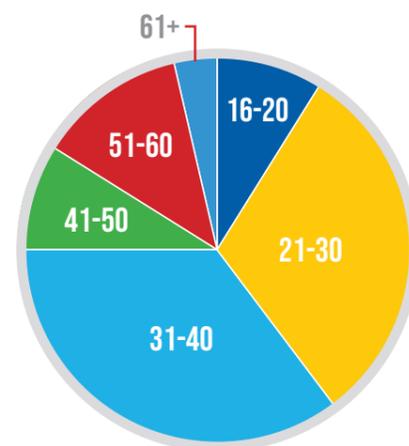
No other age brackets saw manual handling as the outright cause of injury.

Scaffolders suffered the most injuries by skill level (39), accounting for

43 per cent of all incidents – up 2% from the percentage recorded in 2020. Labourers were the second most injured group, with 20 injuries, followed by Trainees (20), Advanced

(7) and Drivers (4). Managers and Supervisors suffered no injuries in 2021.

ACCIDENTS BY AGE



ACCIDENTS BY GRADE

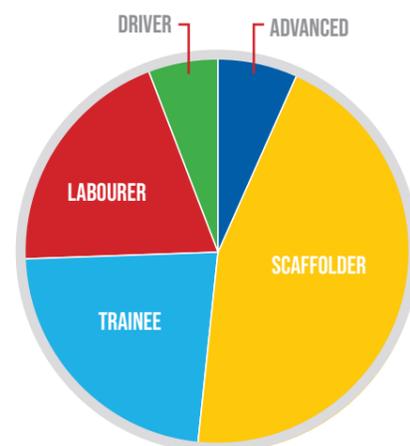


TABLE 4: Operatives by Age, Grade of Scaffolder and Type of Accident

Age	GRADE	Falls					FALL MATERIALS				MHO	WE	HS	ST	ELEC	FIRE	OTH	F	Total															
		SCAFFOLD	WP	LADDER	WAGONS	OTHER	SCAFFOLD	WP	WAGONS	OTHER																								
		MI	7D	MI	7D	MI	7D	MI	7D	MI	7D	MI	7D	MI	7D	MI	7D	MI		7D	MI													
16-20	SUPERVISOR																																	
	ADVANCED																																	
	SCAFFOLDER																																	
	TRAINEE										2			2				2	6															
	LABOURER													1				1	2															
21-30	SUPERVISOR																																	
	ADVANCED																																	
	SCAFFOLDER						1		1				3			1	2		8															
	TRAINEE												3	1		1			7															
	LABOURER							3					3	1		1	3		12															
31-40	SUPERVISOR																																	
	ADVANCED													1			1	1	4															
	SCAFFOLDER			1			1				1			6	1		3		18															
	TRAINEE								1	1				2	1		1		6															
	LABOURER														1		1		2															
41-50	SUPERVISOR																																	
	ADVANCED																		1															
	SCAFFOLDER																		2															
	TRAINEE														1				1															
	LABOURER																1		2															
51-60	SUPERVISOR																																	
	ADVANCED																		1															
	SCAFFOLDER	1					1												8															
	TRAINEE																		1															
	LABOURER																		1															
61+	SUPERVISOR																																	
	ADVANCED																		1															
	SCAFFOLDER														1				3															
	TRAINEE																																	
	LABOURER																		1															
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>90</b>
		<b>13</b>					<b>3</b>				<b>26</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>90</b>												

Total Number of Falls from Height (Operatives)	13
Highest Reported Fall of Operatives	6.0m
Number of Falls from Scaffold and Working Platforms (SC/WP)	5
Number of Falls under 4m	11
Number of Falls at 4m or above	2
Number of Falls from Ladders	4
Additional Reported Falls from Scaffolds Arrested by Safety Harness	0

**Key**  
**MI** = Major Injury  
**7d** = Over 7 Day Injury  
**MHO** = Manual Handling Operations  
**ST** = Slips & Trips on the same level  
**Elec** = Electrical Injury  
**WE** = Work Equipment  
**HS** = Harmful Substance  
**WP** = Workings Platforms  
**OTH** = Other  
**F** = Fatal

Please note that details and numbers of accidents represent data available at time of compilation.



# INJURIES TO THIRD PARTIES & MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Each year the NASC identifies all accidents/ injuries that relate to third parties (i.e. non-scaffolding trades working on the same site) or to members of the general public.

## INJURIES TO THIRD PARTIES & MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Each year the NASC identifies all accidents / injuries that relate to third parties (i.e. non-scaffolding trades working on the same site) or to members of the general public.

Since 2002, NASC members have been asked to differentiate between accidents involving third parties or members of the public as part of their reporting procedures.

## INJURIES TO THIRD PARTIES

In 2021, there were four incidents reported for injuries to third parties. These related to falls from height by materials (2), falls from height by persons (1) and slips and trips on the same level (1). The details of these incidents are as follows:

### FALLS FROM HEIGHT – MATERIALS

- An intermediate transom fell from a lift, catching a passing tradesperson who was on the designated walkway

below. The injured party's colleagues pulled him backwards after a scaffolding operative shouted "look out below" and his helmet fell off. He suffered a 40mm laceration.

- A third party was working on site, a scaffolding clip fell from one of the floors above and landed on his back, resulting in injury.

### FALLS FROM HEIGHT - PEOPLE

- A contractor went onto a scaffold that was being dismantled to complete some works. They failed to notice the operatives striking and walked off a set of overhanging boards, falling 6ft.

### SLIPS AND TRIPS ON THE SAME LEVEL

- A roofer suffered cuts and bruises when a scaffold board snapped and their leg went through the board.

### MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The sole incident relating to a member of the public was due to an individual tripping over a foot tie while distracted by using their mobile phone. They suffered a fractured arm.

## FREQUENCY OF ACCIDENTS IN DIFFERENT SIZED COMPANIES

As part of their reporting process the NASC also identifies the total number of accidents reported relative to the size of the individual companies.

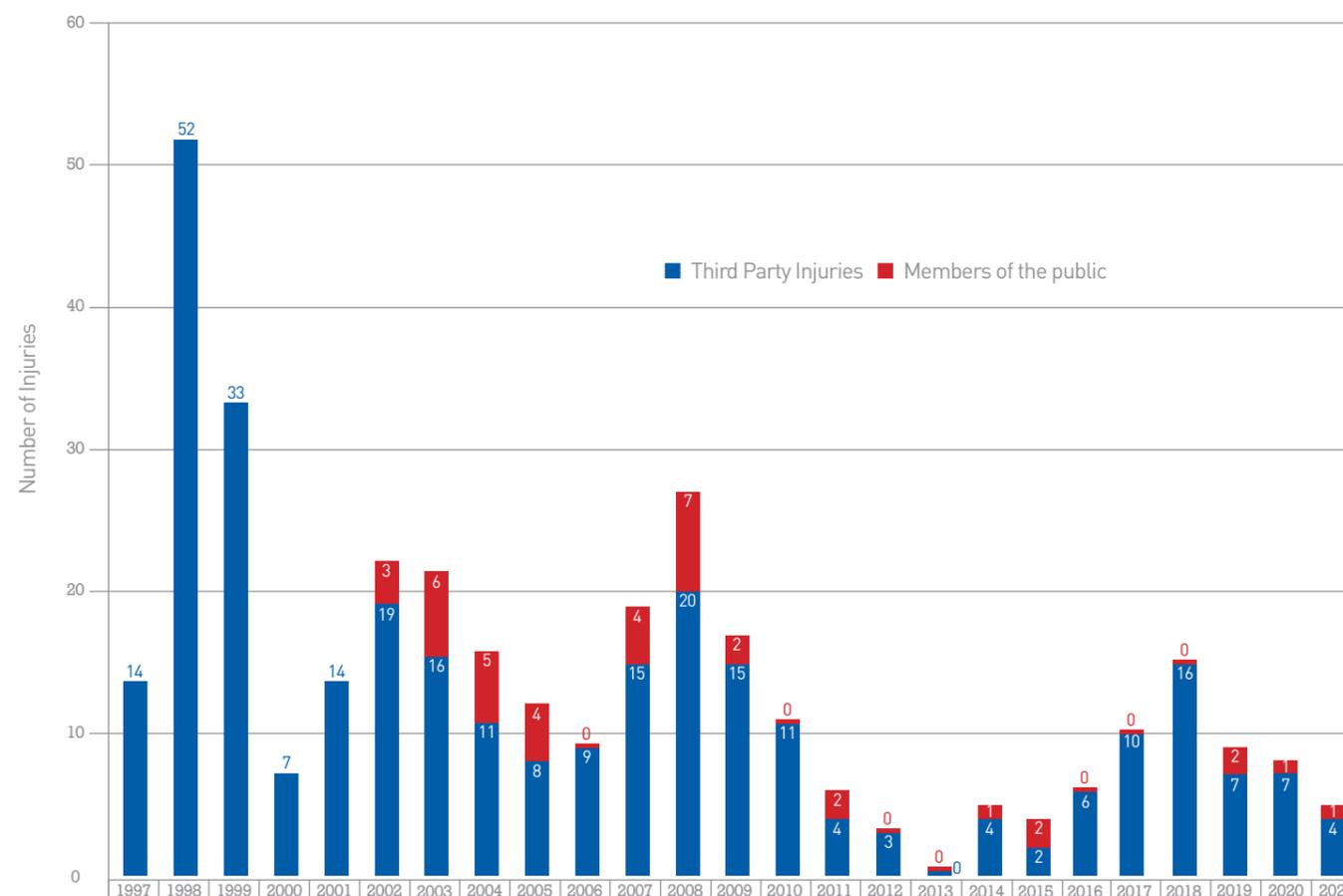
Table 6 indicates the experience of different sized firms (for their own operatives).

This table shows that the majority of incidents are suffered by operatives working for small companies (with between 21 and 50 operatives). The 21 incidents these companies recorded represent 23% of all incidents seen in 2021 despite the 3,123 operatives employed by these members only representing 20% of the total NASC member operative workforce.

Small Medium (51-100) company operatives suffered 32 injuries (36% of the total) despite only representing 19% of the total workforce.

Conversely, there were only six injuries reported by Large members (1,001+ operatives), whose 4,220 operatives make up 27% of the total number of NASC operatives.

**Table 5: Accident Figures - Third Parties and Members of the Public**



**Table 6: Frequency of Accidents in Different Sized Companies**

Company Size	Number of Companies	All company Employees	All company Sub Contractors	All company Total	Number of Accidents to Workers (non-fatal)	Total Operative Fatalities	Accidents to members of Public (non-fatal)	Fatalities to members of the Public	Number of accidents - 3rd parties	Sum of 3rd party Fatalities	Arrested by Safety Harnesses	RIDDOR Diseases
1 - 20 (VERY SMALL)	73	870	25	895	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21 - 50 (SMALL)	95	2,949	174	3,123	20	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
51 - 100 (SMALL - MEDIUM)	41	2,836	95	2,931	32	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
101 - 200 (MEDIUM)	20	2,339	356	2,695	19	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
201 - 1000 (MEDIUM - LARGE)	5	1,613	143	1,756	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1001+ (LARGE)	3	4,020	200	4,220	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>14,627</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>15,620</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

# ANALYSIS OF INJURIES TO OPERATIVES

The following tables and charts give a breakdown of all the injuries reported, identifying the type of injury sustained, the part of the body affected and in some instances the ages of the operatives injured.

Table 7.1 shows the most common injury sustained was a fracture (34), followed by bruising (13) and a sprain (9). The most common body part injured was hand, fingers and wrist (34), feet, toes and ankles (17) and leg, hip and groin (12).

## FALLS FROM HEIGHT

There were 13 falls from height by persons (shown in Table 7.2), the same as recorded in 2020.

These 13 incidents caused operatives to be absent from work for a total of 843 days.

Nine of these (69% of the total) resulted in fractures. Three caused bruising and the remaining incident resulted in a sprain.

The falls were primarily split across three age brackets (see chart below), with 21-30 responsible for four falls and both 31-40 and 51-60 accounting for three falls.

## FALLING MATERIALS

Table 7.3 shows there were three injuries cause by falling materials, two resulted in bruising, while one operative suffered a mild concussion.

## MANUAL HANDLING

There were 26 instances of manual handling injuries (see Table 7.4 and the middle chart below) recorded in 2021.

These incidents caused operatives to be absent from work a total of 770 days. The most common injury was a fracture (7), followed by lacerations (5) and then strains, bruising and other (all 3).

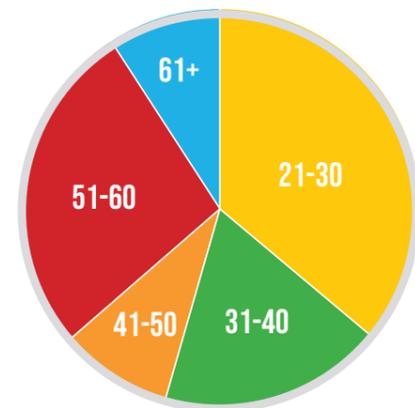
Employees aged between 31 and 40 (10) and 21 and 30 (9) suffered the vast majority of the total manual handling injuries.

## SLIPS AND TRIPS ON THE SAME LEVEL

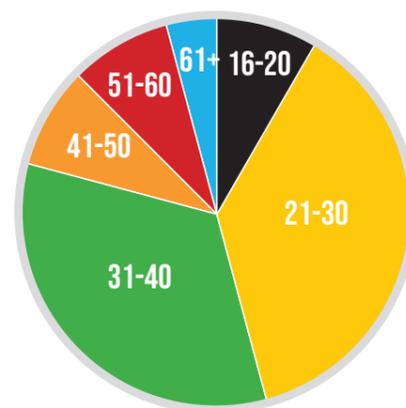
Table 7.5 shows injuries suffered as a result of a slip or trip on the same level. The most common injury was a fracture (7), followed by a sprain (6) and bruising (3).

The 21-30 age bracket (8 of the 24 instances) and 31-40 (7) suffered the most slips or trips. See chart below for more.

INJURIES RESULTING FROM FALLS FROM HEIGHT



INJURIES RESULTING FROM MANUAL HANDLING



INJURIES RESULTING FROM SLIPS AND TRIPS

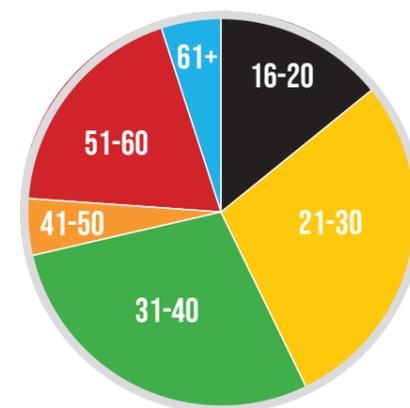


Table 7.1: All Injuries

	EYES	FACE	HEAD	NECK / SHOULDER	RIBS / CHEST / STOMACH	BACK	ARM	HAND / FINGERS / WRIST	LEG / HIP / GROIN	FEET / TOES / ANKLES	MULTIPLE	OTHER	GRAND TOTAL
FRACTURE					2	3	3	13	4	9			34
AMPUTATION								5					5
DISLOCATION				1				1					2
PENETRATION										1			1
STRAIN				3		1			1				5
SPRAIN				1				1	2	5			9
ABRASION													
LACERATION		1						6	1				8
CUT								2					2
BRUISING				4	2	1		2	2	2			13
MULTIPLE								1					1
UNCONSCIOUS			2										2
PERMANENT SIGHT LOSS													
OTHER			1				1	3	2		1		8
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>90</b>

Table 7.2: Fall from Height Injuries

	EYES	FACE	HEAD	NECK / SHOULDER	RIBS / CHEST / STOMACH	BACK	ARM	HAND / FINGERS / WRIST	LEG / HIP / GROIN	FEET / TOES / ANKLES	MULTIPLE	OTHER	GRAND TOTAL
FRACTURE					1	3	1	1	2	1			9
AMPUTATION													
DISLOCATION													
TEMP. SIGHT LOSS													
BURN													
PENETRATION													
STRAIN									1				1
SPRAIN													
ABRASION													
LACERATION													
CUT													
BRUISING					2				1				3
MULTIPLE													
OTHER													
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>

Table 7.3: Falling Material Injuries

	EYES	FACE	HEAD	NECK / SHOULDER	RIBS / CHEST / STOMACH	BACK	ARM	HAND / FINGERS / WRIST	LEG / HIP / GROIN	FEET / TOES / ANKLES	MULTIPLE	OTHER	GRAND TOTAL
FRACTURE													
AMPUTATION													
DISLOCATION													
TEMP. SIGHT LOSS													
BURN													
PENETRATION													
STRAIN													
SPRAIN													
ABRASION													
LACERATION													
CUT													
BRUISING				2									2
MULTIPLE													
UNCONSCIOUS													
OTHER			1										1
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

**Table 7.4: Manual Handling Injuries**

	EYES	FACE	HEAD	NECK / SHOULDER	RIBS / CHEST / STOMACH	BACK	ARM	HAND / FINGERS / WRIST	LEG / HIP / GROIN	FEET / TOES / ANKLES	MULTIPLE	OTHER	GRAND TOTAL
FRACTURE								6		1			7
AMPUTATION								2					2
DISLOCATION								1					1
TEMP. SIGHT LOSS													
BURN													
PENETRATION													
STRAIN				2		1							3
SPRAIN								1					1
ABRASION													
LACERATION								5					5
CUT								1					1
BRUISING								2		1			3
MULTIPLE													
OTHER							1	2					3
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>

**Table 7.5: Slip and Trip Injuries**

	EYES	FACE	HEAD	NECK / SHOULDER	RIBS / CHEST / STOMACH	BACK	ARM	HAND / FINGERS / WRIST	LEG / HIP / GROIN	FEET / TOES / ANKLES	MULTIPLE	OTHER	GRAND TOTAL
FRACTURE					1			2	1	3			7
AMPUTATION								1					1
DISLOCATION				1									1
TEMP. SIGHT LOSS													
BURN													
PENETRATION													
STRAIN									1				1
SPRAIN				1					1	4			6
ABRASION													
LACERATION									1				1
CUT													
BRUISING						1			1	1			3
MULTIPLE								1					1
UNCONSCIOUS			2										2
OTHER									1				1
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>

**Table 7.6: Other causes**

	EYES	FACE	HEAD	NECK / SHOULDER	RIBS / CHEST / STOMACH	BACK	ARM	HAND / FINGERS / WRIST	LEG / HIP / GROIN	FEET / TOES / ANKLES	MULTIPLE	OTHER	GRAND TOTAL
FRACTURE							2	4	1	4			11
AMPUTATION								2					2
DISLOCATION													
PERM. SIGHT LOSS													
BURN													
PENETRATION										1			1
STRAIN				1									1
SPRAIN										1			1
ABRASION													
LACERATION		1						1					2
CUT								1					1
BRUISING				2									2
MULTIPLE												0	3
OTHER								1	1		1		3
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>

# KEY FINDINGS AND NEXT STEPS

70% of all reported accidents were attributed to three types of event, manual handling, slips, trips and falls, and falls from height. These also resulted in some of the most serious injuries with 23 fractures and 3 amputations of a finger or part of a finger.

## MANUAL HANDLING

Injuries attributed to manual handling were mainly due to poor technique or posture. The remainder involved handling materials in unsafe condition, with a number of splinters or cuts resulting from handling defective or unserviceable scaffolding boards. In addition, some injuries were caused by scaffolding tubes being handled before all fittings had been removed.

It is recommended that operatives are periodically familiarised with the requirements of SG6 Management of manual handling in the scaffold industry via recorded toolbox talk and/or video (available free of charge from NASC website <https://nasc.org.uk/information/sg6-video/>).

Scaffolding materials should also be examined before and after use, with extra precautions taken when handling defective or suspect equipment. All scaffolding couplers should be removed from tubes before they are passed hand to hand. An NASC manual handling site poster has been produced to raise awareness (see page 4). Copies are available upon request.

## SLIP AND TRIP INJURIES

Although showing a slight improvement on last year's statistics, this is still an area of great concern. The vast majority of incidents were attributed to operatives tripping on poor ground conditions or falling into uncovered holes.

It must be stressed that employers are still responsible for the safety of employees and others, when they are put to work on clients' sites. Improvements may be made by:

- More stringent risk assessment (N.B. the risk assessment should start as soon as the operatives leave the cabin or vehicle and not just when they reach the jobsite). Hazards such as poor ground conditions, bad housekeeping and unprotected holes should always be considered and acted upon.
- Ensuring good housekeeping at all times.
- Improved 'near miss' reporting.
- More frequent site safety walkabouts and inspections.
- Reporting any concerns immediately to the client or Principal Contractor.

**38% OF ALL INJURIES SUFFERED BY SCAFFOLDING OPERATIVES EACH YEAR ARE FROM SLIPS AND TRIPS\***

*Will £96.35 a week Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) pay your bills?*



**SEE IT, SORT IT, REPORT IT!**

**IDENTIFY**  
Identify hazards likely to cause slips and trips on the same level by examining the site and the work.

**ASSESS**  
Assess the risks these hazards create by working out how serious the problems are and how often the problem might occur.

**ELIMINATE**  
Eliminate or control the risks by making changes.

**MONITOR**  
Monitor and review. Bring unresolved issues to the client's attention at senior or site manager level immediately.

\*Statistic derived from figures published in the last five annual NASC Safety Reports

REFER TO SG31 MANAGEMENT OF SLIPS AND TRIPS, AVAILABLE FROM THE NASC WEBSITE

**NASC**  
NATIONAL ACCESS AND SCAFFOLDING CONFEDERATION

VISIT: [WWW.NASC.ORG.UK](http://WWW.NASC.ORG.UK)  
EMAIL: [ENQUIRIES@NASC.ORG.UK](mailto:ENQUIRIES@NASC.ORG.UK)  
CALL: 020 7822 7400

### FALLS FROM HEIGHT

With great potential for serious injuries and in some cases even fatalities, the number of reported falls from height incidents is concerning. Incidents resulting in injury included operatives working unsafely (i.e. in contravention of SG4 requirements) attempting to gain access by unsuitable means and falls from ladders and vehicles.

It is essential that all work at height is closely monitored to ensure compliance with SG4 procedures and risk assessments. Incidents may also be prevented by closer supervision and more frequent site safety walkabouts / inspections conducted by management and supervision. Where evidence of non-compliance with SG4 is identified, refresher training for operatives may be required.

The NASC and its members are committed in their drive to move the industry forward on all matters relating to health and safety. In an

attempt to learn from the findings of this safety report and bring about a reduction of future incidents occurring within our industry, current initiatives include the following:

- With slips and trips continuing to be one of the major causes of injuries within the scaffolding industry, the NASC is issuing posters to remind operatives and supervision to be continually vigilant and aware of the associated hazards which are common to most construction sites and to assess, improve condition and report all hazards to appropriate persons without delay.
- An updated video is currently under development to improve operative understanding in the principles of manual handling, in line with SG6 guidance. The new video will contain simple and concise information to provide enhanced training for operatives.
- An improved version of SG4 (SG4:22 Preventing falls in scaffolding operations) has been developed to

provide improved levels of scaffolder safety when working at height. This document, which will shortly be available, builds on the core principles of SG4:15, but has been updated to reflect recent advances within the industry, as well as providing greater scope and additional information regarding safe working practices. It is the NASC's intention that this revised document will enable scaffolding contractors to continue to demonstrate industry best practice.

With the launch of this document, all scaffolders should be given instruction to refresh their understanding of the essential principles of SG4, as well as the revised guidance intended to improve safe working at height.

- Health and Safety, CISRS and ASITO committees will, in addition be considering the findings of this report, with the intention of developing new initiatives to further reduce the number of accidents and incidents most common within our industry.

# HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE COMMENT

The last two years have been extremely challenging in the construction industry due to the Covid-19 pandemic shutdowns and increase in material costs. With the re-opening of the economy the challenges are now fuel costs, labour shortages (low unemployment, lack of skilled labour and sickness absence) and labour costs.

Despite these challenges the NASC continues to attract company membership across the full range of business size with an overall 3% increase in the last 12 months.

Health and safety improvements and adherence to guidance is of critical importance in the scaffolding

industry. Over the years the NASC has witnessed significant reductions in slips, trips and falls on the same level and material handling following NASC training and guidance focus.

We continue to work with our membership in the areas of manual handling and safe working at height to reduce injuries further. With an increase in smaller businesses joining the NASC, we are committed to safeguarding the areas of induction and safety training as key performance indicators for all NASC membership.

The pressures across the construction industry are reflected in the scaffolding sector where

financial and logistical problems in the economy affect contracts and the labour market – making the contribution to health and safety by the NASC a significant benefit and a driving force within the construction industry.



Alan Harris  
NASC Health & Safety Committee Chair

# NASC: SUPPORT & GUIDANCE



The NASC works with key industry organisations – driving up scaffolding safety standards, recommending good practice and keeping ahead of developments in the rapidly evolving construction industry.

Many representatives from the top organisations listed below are members of NASC committees – focusing on particular areas of good practice, including Health & Safety.

Closer ties are constantly being developed with industry organisations. Significantly, links with HSE and Build UK help to mould requirements, and involvement with BSI and CEN and developing links with Europe (through UEG) are essential to the role of the NASC in the UK construction industry.

### NASC CORE SAFETY OBJECTIVES ARE...

- ▶ Have an incident-free safety record
- ▶ Ensure scaffolders can work safely throughout their career
- ▶ Enable all scaffolding companies to draw on NASC experience and guidance – raising safety standards across the industry
- ▶ Continuously audit NASC members to ensure they follow industry guidance and best practice
- ▶ Update Safety Guidance and Technical Guidance on a five-year cycle, as a minimum



# OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO...

NASC contractor members for their assistance with this Safety Report.

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3 D Scaffolding Ltd  
A W Scaffolding (South West) Ltd  
A&A Scaffolding Plus Eight (2003) Ltd  
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**NATIONAL ACCESS AND  
SCAFFOLDING CONFEDERATION**

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