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NATIONAL ACCESS AND
SCAFFOLDING CONFEDERATION

2023

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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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A guide to good practice for tube and fitting and system scaffolding

November 2022



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NASC.ORG.UK/SHOP/

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



We are fast approaching our 80th Anniversary year in 2025, and when we look back on our previous years, our figures for 2022 speak for themselves. The figures prove that our members are proactive in their approach to improving Health and Safety for their employees and also for the wider construction industry who use our scaffolds on a daily basis.

We have seen a 10% increase in the number of scaffolders within our contractor membership. All contractor members are continually audited to ensure the highest H&S standards, which can be borne out by the annual accident statistics, which have shown an overall reduction in RIDDOR accidents this year of 26% (and a 63% reduction in injuries to the 16-20 age bracket, which also shows the importance of arranging early CISRS training, such as COTS, for trainees and labourers). The updated SG6 Manual handling suite should assist in reducing incidents further.

In 2021 there were 90 RIDDORs whereas in 2022, due to our members' proactive H&S driven approach, there were 67 RIDDORs. I'd like to thank each and every one of our

Members for sending in their Accident Returns in order to produce the NASC Safety Report 2023 and their continuing efforts in preventing harm.

NASC has been producing the annual Safety Report since the 1970's and as you will see, within this year's NASC Safety Report, our Members have once again raised the standard for safety within the scaffolding industry. This year our Member Companies also achieved the lowest Accident Incident Rates and Accident Frequency Rates in the NASC's history (going back to 1975), which is a fantastic achievement by our membership.

Our Safety Report yet again proves that by having a fully audited membership, along with the support we give our members (including guidance notes, user guides, bulletins, and Technical and H&S advice lines), raises standards within our industry. However, we are not complacent, and we will continue to drive best practice in our industry.

Following this proactive approach to Health and Safety, the NASC and our membership are already targeting the hazards and risks

identified in our Safety Report (such as work at height, manual handling, prevention of slips and trips, and protection of the public). For instance, with targeted guidance on Work at Height such as the newly revised *SG4:22 Preventing falls in scaffolding* and *TG1:22 Temporary edge protection*, the NASC and our Membership are reducing risks for the scaffolding and wider construction industry.

Clients, Principal Contractors, and the UK Government are now looking forward to the implementation of the Building Safety Act with the requirement to ensure that supply chains are safe, compliant and competent. The NASC is long established as setting the standard within the Scaffolding Industry, with the hard work from our staff, and the volunteers on our committees, we produce key industry guidance such as *SG4*, *TG1* and *TG20*. By employing a NASC Member you can have the confidence that your Scaffolding Contractor is safe, compliant and competent.

That is why **#ItHasToBeNASC**

David Brown, NASC President

COMPARISON OF NASC/HSE ACCIDENT STATISTICS

Comparison of NASC Accident Statistics, with Construction Industry Accident Statistics, supplied by the HSE



The NASC has been comparing member companies' RIDDOR reportable accident statistics with those produced by the HSE for all construction industry accidents since 2005.

It is a membership requirement that all contractor members report RIDDOR accidents to the NASC, with records going back to 1975.

The table below directly compares NASC contractor members' accident statistics against the overall construction industry statistics compiled by the HSE, from the RIDDOR reports that they receive.

The table also identifies any fatalities to NASC scaffolding operatives, drivers, and yard staff, which have been reported by NASC members over the last 10 years.

In line with HSE reporting procedures, the NASC's Safety Reports are based on RIDDOR reportable accidents (specified injuries and those which result in the incapacitation of a worker for more than seven days).

Unfortunately, we have not had figures from the rest of the industry for many years as these figures are no longer made available by the regulatory authority.

	2013/14			2014/15			2015/16			2016/17			2017/18			2018/19			2019/20			2020/21			2021/22			2022/23		
	Fatal Injury	Specified Injury	Over 3 day	Fatal Injury	Specified Injury	Over 3 day	Fatal Injury	Specified Injury	Over 7 day	Fatal Injury	Specified Injury	Over 7 day	Fatal Injury	Specified Injury	Over 7 day	Fatal Injury	Specified Injury	Over 7 day	Fatal Injury	Specified Injury	Over 7 day	Fatal Injury	Specified Injury	Over 7 day	Fatal Injury	Specified Injury	Over 7 day	Fatal Injury	Specified Injury	Over 7 day

Statistics derived from the NASC annual returns of reportable accidents

Number of NASC Operatives	13,749			14,988			14,954			17,005			16,433			16,758			17,138			16,084			15,620			17,315		
NASC	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	0	13	54

Construction industry statistics provided by HSE from RIDDOR reports

Construction Industry General Statistics	42	1,900	3,293	35	1,833	3,581	43			30			38			30			40			39			30					
Scaffolding Industry	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.

NOTE: The HSE now use the phrase specified injury rather than major injury: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/reportable-incidents.htm>

NOTE: The HSE state that the numbers for 2020/21 and to a lesser extent 2021/22 are affected by the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. While 2019/20 falls largely outside of the pandemic period, disruption to data collection processes in early 2020 may be a contributory factor to changes in data in 2019/20. This should be considered when comparing across time periods. For more details see our HSE reports on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on health and safety statistics: [Statistics - Impact of the coronavirus pandemic on health and safety statistics \(hse.gov.uk\)](#).

NASC ACCIDENT STATISTICS IN 2022

The National Access & Scaffolding Confederation (NASC) has been collecting data from its members since 1975 and producing an annual Safety Report. Reports are published on our website and are accessible for everyone: nasc.org.uk/information/safety-reports/

The NASC is proud to have been shortlisted for two Safety & Health Excellence Awards (2023), and to have won *Best Health and Safety in Construction Award*. Our award application also detailed how the NASC uses the Safety Report and its analysis to produce relevant safety

guidance to target current issues. Scaffolding has always been considered a dangerous occupation. However, while that was true in the distant past, it is not true today. Standards have improved considerably, thanks to the efforts of the NASC and its members, the HSE, and the wider construction industry.



Over the last 40+ years, we have seen a continuous drop in our accident statistics, and in 2022 we achieved the lowest accident incident rate (AIR) and accident frequency rate (AFR) in our history, resulting in even more of our people working a lifetime without incident or harm. See TABLE 1 for our 2022 AIR and AFR.

FATALITIES & INJURIES TO OPERATIVES

It is a condition of NASC membership that every Contractor member is required to complete an annual accident return form. This Safety Report has been compiled using the factual information reported by NASC contractor members from January to December 2022.

INJURIES TO OPERATIVES

The number of accidents reported by NASC members is based on RIDDOR reportable incidents, which have been filed with the HSE. There were 67 such accidents recorded in 2022 from a combined workforce of 17,315 operatives, employed by 239 contractor members.

With an increase in operative numbers since last year (1,600+), it is very welcome that there has been a decrease in the incidence rate and the frequency rate. NASC members have achieved the lowest AIR and AFR rates in our history (the records of which go back to 1975).

However, the NASC and our members are not complacent, and the NASC, members and NASC H&S committee and Technical committee will continue targeting better results in the coming years, through achieving our objectives, sharing best practice, and producing relevant bulletins, toolbox talks, and user-friendly guidance.

FATALITIES TO OPERATIVES

There were no fatalities to operatives last year.

ANALYSIS

While it is welcome that the number of accidents reported by members is at its lowest, the headline figures as shown on Table 1 are not the most important aspect of the NASC's Safety Report.

Instead, the Report's purpose is to analyse the data to identify trends, such as the causes of incidents, including the age of the injured operatives, to help us as a trade body to put preventative measures in place wherever possible to further lower accident numbers in future years both those recorded and reported by NASC contractor members and those suffered by non-NASC scaffolding contractors.

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

The NASC and our members are committed to playing a leading role in

improving 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.

Moreover, the NASC H&S committee and Technical committee will continue to be proactive, producing bulletins and safety and technical guidance to raise awareness of the hazards and risks in our industry, including work at height.

The NASC in late 2022 released three updated guidance notes on working at height: *SG4 Preventing falls in scaffolding operations*, and *TG1 Temporary edge protection*, to be read in conjunction with *SG27 Guidance on temporary edge protection on open steelwork, roofs and slab edges (Class A and B surfaces)*, to drive safer working at height.

TABLE 1: NASC Accident Figures – Yearly Summary

Year	Number of Companies	Number of Operatives	Accidents	Incidence Rate	Frequency Rate	Fatalities	Fatal Incidence Rate
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
2022	239	17,315	67	3.87	0.20	0	0

Method of Calculation:

INCIDENCE RATE =

No. of reported accidents x 1000
Average No. of Operatives

FREQUENCY RATE =

No. of reported accidents x 100,000
Average No. of hours worked

CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS

The 2022 statistics, detailed in Tables 2.1, 2.2 and 3, log the number and cause of accidents to NASC operatives as well as accidents to third parties and members of the public.

OPERATIVES – OVERALL INJURIES

Of the 67 non-fatal accidents suffered by NASC member operatives during 2022, 13 were recorded as specified (major) injuries, with the remaining 54 recorded as over 7-day RIDDORs.

NOTE: There has been a significant drop in overall injuries (from 90 in 2021, to 67 in 2022, despite an increase in operatives).

Manual handling was the most common cause of injury to operatives, with 23 injuries reported.

In second place came slips and trips on the same level (20). This is only the second time in 18 years that slips and trips was not the most common cause of injury.

NOTE: The most common cause of slips and trips was inadequate site conditions, with uneven work surfaces and other trades’ debris causing poor housekeeping.

There were 10 falls from height by persons during 2022, a decrease on 2021’s figure (13).

The number of falls reported from scaffolds / working platforms at or above 4m was 3, up from 2 recorded in the last report. These incidents also included operatives working in contravention of SG4.

OPERATIVES – SPECIFIED INJURIES

The total number of specified (major) injuries fell from 16 in 2021 to 13 in 2022.

Falls from height by persons from scaffolds etc accounted for 3 of these

specified (major) injuries (an increase from 2 in 2021), with slips and trips on the same level responsible for 4, manual handling 4, and the remaining 2 categorised under “other”.

OPERATIVES – OVER 7-DAY

In 2022, the most common accidents resulting in an absence from work for over 7-days were attributed to manual handling (19 – a decrease from 24 in 2021), closely followed by slips and trips (16 – a decrease from 20 in 2021).

There were also accidents involving falls from height (7 – a decrease from 8 in 2021), work equipment (3 – a decrease from 7 in 2021) and falls of materials (2 – a decrease from 3 in 2021).

OPERATIVES – FATALITIES

There were no fatalities to operatives recorded by NASC contractor members last year.

THIRD PARTIES

In 2022, there were six incidents reported for injuries to third parties, all over 7-day incidents. The causes of these incidents were falls of materials (1), falls from height by persons (2), slips and trips on the same level (2), and dislodgement of decking on a scaffold was a contributory factor to one accident.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were three incidents involving the public in 2022, and these together with the third party accidents are

explored in more depth on page 14.

CATEGORISATION

Members were also asked to give complete information of incidents within these subcategories.

Scaffolds

- Scaffolds
- Scaffolds in each company’s yard

Working Platforms

- Roofs
- Floors and slab edges
- Open structural steelwork
- Scaffoldsteps (which are often used by scaffolders to erect/dismantle SG4 advanced guardrails)

Ladders and other means of access

- Staircases in buildings
- Scaffold staircases
- Scaffold ladders
- Hoists
- Cradles

Wagons

- Lorry or trailers
- Lorry or trailer in each company’s yard

Breakage (e.g. broken boards leading to falls)

- Scaffolds – internal falls where boards have snapped or displaced.
- Scaffold collapse causing fall of operative from scaffold.

Other

- Other – members to specify in accident returns.

TABLE 2.2: NASC Accident Figures – Causes of Accidents to Operatives in Yards

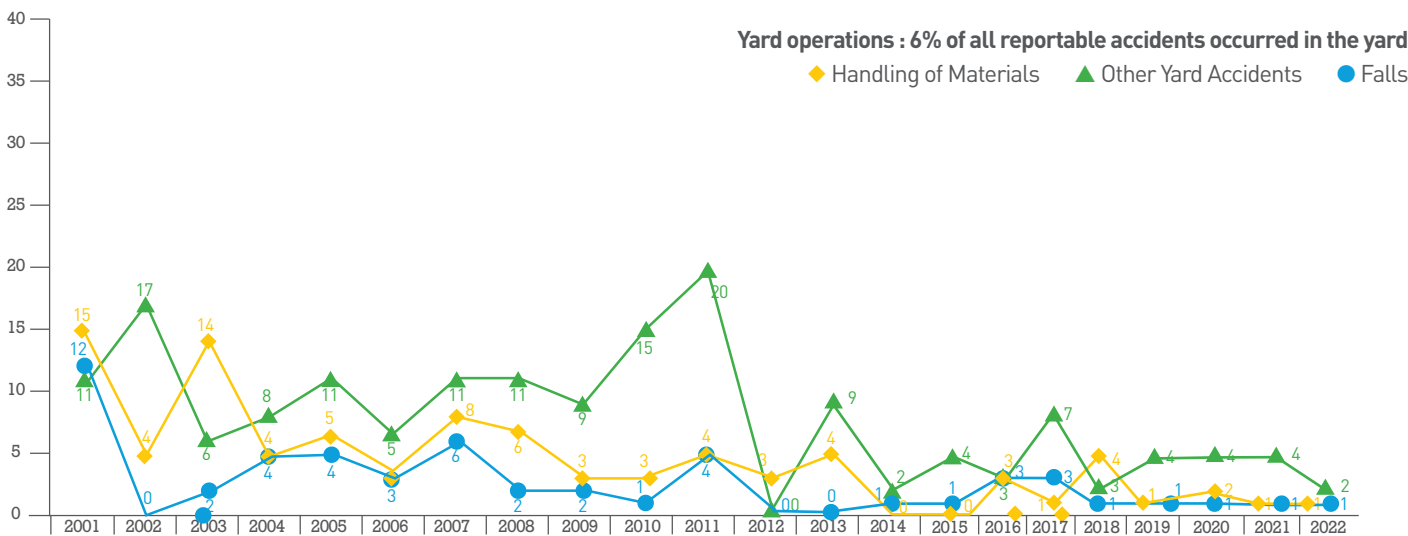
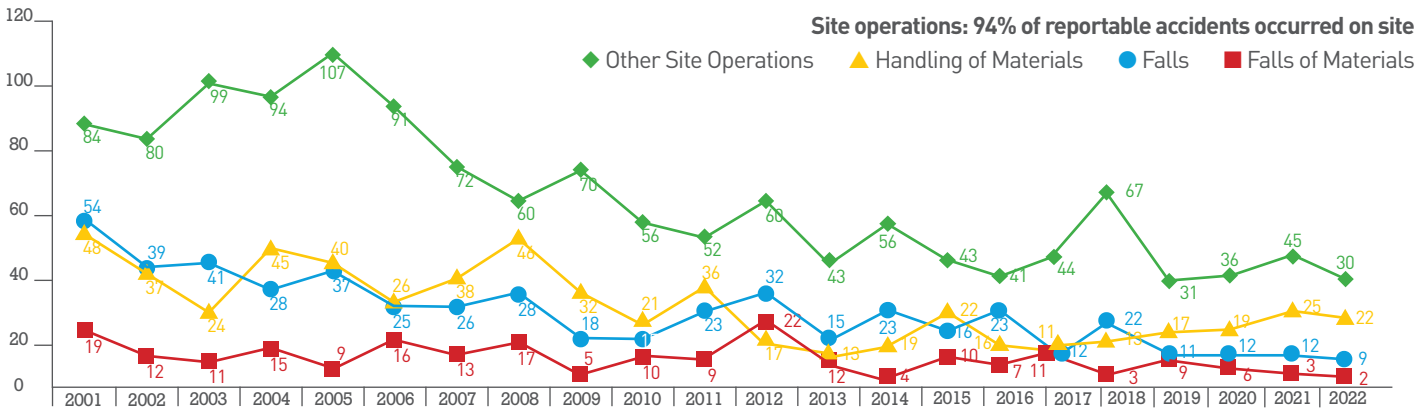


TABLE 3: NASC Accident Figures – Causes of Accidents to Members of the Public, 3rd Parties and Operatives

	Members of the public			3rd Party Injuries				Operatives			
	Fatal	Hospital visit	Total	Fatal	Specified injuries	Over 7 Day	Total	Fatal	Specified injuries	Over 7 Day	Total
FALLS											
Scaffolds									3	5	8
Working Platforms						2	2				
Ladders & other means of access											
Wagons											
Breakage e.g broken board						1	1				
Other										2	2
SUB TOTAL						3	3		3	7	10
FALLS OF MATERIALS											
Scaffolds		2	2								
Working Platforms										2	2
Ladders & other means of access											
Wagons											
Breakage e.g broken board											
Other						1	1				
SUB TOTAL		2	2			1	1			2	2
OTHER ACCIDENTS											
Manual Handling									4	19	23
Slips and trips on the same level						2	2		4	16	20
Harmful Substance										1	1
Work equipment										3	3
Electricity											
Fire/Explosion										1	1
Other		1	1						2	5	7
SUB TOTAL		1	1			2	2		10	45	55
	0	3	3	0	0	6	6	0	13	54	67

NOTE: Non-fatal accidents to members of the public or others who are not at work must be reported if they result in an injury and the person is taken directly from the scene of the accident to hospital for treatment to that injury. Examinations and diagnostic tests do not constitute treatment in such circumstances.

TABLE 2.1: NASC Accident Figures – Causes of Accidents to Operatives on Sites





Connolly Scaffolding Ltd

ANALYSIS OF ACCIDENTS

This section breaks down the total number of accidents reported by the age and CISRS skill level of the injured operatives. The table on page 13 cross references this data against types of injuries suffered, helping the NASC H&S Committee to target common trends e.g. targeting reductions in manual handling injuries by updating the SG6 Manual handling suite (especially for trainees and labourers).

The highest number of injuries by age were suffered by operatives aged between 31-40 (27), closely followed by the 21-30 bracket (20). Operatives aged between 41-50 and 51-60 suffered 7 injuries each. Operatives aged between 16-20 and over 61 suffered 3 injuries each.

The types of accidents reported makes for interesting reading when broken down by age. Falls from height were predominantly in the 31-40 age range (6).

Similarly, most slips and trips on the same level were in the 21-30 and 31-40 age range (7 and 10 respectively).

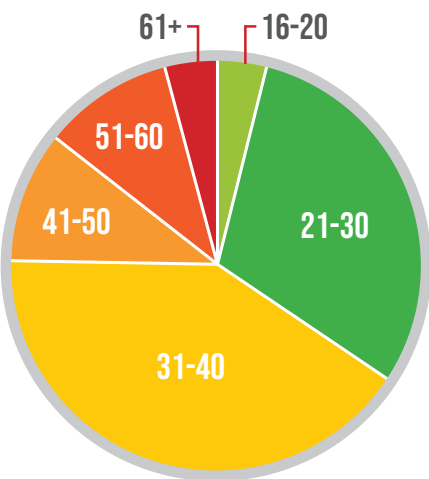
Manual handling accidents were mainly in the 21-30 and 31-40 age range (8 each), but only operatives aged between 16 and 20 saw manual handling as the outright cause of injury.

In the UK scaffolding industry, the percentage of CISRS cards are

as follows: Advanced (gold) 23%, Scaffolder (blue) 45%, Trainee (red) 14%, and Labourer (green) 18%. See "Accidents by CISRS Grade", which are colour coded (by CISRS card): Scaffolders suffered the most injuries by skill level (33), accounting

for 49% of incidents in 2022 within the NASC, Trainees were the second most injured group (15) 22%, followed by Labourers (8) 12%, Advanced (5) 7%. The remainder: Drivers (1), Supervisors (1), and others (3), account for 10%.

ACCIDENTS BY AGE



ACCIDENTS BY CISRS GRADE

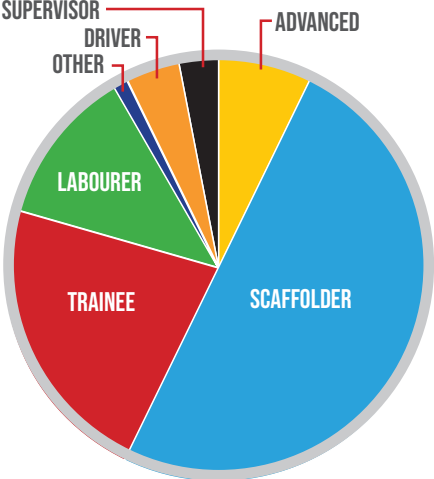


TABLE 4: Operatives by Age, Grade of Scaffolder and Type of Accident

		Falls										FALL MATERIALS								MHO		WE		HS		ST		ELEC		FIRE		OTH		F	Total
		SCAFFOLD		WP		LADDER		WAGONS		OTHER		SCAFFOLD		WP		WAGONS		OTHER		SI	7D	SI	7D	SI	7D	SI	7D	SI	7D	SI	7D	SI			
Age	GRADE	SI	7D	SI	7D	SI	7D	SI	7D	SI	7D	SI	7D	SI	7D	SI	7D	SI	7D	SI	7D	SI	7D	SI	7D	SI	7D	SI	7D	SI	7D	SI			
16-20	SUPERVISOR																																		
	ADVANCED																																		
	SCAFFOLDER																		1													1			
	TRAINEE																		2													2			
	LABOURER																																		
	DRIVER																																		
21-30	SUPERVISOR																																		
	ADVANCED																																		
	SCAFFOLDER	1	1																1										1	1		5			
	TRAINEE																		2	3		1			3							9			
	LABOURER																		2				1	1								4			
	OTHER																						2									2			
31-40	SUPERVISOR																						1									1			
	ADVANCED									1									2													3			
	SCAFFOLDER	1	4																3				1	5				1			15				
	TRAINEE																		2				1						1		4				
	LABOURER																		1				2						1		4				
	DRIVER																																		
41-50	SUPERVISOR																																		
	ADVANCED																							1								1			
	SCAFFOLDER													1					2		1								1		5				
	TRAINEE																																		
	LABOURER																																		
	DRIVER																																		
51-60	SUPERVISOR																																		
	ADVANCED																																		
	SCAFFOLDER	1								1				1									1									4			
	TRAINEE																																		
	LABOURER																																		
	DRIVER																						1									1			
61+	SUPERVISOR																																		
	ADVANCED																																		
	SCAFFOLDER																		1				1							1		3			
	TRAINEE																																		
	LABOURER																																		
	DRIVER																																		
TOTALS		3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	19	0	3	0	1	4	16	0	0	1	2	5	0	67
		10										2								23	3	1	20	0	1	7	0		67						

Total Number of Falls from Height (Operatives)	10
Highest Reported Fall of Operatives	5.1m
Number of Falls from Scaffold and Working Platforms (SC/WP)	8
Number of Falls from places other than SC/WP	2
Number of Falls under 4m	7
Number of Falls at 4m or above	3
Number of Falls from Ladders (or staircases, hoists, stair towers etc)	0
Additional Reported Falls from Scaffolds Arrested by Safety Harness	0

Key
SI = Specified (major) injuries
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

Every year the NASC identifies all accidents / injuries that relate to third parties (i.e. non-scaffolding trades working on the same site or yard) 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.

For third party accidents, members are requested to provide accident details where scaffolding operations caused the accident or an issue with the scaffold itself was a contributory factor. Accidents to third parties which are NOT related to scaffolding operations or where scaffolding is NOT a contributing factor, and where others complete the RIDDOR report, are not required to be reported to the NASC.

NOTE: An example of a non-scaffolding RIDDOR would be a bricklayer tripping over his own toolbox on a scaffold, with the bricklaying employer reporting the RIDDOR.

Non-fatal accidents to members of the public or others who are not at work must be reported as a RIDDOR if they result in an injury and the person is taken directly from the scene of the accident to hospital for treatment to that injury. Examinations and diagnostic tests do not constitute 'treatment' in such circumstances (HSE).

INJURIES TO THIRD PARTIES

In 2022, there were six incidents reported for injuries to third parties, all were over 7-day RIDDORs. These related to falls of materials (1), falls from height by persons (2), slips and trips on the same level (2), and dislodgement of decking on a scaffold (1). The details of these incidents are as follows:

FALLS FROM HEIGHT - MATERIALS

There was one incident where a 2.2m scaffold tube was stood upright

on the ground against a hoarding. Subsequently, the tube shifted to the side and fell through the hoarding doorway striking a 3rd party operative.

FALLS FROM HEIGHT - PEOPLE

There was one incident where decking on a 1.8m high proprietary birdcage failed and two 3rd party operatives fell 1.8m, resulting in over 7-day RIDDORs.

DISLODGEMENT OF BOARDING / DECKING

There was one incident of decking become dislodged, resulting in a bricklayer putting his foot through the scaffold.

SLIPS AND TRIPS ON THE SAME LEVEL

There were two incidents. One where a 3rd party worker stepped backwards, and tripped over a short upright tube on a birdcage scaffold, and one where a 3rd party tripped on a scaffold lift (but the investigation did not find definitive evidence of how the incident occurred).

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were two incidents in 2022, where members of the public went directly to hospital for treatment following an injury. The first incident was when a 4m ladder beam was stood upright against scaffolding (with chapter 8 barriers excluding the public from the work area). The beam was accidentally knocked and fell outwards, striking a member of the public who was walking past the chapter 8 barriers. The second

incident was when a householder, after being asked not to walk into the work area, decided to walk into the area without warning and was struck by a scaffold tube being manually handled.

There was also one incident where there was no evidence of an injury (or of the injured party going directly to hospital). However, the client insisted the scaffolding contractor report it to the HSE after the member of the public reported an alleged accident a month later.

FREQUENCY OF ACCIDENTS IN DIFFERENT SIZED COMPANIES

As part of the 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 operatives).

As in 2022, the majority of incidents were suffered by operatives working for smaller companies (with between 21 and 100 operatives). The incident rate was highest in the 51 to 100 operative bracket. The 24 incidents recorded by these companies represent 36% of all incidents seen in 2022 despite the 2,706 operatives employed by these members only representing 16% of the workforce.

Conversely there were only four incidents reported by Large members (1001+ operatives) whose 5,739 operatives are 33% of total number of NASC operatives.

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

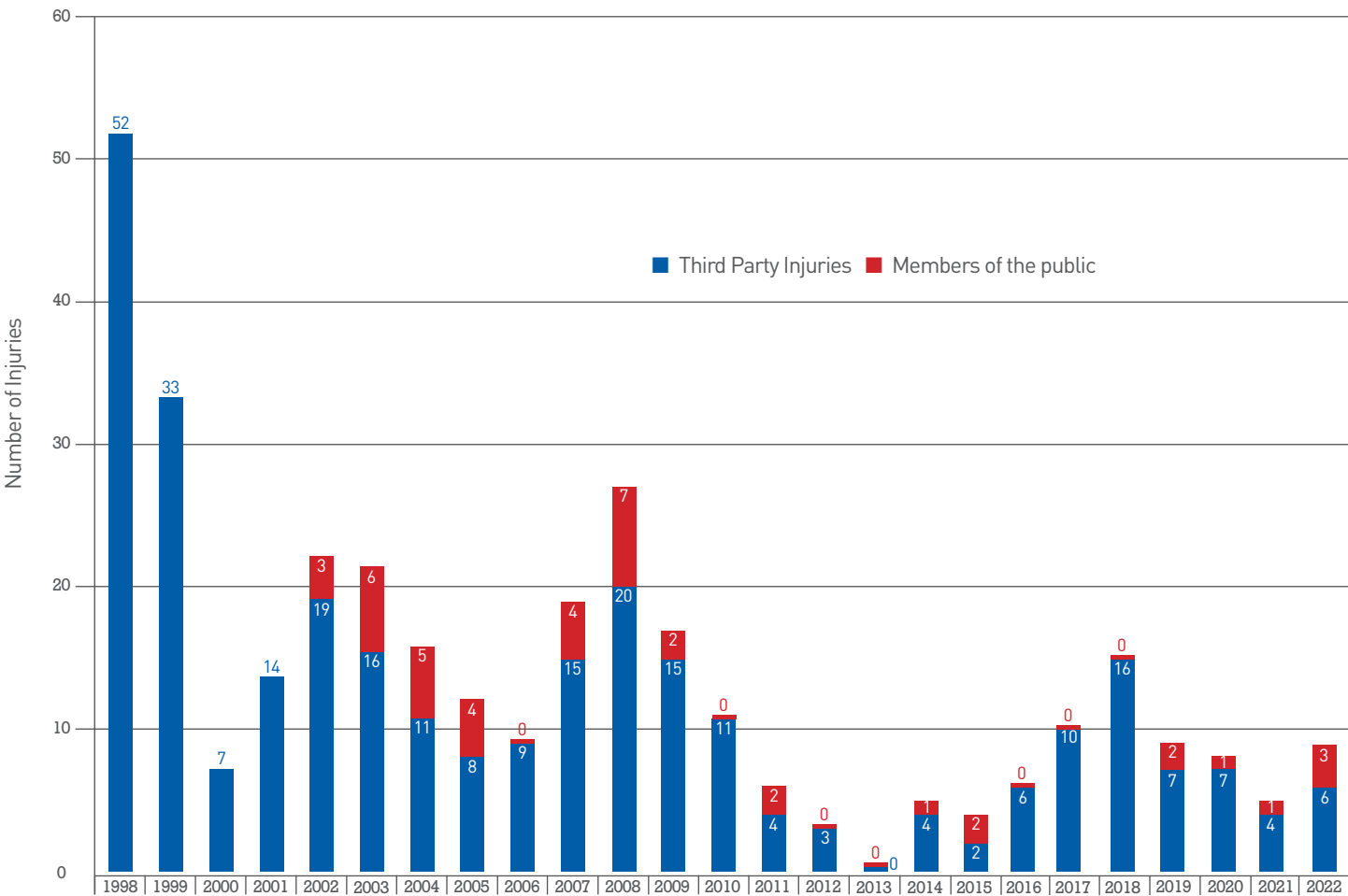


Table 6: Frequency of Accidents in Different Sized Companies

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
1 - 20 (VERY SMALL)	75	915	26	941	7	0	0	0	0	0
21 - 50 (SMALL)	97	3,049	226	3,275	24	0	1	0	4	0
51 - 100 (SMALL - MEDIUM)	40	2,534	172	2,706	24	0	2	0	1	0
101 - 200 (MEDIUM)	19	2,251	291	2,542	6	0	0	0	1	0
201 - 1000 (MEDIUM - LARGE)	4	1,930	182	2,112	2	0	0	0	0	0
1001+ (LARGE)	4	5,736	3	5,739	4	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	239	16,415	900	17,315	67	0	3	0	6	0

ANALYSIS OF INJURIES TO OPERATIVES

The following tables and charts give a breakdown of all the injuries reported, including identifying the type of injury sustained and the part of the body affected , and the age range of those injured.

Table 7.1 shows the most common injury sustained was a fracture (32), followed by sprains (7), lacerations (5), cuts (4), bruising (4), strains (2), burns (2), part amputation of a finger (1), one dislocation that led to a lost time RIDDOR, and other uncategorised accidents (9).

The most common body part injured were hands, fingers, and wrists (21), feet, toes, and ankles (20) legs, hips, and groin (9), and arms (9).

FALLS FROM HEIGHT

There were 10 falls from height by persons (shown in Table 7.2). These incidents caused operatives to be absent from work for a total of 382 days.

Four of these (40% of the total) resulted in fractures. Five caused lacerations, strains and other non-specified injuries and one person did not require treatment (but did not return to work until union representative could be

present at the interview).

FALLING MATERIALS

Table 7.3 shows that there were two accidents involving falling material, and the NASC will seek to further target this risk when revising SG34 Guidance on protection of the public, which details guidance on prevention of falling material.

MANUAL HANDLING

There were 23 instances of manual handling injuries (see Table 7.4 and the middle pie chart below) recorded in 2022.

These incidents caused operatives to be absent from work a total of 655 days. The most common injury was a fracture (11), strains, sprains, bruising and other (6), lacerations & cuts (5) and a partial amputation of a finger (1).

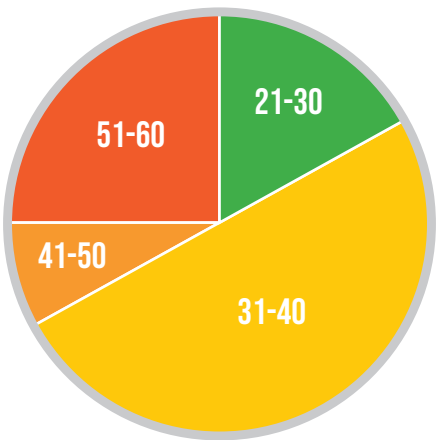
SLIPS AND TRIPS ON THE SAME LEVEL

Table 7.5 shows injuries suffered because of a slip or trip on the same level.

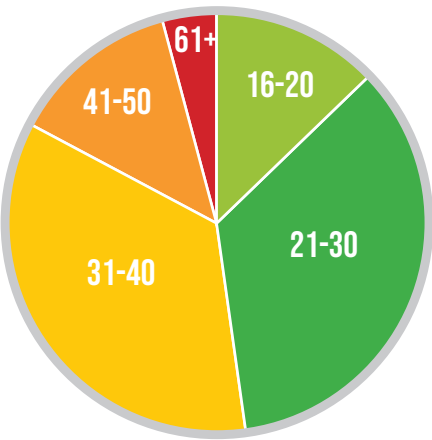
The most common injury was a fracture (12), followed by a sprain (3) and bruising (2).

NASC guidance *SG4 Prevention of falls in scaffolding operations* targets the first pie chart, *SG6 Management of manual handling in the scaffolding industry* targets the middle pie chart, and *SG31 Management of slips and trips* targets the final pie chart.

INJURIES RESULTING FROM FALLS FROM HEIGHT (AGE RANGE)



INJURIES RESULTING FROM MANUAL HANDLING (AGE RANGE)



INJURIES RESULTING FROM SLIPS AND TRIPS (AGE RANGE)

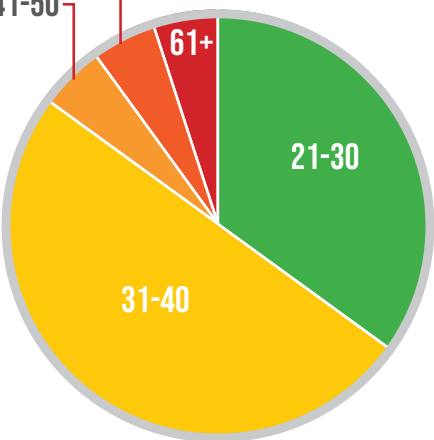


Table 7.1: All Injuries

	EYES	FACE	HEAD	NECK / SHOULDER	RIBS / CHEST / STOMACH	BACK	ARM	HAND / FINGERS / WRIST	LEG / HIP / GROIN	FEET / TOES / ANKLES	MULTIPLE	OTHER	GRAND TOTAL
FRACTURE				1			4	12	2	12	1		32
AMPUTATION								1					1
DISLOCATION				1									1
TEMP. SIGHT LOSS													
BURN									1	1			2
PENETRATION													
STRAIN							2						2
SPRAIN							1		2	4			7
ABRASION													
LACERATION								3	2				5
CUT	1						1	2					4
BRUISING				1		1			1	1			4
MULTIPLE													
OTHER					1		1	3	1	2	1		9
GRAND TOTAL	1			3	1	1	9	21	9	20	2		67

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			1		1		1		4
AMPUTATION													
DISLOCATION													
TEMP. SIGHT LOSS													
BURN													
PENETRATION													
STRAIN							1			1			2
SPRAIN													
ABRASION													
LACERATION									2				2
CUT													
BRUISING													
MULTIPLE													
OTHER					1						1		2
GRAND TOTAL				1	1		2		3	1	2		10

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	1												1
BRUISING													
MULTIPLE													
UNCONSCIOUS													
OTHER										1			1
GRAND TOTAL	1									1			2

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							1	7		3			11
AMPUTATION								1					1
DISLOCATION													
TEMP. SIGHT LOSS													
BURN													
PENETRATION													
STRAIN							1						1
SPRAIN									1	1			2
ABRASION								3					3
LACERATION								1					2
CUT						1							1
BRUISING													
MULTIPLE							1	1					2
OTHER							1	1					2
GRAND TOTAL						1	4	13	1	4			23

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							2	2		8			12
AMPUTATION													
DISLOCATION				1									1
TEMP. SIGHT LOSS													
BURN													
PENETRATION													
STRAIN							1						1
SPRAIN									1	2			3
ABRASION													
LACERATION													
CUT													
BRUISING									1	1			2
MULTIPLE													
UNCONSCIOUS													
OTHER									1				1
GRAND TOTAL				1			3	2	3	11			20

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								3	1	1			5
AMPUTATION													
DISLOCATION													
PERM. SIGHT LOSS													
BURN									1	1			2
PENETRATION													
STRAIN													
SPRAIN													
ABRASION													
LACERATION													
CUT								1					1
BRUISING				1									1
MULTIPLE													
OTHER								2		1			3
GRAND TOTAL				1				6	2	3			12

KEY FINDINGS AND NEXT STEPS

This report shows that approximately 79% of all reported accidents were attributed to three types of event: falls from height, manual handling, and slips and trips.

Our annual accident statistics are based only on NASC contractor members, and our figures are better than comparable construction industry statistics, showing how the NASC H&S and Technical guidance helps embed good HSEQ and management processes into member companies. We analyse data and then decide on what key areas to target at H&S and Technical meetings.

FALLS FROM HEIGHT

Injuries caused by falls from height are often the most serious of accidents. While it is disappointing that there were 10 falls from height in 2022, there has been a drop in numbers on previous years (and there were no arrested falls in harnesses recorded in 2022).

The NASC is targeting safer work at height via updated guidance: *SG4:22 Preventing falls in scaffolding operations*, *TG1:22 Temporary Edge protection*, and *SG27:22 Guidance on edge protection for open steelwork, roofs, and slab edges (Class A and B surfaces)*. This year we will target new initiatives to further improve our members’ accident statistics, including updating the toolbox talk suite and SG4 poster.

MANUAL HANDLING

There has been a significant drop in overall injuries (from 90 in 2021, to 67 in 2022, despite an increase in operatives), but while manual handling injuries have reduced in numbers (to 23 in 2022), other types of injuries have reduced further. Unfortunately, this meant that the percentage of manual handling injuries as a total of overall NASC injuries has increased.

As manual handling is such a big risk (especially to trainees & labourers), the NASC updated the *SG6 Management of manual handling in the scaffolding industry* guidance note in 2022, and put in place plans to update the User Guide and training video in 2023.

The SG6 User Guide has been thoroughly refreshed, with new illustrations throughout. In 2023 we are producing a manual handling video – using animation – to focus on the relevant issues and the required learning needed to keep everyone safe from injury in the scaffolding sector.

With this updated manual handling suite – *SG6:22* (see below), User Guide, and video – the NASC believes that manual handling trainers, and those in control of scaffolding operations, will be

able to produce safer and better trained operatives.

SLIP AND TRIP INJURIES

Although there has been an ongoing improvement on previous years, this is still an issue, with 20 accidents recorded in 2022. Many incidents were attributed to operatives slipping and tripping on poor ground conditions. However, it must be stressed that employers are still responsible for the safety of their employees, and others, when they are put to work on clients’ sites.

To address this risk, the updated SG6 Manual handling User Guide includes more detail about what employers should assess when looking at client sites prior to work commencing, and asks them to also consider other NASC guidance in their RAMS, such as *SG5 Overhead power sources*, *SG31 Management of Slips and Trips*, and *SG34 Guidance on protection of the public* (when looking at prevention of falling material).

SG34 Guidance on protection of the public will be updated to include a focus on provision and maintenance of suitable exclusion zones to keep the public away from operations.

SG4:22 Preventing Falls in Scaffolding Operations
Safety Guidance 4: 2022
A guide to good practice for tube and fitting and system scaffolding

SG6:22 Management of Manual Handling in the Scaffolding Industry
Revision 2: 2023

TG1:22 Temporary Edge Protection
Revision 1: 14 October 2022

SG27:22 Guidance on temporary edge protection on open steelwork, roofs and slab edges (Class A and B surfaces)
Revision 1: 14 October 2022

NASC ARCHIVE ACCIDENT FIGURES FROM 1975 TO 1980

In March 1972, the 19-member subcommittee of the Department of Employment Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) was tasked to make recommendations to improve safety in the scaffolding sector and report back to the JAC. Two members of the NASC Council served on this

committee, Bill Orwin and Antony Carr. Nine recommendations were made and implemented, one of which was for the scaffolding industry to produce meaningful accident statistics. In 1975 (a year after the Department of Employment's report Safety of Scaffolding was published) the NASC

collated and issued accident statistics and continues to do so to this day (see TABLE 1 for latest figures). These figures are a reminder of where we were as a scaffolding industry (see table below) and reminds us of the importance of driving safety today.

Year	Number of Companies	Number of Operatives	Accidents	Incidence Rate	Frequency Rate	Fatalities	Fatal Incidence Rate
1975	33	5,879	494	84.03	4.52	1	0.17
1976	36	6,286	568	90.36	5.17	0	0.00
1977	36	6,772	700	103.37	4.11	2	0.29
1978	40	7,244	596	82.27	3.85	2	0.27
1979	44	8,510	655	76.97	3.26	3	0.35
1980	46	8,160	532	65.20	3.26	3	0.36

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE COMMENT

Analysis shows year-on-year increases in small business membership, balanced by reductions in medium/large companies. Trends reflect significant economic challenges for all businesses resulting from higher costs of energy, fuel, and labour.

Operative numbers increased by 10%, mainly within larger companies. A decrease in subcontractors signals a less flexible market, but increases safety standards because employed operatives are often better trained.

The H&S committee has completed significant work on working at height, manual handling, and prevention of slips and trips. Strong focus especially on the latter two, has seen a reduction in reported incidents of -12% and -17% respectively.

Through updated guidance, toolbox talks and training, the NASC has

seen a reduction in 7-day injuries. Medium sized companies' accident levels are stable, with large companies seeing a reduction in reported accidents. Despite reductions in accident levels across all age ranges, however, the age range 31-50 remains a focus group.

Moreover, improving cooperation and coordination with 3rd party operatives and driving improved protection for the general public to reduce incidents remains a priority within the H&S committee.

With a growing smaller business membership, the NASC will continue to embed core training, and standards, at early stages in company development, with full H&S support, to ensure businesses flourish.

Training, support and reporting demonstrates the core NASC

objective of reducing the rate and severity of accidents across all industry demographics, as well as raising working standards. By supporting growth, sustainability, diversity and inclusivity across the industry, the NASC can support, develop and deliver H&S standards and further reductions in incidents on a year-on-year basis.



Alan Harris
NASC Health & Safety Committee Chair

NASC: SUPPORT & GUIDANCE



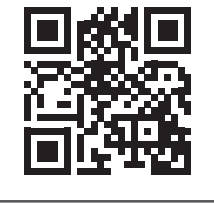
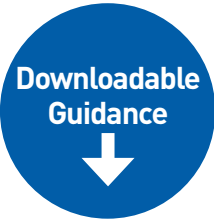
The NASC works with key industry organisations, such as the HSE and Build UK, to keep ahead of developments in the rapidly evolving construction industry and to align strategies (for instance, NASC's H&S objectives are aligned with HSE's 10-year plan and objectives). Strategically, the NASC has close ties with BSI, CEN, and Europe (through UEG) to achieve common goals.

NASC CORE SAFETY OBJECTIVES ARE...

- ▶ Encouraging best practice and innovation by creating and updating relevant safety guidance (generally on a five-year cycle) to prevent major incidents, injuries, and harm.
- ▶ Supporting members in their drive for an incident-free H&S record by producing pocket sized User Guide booklets (*SG4, SG6, TG20*), bulletins, and arranging H&S and Technical advice lines.
- ▶ Ensuring relevant guidance targets ill health risks, including stress.
- ▶ Continuously auditing NASC members to ensure legislation and best practice is followed.
- ▶ Enabling everyone to access NASC guidance (*NOTE: contractor members can use the ePortal to rapidly access 100+ guidance notes*).
- ▶ Supporting the UK's record as one of the safest countries to work in.

PLEASE VISIT THE NATIONAL ACCESS AND SCAFFOLDING CONFEDERATION (NASC) WEBSITE [NASC.ORG.UK](https://nasc.org.uk)

Safety, Technical, Contractual, Purchasing Guidelines, Asset Protection, Environmental and Sustainability Guidance can be purchased and downloaded via this link: nasc.org.uk/shop



NASC contractor members can access 100+ guidance notes immediately, via the ePortal, which has a superb search facility. Indexes are available here: nasc.org.uk/blog/article/nasc-publishes-guidance-index



OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO...

NASC contractor members for their assistance with this Safety Report.

CONTRACTOR MEMBERS

3 D Scaffolding Ltd
A W Scaffolding (South West) 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
Actavo (UK) Limited
Advance Scaffolding (Lancashire) Ltd
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Air Scaffolding Ltd
Airwright (Midlands) Ltd
Allen & Foxworthy Ltd
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Apex Scaffolding (Exeter) Ltd
Apex Scaffolding (Leicester) Ltd
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Burflex (Scaffolding) Ltd
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Cade Roofing & Building Services Ltd
Carl Hendy Limited T/A ASW Scaffolding
Carlisle Scaffolding Ltd
Carrington Scaffolding Ltd
Castle Scaffold (Northern) Ltd
Castle Scaffolding (Wales) Ltd
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Complete Access Specialist Contracts Ltd
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Connolly Scaffolding Ltd
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Drake Scaffolding Services Ltd
DTE Scaffolding & Safety Netting Ltd
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Enigma Industrial Services Ltd
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Esher Scaffolding Group Ltd
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First Safety Construction Ltd
Form Access Ltd
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GKR Scaffolding Ltd
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Hard Rock Scaffolding Ltd
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Midland Scaffolding Services Ltd
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MPT Scaffolding Ltd
MR Scaffolding Services Ltd
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Network Scaffolding Contractors Ltd
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Northern 90 Scaffolding Ltd
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PDL Scaffolding Ltd
Pen Mill Scaffolding (Hire & Sales) Ltd
PHD Modular Access Services Ltd
Philip Steele Building Equipment Ltd
Pickering Scaffolding Limited
PJC Scaffolding Solutions Ltd
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Pro Access Scaffolding Ltd
Pro-Fix Access Ltd

The NASC members listings are correct at the time of going to press. For a current list of Contractor, Supplier, Design, Services & Ancillary Products, Information and International Information members, please consult the NASC website: www.nasc.org.uk

QED Scaffolding Ltd
QFS Scaffolding Limited
R.E.D. Scaffolding Ltd
Rainham Industrial Services Ltd
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Independent Design House Ltd
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Avontus Software Ltd
Brady Corporation Ltd T/A Scafftag
Bruce Burke & Co Ltd
Cactus Security
Citation Limited
Clarke Health and Safety Consultants Ltd
Clear Insurance Management Ltd T/A CLEAR MPW
Computer and Design Services Ltd T/A SMART Scaffolder
Domino Clamps
Easy Inspect Ltd
Excel Health & Safety Ltd
Falconbridge Site Security Ltd
GPS Services
Height Industries Ltd
Hydrajaws Limited
i-Knowledge Ltd
Independent Access Inspections Ltd
iPhorms Ltd
J Mac Safety Systems Limited
J S Safety Associates
KEWAZO GmbH
LDS Hire & Sales Ltd T/A G-Deck
McCarron Coates Ltd
MSafe Risk Management Ltd
NexGen Insurance Solutions Ltd
Nicholas James Health & Safety Solutions Ltd
Permanex Site Security Ltd
Pronto Business Finance Ltd
Remote Asset Management Limited T/A RAM Tracking
Sayfa Group (Europe) Ltd (previously Rhino Deck Ltd)
Scaffolding & Access Safety Consultants Ltd (SASC)
Scaffolding Access Inspections Ltd
Simian Risk Management Ltd
SJB Safety Services Ltd
SpanSet Limited
Stay Safe Scaffold Products
StrikeSoft Ltd
Tufcoat Ltd
Winters Safety Services Ltd
Worldwide Scaffold and Access Ltd
Zep UK Limited



NASC



**NATIONAL ACCESS AND
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