



**NASC**

NATIONAL ACCESS AND  
SCAFFOLDING CONFEDERATION

**2020**

MAINTAINING HIGH STANDARDS IN SCAFFOLDING

**SAFETY REPORT**





**NASC**

NATIONAL ACCESS & SCAFFOLDING  
CONFEDERATION

# SETTING THE STANDARD FOR SCAFFOLDING SINCE 1945

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## STAY ON SITE WITH SCAFFOLDER CPD

THE CISRS CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) COURSE IS A MANDATORY REQUIREMENT PRIOR TO THE RENEWAL OF ALL CISRS SCAFFOLDER / ADVANCED CARDS. OPERATIVES WHOSE CARDS EXPIRE IN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS SHOULD LOOK TO BOOK A COURSE NOW TO ENSURE THEY DO NOT LAPSE.

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# CISRS

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY  
SCAFFOLDERS RECORD SCHEME

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# SG4 Preventing Falls in Scaffolding Operations

## NASC Poster for Site Managers, Contractors and Supervisors showing good practice

Make sure those carrying out scaffolding operations on your site are working to **NASC Safety Guidance SG4**



### INTRODUCTION TO SG4 AND PLANNING WORK AT HEIGHT

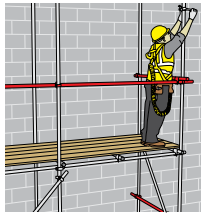
SG4 provides the scaffolding Industry with a safe system of work when working at height that ensures scaffolders can safely erect, alter or dismantle scaffolding without being exposed to the risk of a fall. SG4 focuses on the measures scaffolding contractors and scaffolders must take to create a scaffolders' safe zone. A range of options are provided to suit each contractor's preference.

A scaffolders' safe zone consists of a fully boarded working platform without gaps and a single main guardrail (a minimum of 950mm above the platform).

The scaffolders' safe zone is a priority, as it protects the scaffolder using collective protection. This minimises the amount of time a scaffolder is solely reliant upon personal fall protection equipment (safety harness/lanyard), to avoid injury or worse, in the event of a fall.

Scaffolders must wear their personal fall protection equipment at all times at work, and where there is a risk of a fall must be attached to a suitable anchor point whenever it is not possible to fully utilise collective protection.

Please refer to the guidance for the full range of methods for complying with SG4.



### SG4 SCAFFSTEPS

This popular system uses a proprietary moveable step that is attached to the main guardrail approximately one metre above the working platform.

This enables the scaffolder to erect the guardrail protection on the lift above in advance or remove them from below during dismantling.

Figure shows a scaffolder installing a guardrail in advance to the next lift from a scaffolders' step protected by the ledgers and transoms.

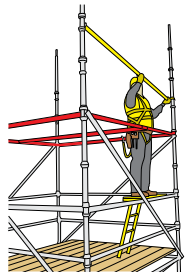
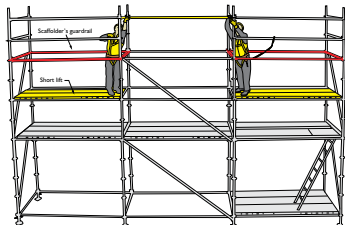
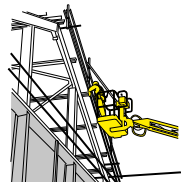


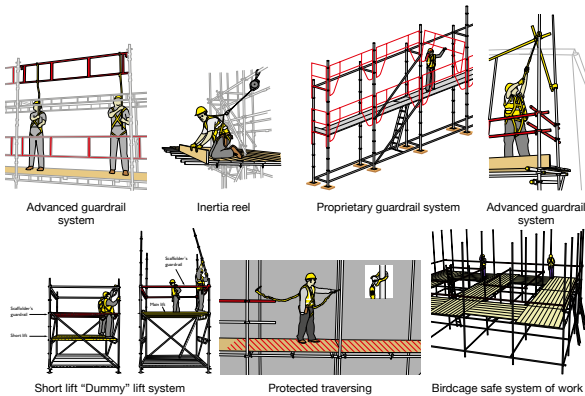
Figure below shows "short lift" / "dummy-lift" and the middle bays can be reached from adjacent bays to fix the guardrails.



### SG4 MEWPS



### OTHER SAFE WAYS TO COMPLY WITH SG4

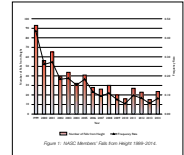


### SG4 WORKS!

Falls from height account for almost half of the fatal accidents in the construction sector. Falling from height is a significant risk faced by scaffolders when erecting, altering or dismantling during most scaffolding operations.

Since the introduction of SG4 in the mid-1990s we have seen a 78% reduction in the number of falls recorded from scaffolding operations. Effective training, planning and supervision are the key to safe working at height.

Note: To ensure full compliance with SG4 the NASC recommends working only with accredited NASC full member companies.



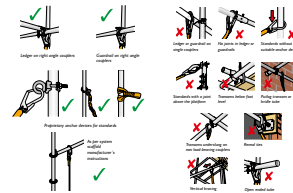
### A6 BOOKLETS AVAILABLE FROM THE NASC



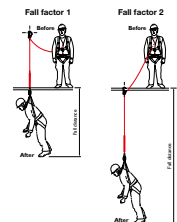
### SG4 ENDORSED BY THE HSE



### SG4 SAFE ANCHORAGE POINTS – AND UNSAFE ONES



### SG4 FALL FACTORS



### SG4 WORKING ON BEAMS

Figure shows a scaffolder using a twin-tailed energy absorbing lanyard while "crabbing" on a beam.



Note: To ensure the support scaffold (not shown) cannot tip over, always ensure that the support scaffold is erected as per the approved design drawing and is fully supported before working on the beams – and for the subsequent dismantle ensure that the support scaffold is left untouched until all required beam work is dismantled to ensure there is no risk of the cantilever tipping and falling. This applies to all arrangements but particularly to cantilevers.

### SG4 AND RESCUE PLANNING

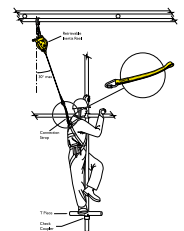
Any rescue plan must consider the potential danger that rescuers may have to place themselves in, to carry out a rescue. Priority should be given to equipment and techniques that would minimise the risk of further accidents and injuries to the rescuers.

The NASC recommend that contractors use equipment such as inertia reels, line systems, and twin tail or double lanyards with energy absorber, fixed to suitable anchorage points, to prevent falls below the working platform when working on hanging scaffolds etc.

Preventing falls or having the opportunity to easily recover a casualty onto an adjacent platform can avoid the need for specialist rescue equipment.

NASC guidance SG19 states that the manual handling rescue system is often the safest and most rapid.

Further information on rescue planning can be found in SG4 (and also in NASC Safety Guidance: SG19 A Guide to Formulating a Rescue Plan).



For further guidance, please download the latest free copy of SG4 from the NASC website:

[www.nasc.org.uk](http://www.nasc.org.uk)

November 2018

FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF THE SG4 POSTER EMAIL [ENQUIRIES@NASC.ORG.UK](mailto:ENQUIRIES@NASC.ORG.UK)

# PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



The NASC was recently asked by a main contractor to provide evidence that NASC full contracting members were safer than non-members.

The NASC does its part; each and every year going to great lengths to collate, analyse and publish a detailed safety report cataloguing accidents and injuries recorded by its members.

Unfortunately, other parties do not follow this example.

The Health & Safety Executive provides only general construction industry statistics from RIDDOR reports (see page 6) and other scaffolding industry member organisations choose not to publish any safety statistics at all.

This makes it nigh on impossible to directly compare the safety of NASC members with non-members. But it doesn't mean the NASC's efforts are in vain.

On a very simple level, the production of the annual Safety Report gives the NASC the opportunity to demonstrate in no uncertain terms the safety performance of its members.

This is laid out in great detail for all to see and make their own judgements on.

Perhaps more importantly, the Safety Report provides the NASC and its standing Committees with the statistics it requires to best focus efforts on improving safety standards wherever possible.

In recent years, the NASC's analysis of the frequency and causes of accidents to operatives led to the creation of the SG4 site poster (see opposite page), production of a series of safety-related toolbox talks and the ability to prioritise the production and review of core NASC safety guidance.

This proactive approach to safety continues this year. The NASC has identified key findings and next steps from the latest accident statistics and these are summarised on pages 19 and 20.

In terms of this year's Report, the top-line figures speak for themselves; the lowest number of accidents recorded to date, zero operative fatalities (for the seventh year in succession) and year-on-year reductions in falls from height and falls of materials.

While the NASC will not rest on its laurels, it is right at this time to celebrate its best ever safety statistics.

This achievement is made possible by the commitment of the NASC and its members to put in place the highest standards of safety procedures and practices and make improvements in this area whenever and wherever possible.

Lynn Way, NASC President





# COMPARISON OF NASC/HSE ACCIDENT STATISTICS

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

|  | 2010/11      |              |            | 2011/12      |              |            | 2012/13      |              |            | 2013/14      |              |            |
|--|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
|  | 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 |

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

|                           |        |    |    |        |    |     |        |    |    |        |    |    |
|---------------------------|--------|----|----|--------|----|-----|--------|----|----|--------|----|----|
| Number of NASC Operatives | 14,686 |    |    | 13,716 |    |     | 14,098 |    |    | 13,749 |    |    |
| NASC                      | 0      | 28 | 93 | 0      | 34 | 111 | 1      | 27 | 67 | 0      | 30 | 66 |

## Construction industry statistics provided by HSE from RIDDOR reports

|  |    |       |       |    |       |       |    |       |       |    |       |       |
|--|----|-------|-------|----|-------|-------|----|-------|-------|----|-------|-------|
| Construction Industry General Statistics | 50 | 2,298 | 4,764 | 49 | 2,230 | 5,391 | 39 | 1,913 | 3,133 | 42 | 1,900 | 3,293 |
| Scaffolding Industry Fatalities Total    | 0  | 150   | 244   | 2  | 116   | 197   | 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.



Cambridge to Huntingdon section 6 bridge removal.  
Supplied by CCS Scaffolding Ltd.

Since 2005 the NASC has been comparing their member company's accident statistics with those produced by the HSE for the 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 its members over the last 10 years – zero again for 2019, the seventh consecutive year.

In line with HSE reporting procedures, the NASC's Safety Reports are based on 7-day reporting. 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.

| 2014/15      |              |            | 2015/16      |              |            | 2016/17      |              |            | 2017/18      |              |            | 2018/19      |              |            | 2019/20      |              |            |
|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 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 |
| 14,988       |              |            | 14,954       |              |            | 17,005       |              |            | 16,433       |              |            | 16,758       |              |            | 17,138       |              |            |
| 0            | 36           | 69         | 0            | 33           | 63         | 0            | 27           | 69         | 0            | 17           | 72         | 0            | 22           | 91         | 0            | 13           | 61         |
| 35           | 1,833        | 3,581      | 43           |              |            | 30           |              |            | 38           |              |            | 30           |              |            |              |              |            |
|              |              |            |              |              |            |              |              |            |              |              |            |              |              |            |              |              |            |





Porsche HQ, Reading. Supplied by Sky Scaffolding (Midlands) 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 full contracting members of the NASC from January to December 2019.

## INJURIES TO OPERATIVES

The number of accidents reported by NASC members for 2019 is based on 7-day incidents.

There were 74 incidents recorded in 2019 from a combined workforce of 17,138 operatives from 226 full contracting members.

This represents the lowest number of injuries ever reported (see Table 1 on the opposite page) by NASC members.

It is right to celebrate this achievement and recognise the outstanding and continued efforts made by NASC members to ensure their operatives are working to the highest safety standards.

The NASC's Standing Committees too deserve recognition for their work, including the production of new and updated scaffolding guidance on a multitude of issues, and launching new initiatives such as a suite of health and safety-focused toolbox talks and a mental health policy guidance note.

These activities, and many more besides, help to raise the bar for safety in the scaffolding industry.

However, the NASC and its members will by no means rest on their laurels. 74 incidents is still 74 incidents too many and lessons can of course be learned.

In this report, the NASC has once again analysed the incidents reported – see tables and commentary on the following pages – this year delving further into the accident returns than ever before.

The analysis culminates in the Key Findings and Next Steps summary (pages 19 and 20), which we hope will result in even fewer incidents in the next NASC Safety Report.

Lastly, we will once again share the incident data contained within this report 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.

## FATALITIES TO OPERATIVES

There were no fatalities reported by the NASC membership during 2019. This is the seventh year running that the NASC has been able to report no fatalities to scaffolding operatives.

**74**  
INCIDENTS IN 2019



**TABLE 1: NASC Accident Figures – Yearly Summary**

| Year        | Number of Companies | Number of Operatives | Incidents  | Incidence Rate | Frequency Rate | Fatalities | Fatal Incidence Rate |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|------------|----------------------|
| 1978        | 40                  | 7,244                | 596        | 82.27          | 4.11           | 2          | 0.27                 |
| 1979        | 44                  | 8,510                | 655        | 76.97          | 3.85           | 3          | 0.35                 |
| 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                    |
| <b>2018</b> | <b>225</b>          | <b>16,758</b>        | <b>113</b> | <b>6.74</b>    | <b>0.35</b>    | <b>0</b>   | <b>0</b>             |
| <b>2019</b> | <b>226</b>          | <b>17,138</b>        | <b>74</b>  | <b>4.32</b>    | <b>0.22</b>    | <b>0</b>   | <b>0</b>             |

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 TO OPERATIVES

The 2019 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

There were 74 injuries suffered by NASC operatives during 2019. Of these, 13 were recorded as Major, requiring hospital treatment, with the remaining 61 recorded as over 7-days.

These figures are both the lowest on record.

Slips, Trips and Falls on the same level (STFs) accounts for the majority of the reported incidents - 28. This is 15th consecutive year that STFs have been the predominant cause of injury to operatives, accounting for 21% of all injuries reported in 2019.

Of the 28 incidents, 25 occurred on site. The cause of these incidents can be broken into two categories; poor housekeeping – uneven surfaces, wet surfaces and holes and obstructions such as waste and materials, and individual errors – with operatives not taking proper care of their own working environment.

STFs are explored in greater detail on the Key Findings and Next Steps pages (19 and 20).

Falls from height are down from 22 in 2018 to 12 in 2019.

The number of falls reported from scaffolds / working platforms at or above 4m was 1, down from 4 in 2018. The number of falls from scaffolds / working platforms less than 4m was 11, down from 18 in 2018.

The cause of these under 4m falls range from operatives losing their balance while erecting and dismantling scaffolding to losing their footing on ladders.

The NASC is aware that all falls from height have the potential to cause serious injury or loss of life. This is why the NASC places such emphasis on raising awareness of its safety guidance SG4 Preventing Falls in Scaffolding Operations.

Furthermore, the NASC has published an SG4 Poster aimed at clients, contractors, subcontractors and site managers making them aware of safe working practices.

This Poster is free to download from the NASC website.

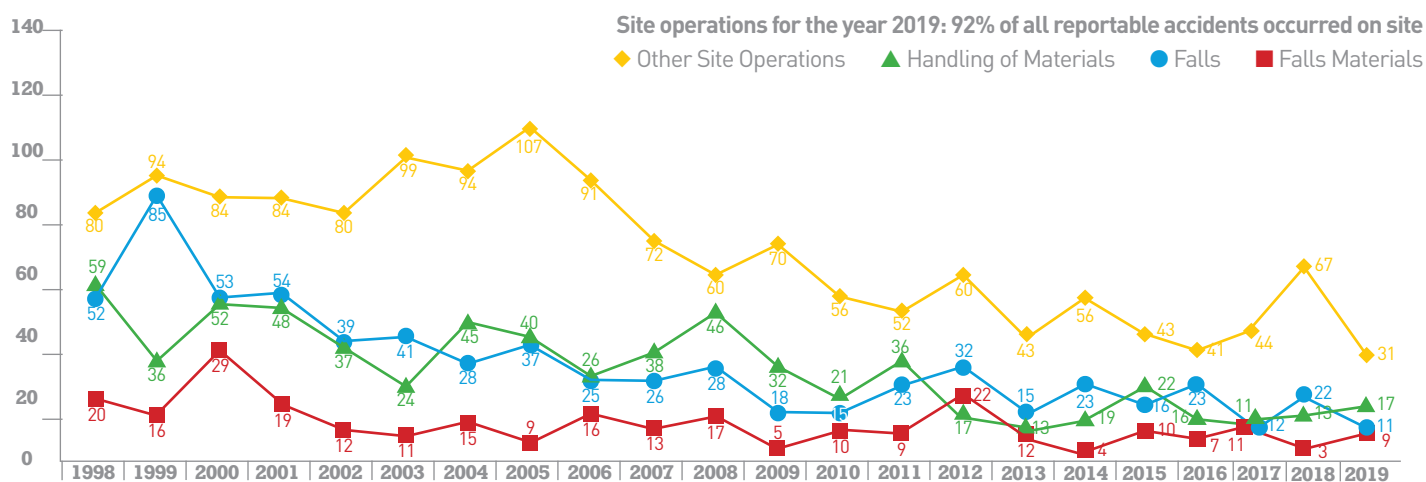
## THIRD PARTIES

The number of incidents involving third parties in 2019 was 7, down from 16, including one fatal injury, in 2018.

## MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

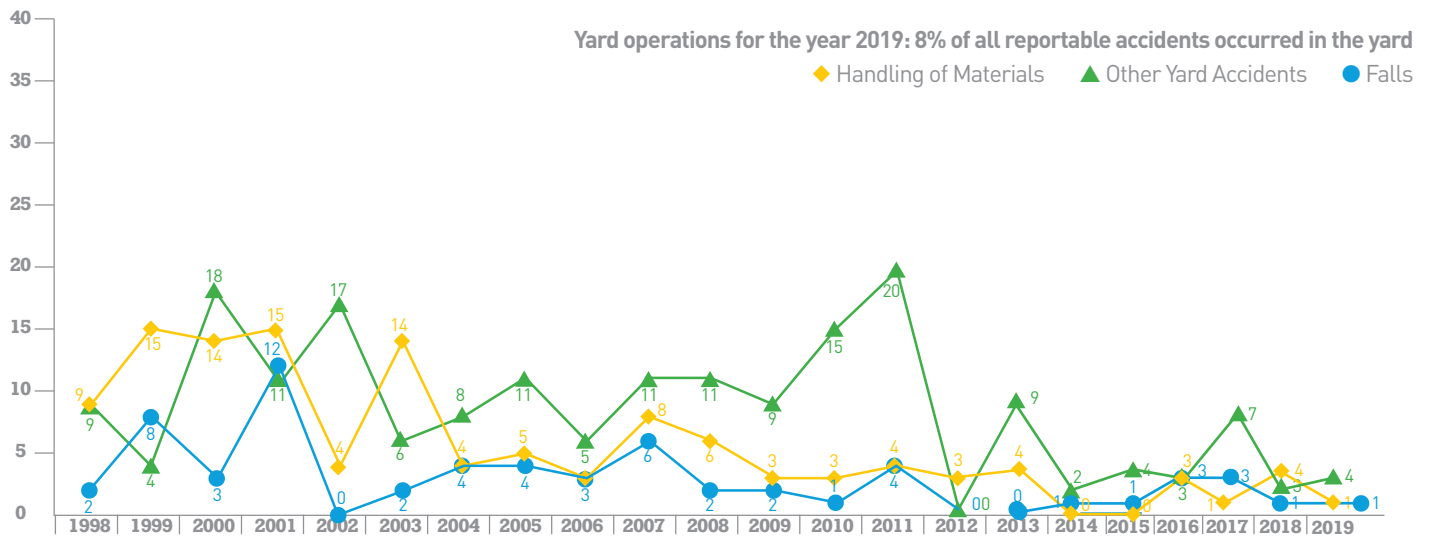
Two members of the public were struck by falling tools (a scaffolding podge hammer and a spanner). On both occasions, the scaffolding from which the tools fell were sited close to pedestrian footpaths on which the people were walking. These individuals suffered minor cuts and abrasions, were taken to A&E and both made full recoveries.

**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 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         | 2         | 4         |
| Working Platforms                        |                       |       |          |          |                    |          |          |          |            | 1         |           | 1         |
| Ladder                                   |                       |       |          |          |                    |          |          |          |            |           | 2         | 2         |
| Fall in yard                             |                       |       |          |          |                    |          |          |          |            |           |           |           |
| Wagons                                   |                       |       |          |          |                    |          |          |          |            |           |           |           |
| Breakage i.e. displacement boards        |                       |       |          |          |                    |          | 2        | 2        |            |           |           |           |
| Other                                    |                       |       |          |          |                    |          |          |          |            | 1         | 4         | 5         |
| <b>SUB TOTAL</b>                         |                       |       |          |          |                    |          | <b>3</b> | <b>3</b> |            | <b>4</b>  | <b>8</b>  | <b>12</b> |
| <b>FALLS OF MATERIALS</b>                |                       |       |          |          |                    |          |          |          |            |           |           |           |
| Scaffolds                                |                       |       | 1        | 1        |                    |          |          |          |            | 1         | 3         | 4         |
| Working Platforms                        |                       |       | 1        | 1        |                    |          |          |          |            | 2         | 3         | 5         |
| Ladder                                   |                       |       |          |          |                    |          |          |          |            |           |           |           |
| Fall in yard                             |                       |       |          |          |                    |          |          |          |            |           |           |           |
| Wagons                                   |                       |       |          |          |                    |          |          |          |            |           |           |           |
| Breakage i.e. displacement boards        |                       |       |          |          |                    |          |          |          |            |           |           |           |
| Other                                    |                       |       |          |          |                    | 1        |          | 1        |            |           |           |           |
| <b>SUB TOTAL</b>                         |                       |       | <b>2</b> | <b>2</b> |                    | <b>1</b> |          | <b>1</b> |            | <b>3</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>OTHER ACCIDENTS</b>                   |                       |       |          |          |                    |          |          |          |            |           |           |           |
| Manual Handling                          |                       |       |          |          |                    |          | 1        | 1        |            |           | 18        | 18        |
| Slips, Trips and Falls on the same level |                       |       |          |          |                    |          | 2        | 2        |            | 5         | 23        | 28        |
| Fire/Explosion                           |                       |       |          |          |                    |          |          |          |            |           |           |           |
| Work equipment                           |                       |       |          |          |                    |          |          |          |            | 1         | 5         | 6         |
| Electricity                              |                       |       |          |          |                    |          |          |          |            |           |           |           |
| Other                                    |                       |       |          |          |                    |          |          |          |            |           | 1         | 1         |
| <b>SUB TOTAL</b>                         |                       |       |          |          |                    |          | <b>3</b> | <b>3</b> |            | <b>6</b>  | <b>47</b> | <b>53</b> |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                             |                       |       | <b>2</b> | <b>2</b> |                    | <b>1</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>7</b> |            | <b>13</b> | <b>61</b> | <b>74</b> |



# ANALYSIS OF ACCIDENTS

Sharnbrook Viaduct, Bedfordshire.  
Supplied by JFE Attridge Scaffolding Services Co Ltd

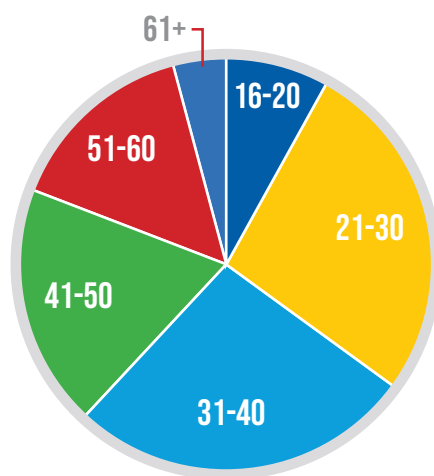
Looking in detail at the relationship between individually reported accidents and the demographic and skill level of the scaffolder in comparison to the previous year's statistics is vital for learning and modifying safety teaching / guidance notes to improve safety standards.

As part of the NASC's analysis of the annual accident statistics, the review takes account of the relationship between individual groups of scaffolders/operatives based on their age range and training.

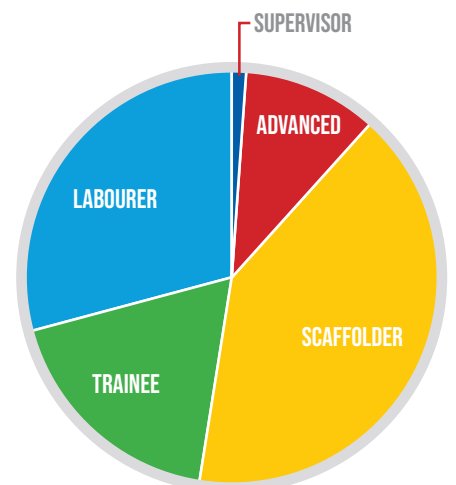
Table 4 shows the highest number of accidents by age were suffered by scaffolders/operatives in the 21-30 and 31-40 bracket.

It also shows scaffolders suffered the greatest number of accidents by grade, followed by Labourers and trainees. Drivers suffered six accidents, while Supervisors accounted for three accidents.

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       | STF      | ELEC   | FIRE | OTHER | 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        | 7D       | MI       | 7D          |
| 16-20         | SUPERVISOR |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           |          |          |             |
|               | ADVANCED   |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           |          |          |             |
|               | SCAFFOLDER |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           |          |          |             |
|               | TRAINEE    |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          | 1        |        |      |       |       |    |    |           | 2        |          | 3           |
|               | LABOURER   |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           |          | 3        | 3           |
|               | DRIVER     |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           |          |          |             |
| 21-30         | SUPERVISOR |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           |          |          |             |
|               | ADVANCED   |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           |          |          |             |
|               | SCAFFOLDER |          |          |          |    | 1        |                |    |          | 1        |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           | 4        |          | 7           |
|               | TRAINEE    |          | 1        |          |    |          |                |    |          |          | 1        |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           |          | 2        | 5           |
|               | LABOURER   |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          | 1        |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           | 2        | 1 4      | 8           |
|               | DRIVER     |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           |          |          |             |
| 31-40         | SUPERVISOR |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           |          |          |             |
|               | ADVANCED   | 1        |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        | 1    |       |       |    |    |           |          |          | 2           |
|               | SCAFFOLDER |          |          | 1        |    |          |                |    |          |          |          | 1        |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           | 2        | 1 1      | 7           |
|               | TRAINEE    |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        | 2    |       |       |    |    |           | 1 2      |          | 5           |
|               | LABOURER   |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           | 2 1      | 1        | 6           |
|               | DRIVER     |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           |          |          |             |
| 41-50         | SUPERVISOR |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           |          |          |             |
|               | ADVANCED   |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           | 1        |          | 1           |
|               | SCAFFOLDER |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           | 1        |          | 8           |
|               | TRAINEE    |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           | 1        |          | 1           |
|               | LABOURER   |          |          |          |    |          | 1              |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           | 1 1      |          | 4           |
|               | DRIVER     |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           |          |          |             |
| 51-60         | SUPERVISOR |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           | 1        |          | 1           |
|               | ADVANCED   |          | 1        |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           |          | 2        | 3           |
|               | SCAFFOLDER | 1        |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           | 3        | 2        | 6           |
|               | TRAINEE    |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           |          |          |             |
|               | LABOURER   |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           | 1        |          | 1           |
|               | DRIVER     |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           |          |          |             |
|               | MANAGER    |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           |          |          |             |
| 61+           | SUPERVISOR |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           |          |          |             |
|               | ADVANCED   |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           | 1        |          | 2           |
|               | SCAFFOLDER |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           | 1        |          | 1           |
|               | TRAINEE    |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           |          |          |             |
|               | LABOURER   |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           |          |          |             |
|               | DRIVER     |          |          |          |    |          |                |    |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |      |       |       |    |    |           |          |          |             |
| <b>TOTALS</b> |            | <b>2</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>1</b> |    | <b>2</b> |                |    | <b>1</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> |        |      |       |       |    |    | <b>18</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>1 74</b> |

Total Number of Falls from Height (Operatives) ..... 12  
 Highest reported Fall of Operatives ..... 4m  
 Number of Falls from Scaffold and Working Platforms (SC/WP) ..... 5  
 Number of Falls under 4m ..... 11  
 Number of Falls at 4m or above ..... 1  
 Number of Falls from Ladders ..... 2  
 Number of Reported Falls from Scaffolds Arrested by Safety Harness ..... 0

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

# 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.

In 2019, there were 7 incidents reported for injuries to third parties and 2 incidents reported for injuries to members of the public. The incidents for third parties related to falls from height (3), slips, trips and falls on the same level (2), falls of materials (1) and manual handling (1). Injuries to the public related to falls of materials (2).

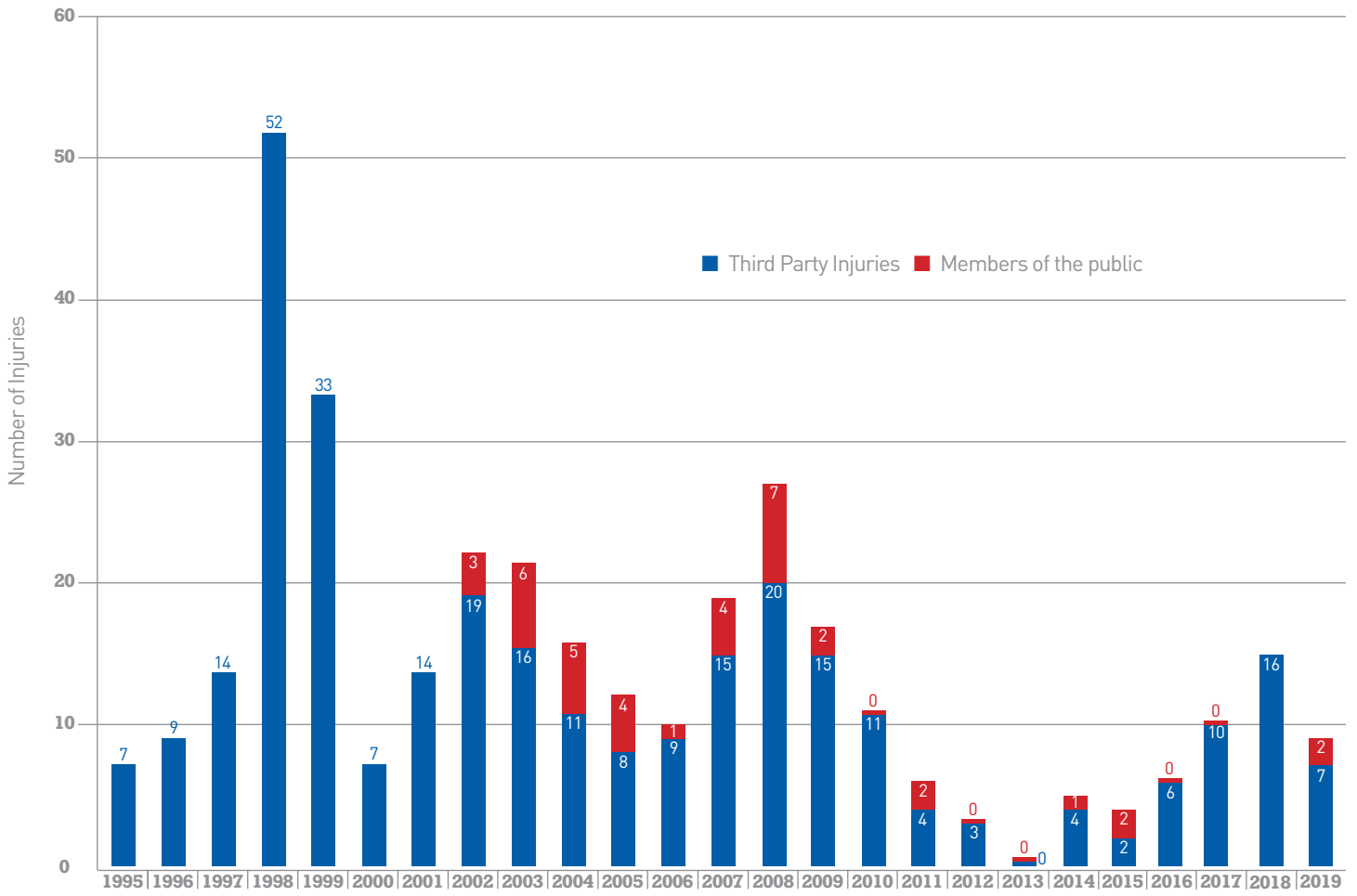
## FREQUENCY OF ACCIDENTS IN DIFFERENT SIZED COMPANIES

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).



**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)         | 59                  | 704                   | 29                          | 733               | 3  | 0                          | 0  | 0                                   | 0                                 | 0                           | 0                            | 0               |
| 21 - 50 (SMALL)             | 91                  | 2,822                 | 108                         | 2,930             | 20   | 0                          | 0  | 0                                   | 3                                 | 0                           | 0                            | 0               |
| 51 - 100 (SMALL - MEDIUM)   | 41                  | 2,751                 | 132                         | 2,883             | 22   | 0                          | 1  | 0                                   | 2                                 | 0                           | 0                            | 0               |
| 101 - 200 (MEDIUM)          | 21                  | 2,550                 | 167                         | 2,717             | 18   | 0                          | 0  | 0                                   | 2                                 | 0                           | 0                            | 0               |
| 201 - 1000 (MEDIUM - LARGE) | 12                  | 4,542                 | 163                         | 4,705             | 9  | 0                          | 1  | 0                                   | 0                                 | 0                           | 0                            | 0               |
| 1001+ (LARGE)               | 2                   | 3,120                 | 50                          | 3,170             | 2  | 0                          | 0  | 0                                   | 0                                 | 0                           | 0                            | 0               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                | <b>226</b>          | <b>16,489</b>         | <b>649</b>                  | <b>17,138</b>     | <b>74</b>                                  | <b>0</b>                   | <b>2</b>                                   | <b>0</b>                            | <b>7</b>                          | <b>0</b>                    | <b>0</b>                     | <b>0</b>        |



ARUP Building Museum of Zoology, University of Cambridge, Supplied by Connect Scaffolding Ltd

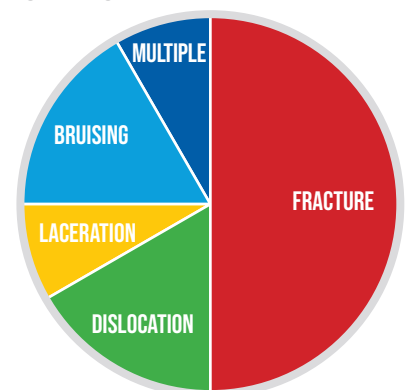
# ANALYSIS OF INJURIES TO OPERATIVES

The following tables give a breakdown of all the injuries reported, identifying the type of injury sustained and the part of the body affected.

Table 7.1 shows the most common injury sustained was a fracture (24), followed by sprain (15) and bruising (7). The most common body part injured was feet, toes & ankles (22), followed by hand, fingers and wrist (18) and leg, hip and groin (9).

Table 7 is subdivided into six separate tables (7.1 to 7.6) identifying different types of accident (Falling from height, Falling Materials, Manual Handling, Slips, Trips and Falls, and others).

## INJURIES RESULTING FROM FALLS FROM HEIGHT





**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 | GRAND TOTAL |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|------------------------|----------|----------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------|-------------|
| FRACTURE           |          |          |          | 1               | 2                      | 2        | 1        | 8                      | 2                 | 8                    |          | 24          |
| AMPUTATION         |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          |                        |                   |                      |          |             |
| DISLOCATION        |          |          |          | 2               |                        |          | 1        |                        |                   |                      |          | 3           |
| TEMP. SIGHT LOSS   |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          |                        |                   |                      |          |             |
| BURN               |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          |                        |                   |                      |          |             |
| PENETRATION        |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          |                        |                   | 1                    |          | 1           |
| STRAIN             |          |          |          | 2               |                        | 3        | 1        |                        |                   |                      |          | 6           |
| SPRAIN             |          |          |          |                 |                        |          | 1        |                        | 2                 | 12                   |          | 15          |
| ABRASION           |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          |                        | 1                 |                      |          | 1           |
| LACERATION         |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          | 3                      | 2                 |                      |          | 5           |
| CUT                |          | 1        | 1        |                 |                        |          |          | 4                      |                   |                      |          | 6           |
| BRUISING           |          |          | 1        | 1               | 2                      | 1        |          |                        | 2                 |                      |          | 7           |
| MULTIPLE           |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          | 2                      |                   | 1                    | 1        | 4           |
| OTHER              |          |          |          | 1               |                        |          |          | 1                      |                   |                      |          | 2           |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>7</b>        | <b>4</b>               | <b>6</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>18</b>              | <b>9</b>          | <b>22</b>            | <b>1</b> | <b>74</b>   |

**Table 7.2: Falls from Height**

|                    | EYES     | FACE     | HEAD     | NECK / SHOULDER | RIBS / CHEST / STOMACH | BACK     | ARM      | HAND / FINGERS / WRIST | LEG / HIP / GROIN | FEET / TOES / ANKLES | MULTIPLE | GRAND TOTAL |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|------------------------|----------|----------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------|-------------|
| FRACTURE           |          |          |          |                 | 2                      | 1        |          | 1                      |                   | 2                    |          | 6           |
| AMPUTATION         |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          |                        |                   |                      |          |             |
| DISLOCATION        |          |          |          | 1               |                        |          | 1        |                        |                   |                      |          | 2           |
| BURN               |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          |                        |                   |                      |          |             |
| PENETRATION        |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          |                        |                   |                      |          |             |
| STRAIN             |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          |                        |                   |                      |          |             |
| SPRAIN             |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          |                        |                   |                      |          |             |
| ABRASION           |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          |                        |                   |                      |          |             |
| LACERATION         |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          |                        | 1                 |                      |          | 1           |
| CUT                |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          |                        |                   |                      |          |             |
| BRUISING           |          |          |          |                 |                        | 1        |          |                        | 1                 |                      |          | 2           |
| MULTIPLE           |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          |                        |                   |                      | 1        | 1           |
| OTHER              |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          |                        |                   |                      |          |             |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b>        | <b>2</b>               | <b>2</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b>               | <b>2</b>          | <b>2</b>             | <b>1</b> | <b>12</b>   |

**Table 7.3: Falling Materials**

|                    | EYES     | FACE     | HEAD     | NECK / SHOULDER | RIBS / CHEST / STOMACH | BACK     | ARM      | HAND / FINGERS / WRIST | LEG / HIP / GROIN | FEET / TOES / ANKLES | MULTIPLE | GRAND TOTAL |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|------------------------|----------|----------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------|-------------|
| FRACTURE           |          |          |          |                 |                        | 1        | 1        | 1                      | 1                 | 3                    |          | 7           |
| AMPUTATION         |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          |                        |                   |                      |          |             |
| DISLOCATION        |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          |                        |                   |                      |          |             |
| BURN               |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          |                        |                   |                      |          |             |
| PENETRATION        |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          |                        |                   |                      |          |             |
| STRAIN             |          |          |          | 1               |                        |          |          |                        |                   |                      |          | 1           |
| SPRAIN             |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          |                        |                   |                      |          |             |
| ABRASION           |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          |                        |                   |                      |          |             |
| LACERATION         |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          |                        |                   |                      |          |             |
| CUT                |          |          | 1        |                 |                        |          |          |                        |                   |                      |          | 1           |
| BRUISING           |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          |                        |                   |                      |          |             |
| MULTIPLE           |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          |                        |                   |                      |          |             |
| OTHER              |          |          |          |                 |                        |          |          |                        |                   |                      |          |             |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b>        | <b>0</b>               | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b>               | <b>1</b>          | <b>3</b>             | <b>0</b> | <b>9</b>    |

**Table 7.4: Manual Handling Injuries**

|                    | EYES     | FACE     | HEAD     | NECK /<br>SHOULDER | RIBS / CHEST<br>/STOMACH | BACK     | ARM      | HAND /<br>FINGERS /<br>WRIST | LEG / HIP /<br>GROIN | FEET / TOES /<br>ANKLES | MULTIPLE | GRAND<br>TOTAL |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------|----------|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------------|
| FRACTURE           |          |          |          | 1                  |                          |          |          | 3                            |                      |                         |          | 4              |
| AMPUTATION         |          |          |          |                    |                          |          |          |                              |                      |                         |          |                |
| DISLOCATION        |          |          |          | 1                  |                          |          |          |                              |                      |                         |          | 1              |
| BURN               |          |          |          |                    |                          |          |          |                              |                      |                         |          |                |
| PENETRATION        |          |          |          |                    |                          |          |          |                              |                      |                         |          |                |
| STRAIN             |          |          |          |                    |                          | 2        | 1        |                              |                      |                         |          | 3              |
| SPRAIN             |          |          |          |                    |                          |          | 1        |                              |                      |                         |          | 1              |
| ABRASION           |          |          |          |                    |                          |          |          |                              |                      |                         |          |                |
| LACERATION         |          |          |          |                    |                          |          |          | 2                            |                      |                         |          | 2              |
| CUT                |          | 1        |          |                    |                          |          |          | 3                            |                      |                         |          | 4              |
| BRUISING           |          |          |          |                    |                          |          |          |                              |                      |                         |          |                |
| MULTIPLE           |          |          |          |                    |                          |          |          | 2                            |                      |                         |          | 2              |
| OTHER              |          |          |          |                    |                          |          |          | 1                            |                      |                         |          | 1              |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>2</b>           | <b>0</b>                 | <b>2</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>11</b>                    | <b>0</b>             | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b> | <b>18</b>      |

**Table 7.5: Slips Trips and Falls**

|                    | EYES     | FACE     | HEAD     | NECK /<br>SHOULDER | RIBS / CHEST<br>/STOMACH | BACK     | ARM      | HAND /<br>FINGERS /<br>WRIST | LEG / HIP /<br>GROIN | FEET / TOES /<br>ANKLES | MULTIPLE | GRAND<br>TOTAL |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------|----------|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------------|
| FRACTURE           |          |          |          |                    |                          |          |          | 2                            | 1                    | 3                       |          | 6              |
| AMPUTATION         |          |          |          |                    |                          |          |          |                              |                      |                         |          |                |
| DISLOCATION        |          |          |          |                    |                          |          |          |                              |                      |                         |          |                |
| BURN               |          |          |          |                    |                          |          |          |                              |                      |                         |          |                |
| PENETRATION        |          |          |          |                    |                          |          |          |                              |                      |                         |          |                |
| STRAIN             |          |          |          | 1                  |                          | 1        |          |                              |                      |                         |          | 2              |
| SPRAIN             |          |          |          |                    |                          |          |          |                              | 1                    | 12                      |          | 13             |
| ABRASION           |          |          |          |                    |                          |          |          |                              | 1                    |                         |          | 1              |
| LACERATION         |          |          |          |                    |                          |          |          |                              | 1                    |                         |          | 1              |
| CUT                |          |          |          |                    |                          |          |          |                              |                      |                         |          |                |
| BRUISING           |          |          | 1        | 1                  | 1                        |          |          |                              |                      |                         |          | 3              |
| MULTIPLE           |          |          |          |                    |                          |          |          |                              |                      | 1                       |          | 1              |
| OTHER              |          |          |          | 1                  |                          |          |          |                              |                      |                         |          | 1              |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>3</b>           | <b>1</b>                 | <b>1</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>2</b>                     | <b>4</b>             | <b>16</b>               | <b>0</b> | <b>28</b>      |

**Table 7.6: Other causes of Injuries**

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

# KEY FINDINGS AND NEXT STEPS

This page and the following page summarise the key findings of the 2019 accident data and action points identified by the NASC intended to reduce incidents in the future.

## 1: THERE WERE 74 INCIDENTS RECORDED IN 2019, DOWN FROM 113 IN 2018 – A 35% REDUCTION YEAR ON YEAR

The total number of incidents reported is the lowest ever recorded by the NASC, which is a great achievement. It's also encouraging to see a return to the downward trend in incidents year on year following last year's slight increase.

Additionally, it is pleasing to be able to report no fatalities to NASC scaffolding operatives, for the 7th year in succession.

Whilst acknowledging that some accidents will happen – irrespective of training and safety protocols – the NASC believes more can be done to reduce the number of incidents being reported by the membership.

It is hoped that the development of the NASC Toolbox Talk Suite will influence the industry in getting the message across to all scaffolding operatives on a wide range of health, safety and environmental subjects.

These toolbox talks will be updated annually using the information collected from the NASC contracting members and published in the annual safety report.

## 2: SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS ON THE SAME LEVEL (STFS) IS ONCE AGAIN THE MOST COMMON CAUSE OF INJURY.

There were 28 STFs recorded in 2019, representing 38% of the total accidents reported. While this is a reduction on the 49 STFs reported in 2018, it is still the leading cause of accidents and injuries.

Of the 28 STFs, 25 occurred on site and the remaining three took place in members' yards.

Here is a breakdown of these incidents:

### On site

#### Poor client housekeeping:

Trip on uneven surfaces/holes = 5  
Site waste and materials = 4  
Slip on wet surface = 1  
Icy surfaces = 2

#### Scaffolding operative error:

Slipped on surfaces = 5  
Tripped on working platforms gaps/holes = 4  
Tripped on scaffolding fittings = 2  
Collision with fixed object = 1  
Slip on scaffold stair case = 1

### Yards:

Slipped on scaffolding storage platform = 1  
Tripped on materials in yard = 1  
Walking backwards = 1

Whilst acknowledging that STFs will happen, the NASC believes that more can be done to reduce the number of incidents onsite and in the yard. These include: the revised SG31:20 Management of Slip and Trips and the recent development of the NASC Toolbox Talks Suite, both are available on the NASC online shop.

The NASC will continue to work with its members and the wider scaffolding industry to raise awareness of the danger STFs pose to operatives on site in yards and particularly when working at height.

Additionally, the NASC continues to work with the HSE to develop campaigns aimed at reducing STFs across the construction industry as a whole.

## 3: MANUAL HANDLING INCIDENTS IN 2019 ROSE TO 18, UP FROM 17 IN 2018.

There were 18 manual handling incidents reported, up 1 from 2018. The main cause of these incidents was lifting boards and tube from platforms and stacks when erecting and dismantling scaffolds due to lifting, pulling, pinching and crushing resulting in injuries to hands, fingers, wrists, back and feet.

There were 3 recorded incidents arising from chaining, when scaffolding tubes are passed down from one platform to another by operatives, that resulted in tube causing injuries to fingers, hand, pulled back muscles, and feet.

The most common injury reported was to hands, fingers and wrist 11, with neck & shoulder 2, arms 2, back 2 and face 1. Manual handling has the potential to cause a serious injury to scaffolding operatives. The NASC is constantly raising awareness of its safety guidance SG6 Manual Handling in the Scaffolding Industry.

## 4: FALLS OF OPERATIVES FROM HEIGHT DOWN TO 12 IN 2019, FROM 22 IN 2018.

There were 12 falls of operatives in 2019 from scaffold/working platforms with 1 above and 11 below 4m height, with 11 of these falls being on site and 1 incident recorded for the yard.

Further analysis shows that the 11 recorded incidents are attributed to working on site where scaffolding operatives working on scaffolding / working platforms have lost their balance and fell whilst erecting and dismantling scaffolding, as well as losing their footing on ladders. There was one reported incident where a scaffolding operative lost their balance and fell onto the guardrail which gave way causing him to fall off the working platform. The guardrail had been altered by other trades.

It must be pointed out that scaffolds must not be tampered with or altered by any trade, and only a competent scaffolder authorised by the scaffolding contractor can do so. The client or Principal Contractor must ensure that no alterations are made to the scaffold by themselves or other trades, see the NASC SG36:18 Unauthorised modifications to scaffolding.



The breakdown of these incidents where scaffolders have fallen are from scaffolds 2, ladders 2, fixed stair cases 2, working platform 1 and 3 where a scaffolder fell onto the working platform from a fixed adjoining structure.

Falls from height have the potential to cause a serious injury or loss of life, whether it is a fall from a wagon, ladders, platforms or scaffold. The NASC is constantly raising awareness of its safety guidance SG4 Preventing Falls in Scaffolding Operations.

The current SG4 Preventing Falls in Scaffolding Operations is being reviewed by the SG4 Working Group made up of NASC Health and Safety Committee Members and a representative from the Health and Safety Executive. The revised safety guidance is expected to be available in 2020.

The new SG4 Poster for Site Managers, Contractors and Supervisors is available, and free to order and/or download from the NASC online shop [www.nasc.org.uk/shop](http://www.nasc.org.uk/shop).

### **5: FALLS OF MATERIALS FROM HEIGHT IN 2019 ROSE TO 9, UP FROM 4 IN 2018.**

The number of falls of materials is up from 4 to 9 incidents reported in 2019. All of these recorded incidents were onsite, where scaffolding operatives have been struck by scaffolding tubes and boards while modifying and dismantling scaffolds, such as losing hold of boards and tubes when passing to the lower platform, not tying off scaffolding tubes correctly when using a gin wheel and rope and a Safelink Scaffold Board retainer (plastic) fell from a working platform.

Falls of materials from height have the potential to cause a serious injury or loss of life, that the NASC takes seriously in that safety guidance SG9 Use, Inspection and Maintenance of Lifting Equipment and Accessories for Lifting in Scaffolding is being revised and will be available in 2020.

The new NASC Toolbox talk suite includes these points and can be used to refresh operative training. The toolbox talk suite will be updated annually to improve on the learning from the NASC Members' annual accident returns.

### **6: NUMBER OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING THIRD PARTIES IN 2019 WAS 7, DOWN FROM 16 INCLUDING ONE FATAL INJURY IN 2018.**

This is encouraging news that injuries to third parties is down from 16 to 7 in 2019. It's important to stress that once the scaffold has been handed over to the client (NASC safety guidance SG35 Handover of Scaffold Structures), the scaffold becomes the client's responsibility to manage the day to day use, to ensure that all persons using the scaffold are inducted and / or trained in the safe use of this temporary working equipment.

To assist clients in carrying out their responsibilities to those working on their behalf, the Construction Industry Scaffolders Record Scheme (CISRS) has developed a one-day Scaffolding Awareness course for all trades, surveyors, site managers and anyone who is likely to work on scaffolding.

The course will provide attendees with a better understanding and appreciation of the potential dangers of working at height on scaffolds, enabling them to identify the core components of a safe scaffold. Those successfully completing the course will be issued with a CISRS Scaffolding Awareness certificate.

# HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE COMMENT

The clarity and consistency of the NASC reports on safety sustains our ability to improve the content, quality and awareness of health & safety amongst our members, clients, contractors and third parties. Our members' transparency provides vital statistics to the HSE supporting their plans for improvements in industry standards too.

This year's report shows a significant reduction during 2019/2020 of major injuries of 40% (from 22-13) and less

serious injuries by 33% (from 91 to 61). These reductions are particularly welcome given that over the past seven years NASC contracting company membership has grown by 12% (from 201 to 226); including a growth in total operative numbers from 14,098 to 17,138 (an increase of 21%). As the NASC membership continues to grow the total number of incidents has reduced by 45% (from 134 to 74) and importantly fatalities have remained at 0 for another year.

Our Commitment to health, safety and training is unwavering in support of our members as we work to continue to raise standards across all aspects of scaffolding works on site and sustain our growing membership as a vital pillar of 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



Liverpool Hospital. Supplied by SpanSet Ltd.





# OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO...

All NASC full contracting members for their assistance with this Safety Report:

3 D Scaffolding Ltd  
A&A Scaffolding Plus Eight (2003) Ltd  
Abbey Scaffolding (Swindon) Ltd  
Abbi Access Services Ltd  
Access 2 Limited T/A Sandwell Scaffold  
Access Solutions Scaffolding Ltd  
Ace Scaffolding (M/CR) Ltd  
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Castle Scaffolding (Wales) Ltd  
CCB Scaffolding Supplies Ltd  
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Design Scaffolding (Bristol) Ltd  
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Elite Scaffolding (South West) Ltd  
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Formula Scaffolding Ltd  
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JR Scaffold Services Ltd  
K Scaffolding Ltd  
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Kirk Scaffolding Ltd  
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Layher Ltd  
Lenehan Scaffolding (Preston) Ltd  
Liddiard Scaffolding Ltd  
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Montana Scaffolding Ltd

The NASC members listings are correct at the time of going to press. For a current list of full and information members please consult the NASC website: [www.nasc.org.uk](http://www.nasc.org.uk)

MPT Scaffolding Ltd  
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