

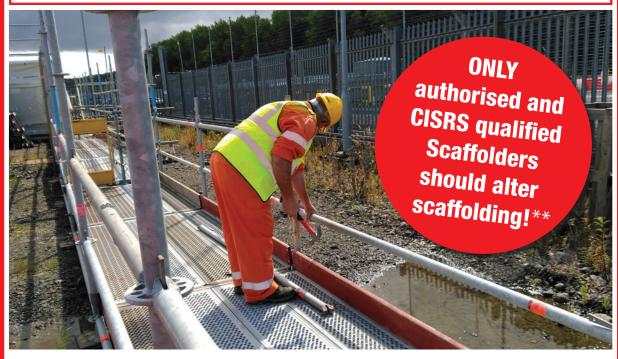
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2024 MAINTAINING HIGH STANDARDS IN SCAFFOLDING SAFFETTY REPORT

NASC

DON'T RISK IT! **MAKING UNAUTHORISED MODIFICATIONS TO SCAFFOLDING IS DANGEROUS!**

If you see it, report it! Alterations without the scaffolding contractor's consent could be an offence under Section 7 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.*



Good planning and communication with all contractors will help prevent unauthorised scaffold modifications. *NEVER accept or use a scaffold that has been improperly modified. **Authorised by scaffolding contractor and site manager. Go online to check CISRS (CSCS) cards: https://cardchecker.nocn.org/

NEVER

Never interfere with scaffolds, including removing guardrails, toeboards, and scaffold ties, which could cause a collapse.

NEVER

Never overload scaffolds and always obey the safe working loads on loading bays.

SG36:18

NAS

NEVER

Never undermine the foundations of scaffolding, which could cause a collapse.

ALWAYS Report incidents of scaffolding misuse to the site manager.



NATIONAL ACCESS AND SCAFFOLDING CONFEDERATION

EMAIL: ENQUIRIES@NASC.ORG.UK CALL: 020 7822 7400



Please visit the NASC website to order posters: nasc.org.uk/shop/

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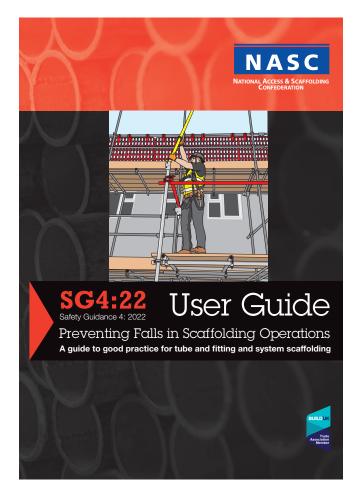
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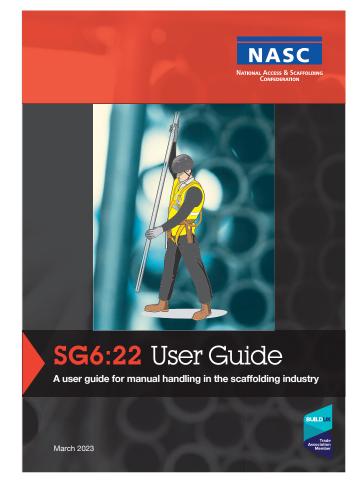
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NATIONAL ACCESS & SCAFFOLDING CONFEDERATION

SG6 Manual Handling





PRESIDENT'S Welcome



As President of the National Access & Scaffolding Confederation (NASC), it is my pleasure to present the latest Safety Report, which reflects our steadfast commitment to maintaining and enhancing safety standards within our industry. This report highlights the sustained level of health and safety achieved by our members, demonstrating the diligence and dedication of scaffolding contractors to the well-being of their workforce and others.

At NASC, we recognise that safety is paramount, not just for scaffolding operatives but for everyone involved in and around our worksites. Our members' adherence to stringent safety protocols is a testament to their professionalism and the collective effort to foster a culture of safety. This culture is supported and strengthened by the relentless work of the NASC Health & Safety Committee and Technical Committee, which plays a crucial role in developing and disseminating comprehensive safety and technical guidelines.

One of the cornerstones of our safety initiatives is the issuance of detailed guidance documents, which serve as essential resources for scaffolding contractors. These documents are meticulously crafted to address various aspects of safety and are regularly updated to reflect the latest industry standards and best practices. A prime example is the recent release of the new digitalised SG6 video, which offers practical insights and visual demonstrations to reinforce key safety procedures. The SG4 and SG6 User Guides and SG6 video (see opposing page) have been instrumental in bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, ensuring that safety measures are understood and implemented effectively on the ground.

However, our commitment to safety extends beyond mitigating reportable incidents. While it is crucial to monitor and reduce these incidents, we understand that a comprehensive approach to health and safety encompasses much more. This includes everything from conducting rigorous Risk Assessments and Method Statements (RAMS) to engaging in regular toolbox talks. These proactive measures are vital in identifying potential hazards, educating the workforce, and fostering an environment where safety is a shared responsibility.

RAMS are an integral part of our safety framework, providing detailed plans on how to manage and control risks associated with scaffolding operations. By meticulously outlining each step of a task and the corresponding safety measures, RAMS help prevent accidents and ensure that all operatives are well-prepared to handle the complexities of their work. Toolbox talks further complement these efforts by facilitating ongoing communication about safety on site. These informal yet informative sessions are crucial for reinforcing safety messages, addressing any concerns, and promoting an open dialogue about potential risks and best practices. By regularly engaging with our workforce through these talks, we can ensure that safety remains at the forefront of everyone's mind, fostering a proactive and vigilant approach to risk management.

In conclusion, the NASC Safety Report not only underscores the sustained safety performance within our membership but also highlights our unwavering commitment to continuous improvement. Through the diligent work of the Health & Safety and Technical Committees, the issuance of comprehensive guidance, and a holistic approach to safety management, we are dedicated to ensuring that every scaffolding project is conducted with the utmost regard for the health and safety of all involved. Together, we will continue to uphold and enhance the safety standards that define our industry, protecting our workforce and others, reinforcing the integrity of scaffolding operations nationwide.

David Brown, NASC President

w NASC SG6 Manual handling video

COMPARISON OF NASC/HSE ACCIDENT STATISTICS

Comparison of NASC Accident Statistics, with Construction

Industry Accident Statistics, supplied by the HSE

		2014/15			2015/16	,		2016/17			2017/18	
	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
Statistics derived from the NASC annual returns of reportable accidents												
Number of NASC Operatives		14,988			14,954			17,005			16,433	
NASC	0	36	69	0	33	63	0	27	69	0	17	72
Construction industry statistics provided b	ry HSE f	rom RIE)DOR re	eports				Ļ				
Construction Industry General Statistics	35 1,833 3,581			43			30			38		
Scaffolding Industry												

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: <u>hse.gov.uk/riddor/reportable-incidents.htm</u>



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 our 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 decade.

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

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

2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Fatal Specified Over					
Injury Injury 7 day					

	16,758			17,138			16,084			15,620			17,315			16,667	
0	22	91	0	13	61	0	21	60	1	16	73	0	13	54	0	20	67

30		40		39		30		45			

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 hee.gov.uk.

NASC ACCIDENT Statistics in 2023

SHORTLISTED FOR WINNER OF SHIE Awards 2023 Shortlisted

The National Access & Scaffolding Confederation (NASC) has been collecting data from our members since 1975. Annual NASC safety reports are made available on our website, which is accessible for everyone: nasc.org.uk/information/safety-reports/

The NASC and its members, the HSE, and the wider construction industry have driven improvements in the scaffolding industry over many years. We use the Safety Report and its analysis to target highlighted issues, and over the last 40+ years we have seen a continual drop in accident statistics. However, we cannot be complacent and the NASC and its members will continue to strive for excellence within our sector.

FATALITIES & INJURIES TO OPERATIVES

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 87 such accidents recorded in 2023 from a combined workforce of 16,667 operatives, employed by 249 contractor members.

In our previous accident reporting year, 2022, NASC members achieved the lowest AIR and AFR rates in our history, which was detailed in our 2023 Safety Report. Since our last report, our contractor membership has increased by approximately 4% with ten new scaffolding contractors joining the NASC. Our contractor membership reported an increase in RIDDORS in 2023, but nonetheless we have seen a continuous drop in accident statistics over the last 40+ years.

The NASC and its members use the Safety Report and its analysis to target and improve all of the scaffolding industry, but we cannot be complacent, and the 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, userfriendly guidance and digitalised videos.

FATALITIES TO OPERATIVES

There were no fatalities to operatives reported in 2023.

ANALYSIS

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

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 in place preventative measures 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.

NASC 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 the scaffolding industry's health and safety record. As such, incident data will 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 targeting better work at height, manual handling, and safe access and the prevention of slips and trips.

In 2023 we released two updated User Guides (A6 pocket sized booklets), SG4 Preventing falls in scaffolding operations and SG6 Management of manual handling in the scaffolding industry. In early 2024 we released the new digitalised SG6 Manual handling video, tasked with improving not just manual handling, but the prevention of slips, trips, and falls from height.

TABLE 1: NASC Accident Figures – Yearly Summary

Year	Number of Companies	Number of Operatives	Accidents	Incidence Rate	Frequency Rate	Fatalities	Fatal Incidence Rat
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
2023	249	16,667	87	5.22	0.27	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 2023 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. Note: There were no accidents to members of the public recorded.

OPERATIVES - OVERALL INJURIES

Of the 87 non-fatal accidents suffered by NASC member operatives during 2023, 20 were recorded as specified (major) injuries, with the remaining 67 recorded as over 7-day RIDDORs.

Slips and trips on the same level was the most common cause of injury, with 28 accidents recorded.

Manual handling was the second most common cause of injury to operatives, with 25 injuries reported.

Falls from height was the third most common cause of accidents with 16 injuries reported.

NOTE: Many of the common causes of slips and trips was inadequate site conditions, uneven work surfaces, and other trades' debris causing poor housekeeping.

There were 16 falls from height by persons during 2023, an increase on 2022's figure (10). Almost half of these falls were from scaffolds and working platforms, but the others were from lorries, ladders, and other places of work (see further details under Table 4 on page 13). Some of these RIDDOR incidents included operatives working in contravention of SG4 Preventing falls in scaffolding operations.

OPERATIVES - SPECIFIED INJURIES

The total number of specified (major) injuries increased from 13 in 2022 to 20 in 2023.

Falls from height by persons from scaffolds etc accounted for 9 of these specified (major) injuries (an increase from 3 in 2022), with slips and trips on the same level responsible for 5, falls of material 2, manual handling 1, work equipment 1, and the remaining 2 categorised under "other".

OPERATIVES - OVER 7-DAY

In 2023, the most common accidents resulting in an absence from work for over 7-days were attributed to manual handling (24 – an increase from 19 in 2022, closely followed by slips and trips (23 – an increase from 16 in 2022). Falls from height accounted for 7 – which is unchanged from the number of over 7-day injuries from falls from height in 2022).

There were also accidents involving work equipment (2 – a decrease from 3 in 2022) and falls of materials (2 – unchanged from 2022).

OPERATIVES - FATALITIES

There were no fatalities to operatives recorded by NASC contractor members last year in 2023.

THIRD PARTIES

In 2023, there were three incidents reported for injuries to third parties, two of which were over 7-day incidents and one a specified injury, which is a decrease of 50% on 2022 figures. These accidents are explored in more depth on page 14.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no incidents to the public.

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

• Scaffsteps (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 2.1: NASC Accident Figures – Causes of Accidents to Operatives on Sites



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

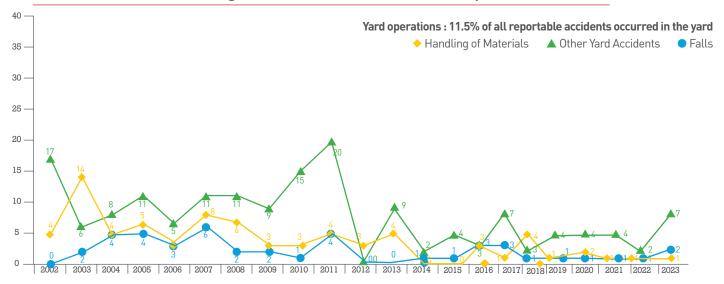


TABLE 3: NASC Accident Figures – Causes of Accidents to Members of the Public,3rd Parties and Operatives

	Memb	ers of the	public		3rd Party	njuries	5		Opera	atives	
	Fatal	Hospital visit	Total	Fatal	Specified injuries	Over 7 Day	Total	Fatal	Specified injuries	Over 7 Day	Total
FALLS											
Scaffolds									3	1	4
Working Platforms						1	1		2	1	3
Ladders & other means of access									2	2	4
Wagons					1		1		2		2
Breakage e.g broken board										1	1
Other										2	2
SUB TOTAL					1	1	2		9	7	16
FALLS OF MATERIALS											
Scaffolds									1	2	3
Working Platforms											
Ladders & other means of access											
Wagons											
Breakage e.g broken board											
Other									1		1
SUB TOTAL									2	2	4
OTHER ACCIDENTS											
Manual Handling									1	24	25
Slips and trips on the same level									5	23	28
Harmful Substance										1	1
Work equipment									1	2	3
Electricity											
Fire/Explosion											
Other						1	1		2	8	10
SUB TOTAL						1	1		9	58	67
	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	0	20	67	87

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.

All animations within this video are for illustrative purpose only.

The NASC recommend the following personal fall protection equipment be issued to all scaffolders as a minimum

- fall arrest harness complete with dorsal ring (BS EN 361),
- single fall arrest lanyard (BS EN 354) with integral shock absorber (BS EN 355) designed to reduce the forces imposed on the body in the event of a fall
- 55mm opening connector for one handed operation (BS EN 362).

ANALYSIS OF Accidents



NASC

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, which assists the NASC H&S Committee in targeting common trends. For instance, the H&S Committee instigated the new SG6 Manual handling video to target many hazards and risks, including manual handling, slips & trips, and working at height.

The highest number of injuries by age were suffered by operatives aged between 31-40 (29), closely followed by the 21-30 bracket (27).

Operatives aged between 41-50 suffered 16 injuries, closely followed by operatives aged between and 51-60 who suffered 10 injuries. Operatives aged between 16-20 suffered 3 injuries, with the over 61 category suffering 2 injuries.

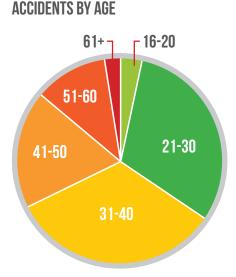
The types of accidents reported makes for interesting reading when broken down by age. Falls from height were mostly in the 31-40 age range (7) followed by the 21-30 age range (4).

Similarly, most slips and trips on the same level were in the 21-30 and 31-40 age range (8 and 10 respectively).

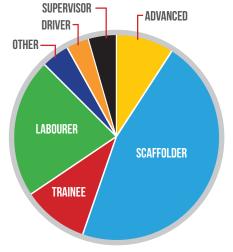
Manual handling accidents were spread out across most age ranges 16-20 (2), 21-30 (9), 31-40 (6), 41-50 (4), and 51-60 (4) with only 61+ recording zero manual handling accidents. CISRS stated that in 2023 the percentage of CISRS cards in the UK scaffolding industry were as follows: Advanced 22%, Scaffolder 46%, Trainee 15%, and Labourer 17%.

See "Accidents by CISRS Grade", which are colour coded (by CISRS card):

Scaffolders suffered the most injuries by skill level (40), Labourers were the second most injured group (19) followed by Trainees (9) and Advanced (8). The remainder were: Supervisors (4), Drivers (4), and others (3).



ACCIDENTS BY CISRS GRADE



Excerpt from the new NASC SG6 Manual handling video

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

				1	FAL	LSF	RO	OM H	HEI	GH	ľ				FÆ	٩LL	MA	TE	RIA	LS		MI	HO	W	Е	H	S	S	т	EL	EC	FI	RE	O	ГH	F	
		SCAF	FOLD	v	VP	LAD	DER	WAG	ONS	BREA	KAGE	от	HER	SCAF	FOLD	v	/P	WAG	ONS	оті	HER																Total
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	7D	SI	7D	SI	Ĕ
	SUPERVISOR																																				
	ADVANCED																																				
20	SCAFFOLDER																																				
16-20	TRAINEE																																				
	LABOURER																						2												1		3
	DRIVER																																				
	SUPERVISOR																																				
	ADVANCED																																				
8	SCAFFOLDER			1							1		1		1					1			5						2						1		13
21-30	TRAINEE					1									1								1					1	3								7
	LABOURER													1									3						2						1		7
	SUPERVISOR	1				1																							1								3
	ADVANCED																							1											1		2
	SCAFFOLDER	1	1					1					1									1	3				1	1	2						1		13
31-40	TRAINEE						1																						1								2
ñ	LABOURER																						2						4						1		7
	DRIVER																												1								1
	OTHER																																	1			1
	SUPERVISOR																																	1			1
	ADVANCED						1																1					1									3
20	SCAFFOLDER	1																					1					2	3						1		8
41-50	TRAINEE																																				
	LABOURER																						1		1												2
	DRIVER																						1		1												2
	SUPERVISOR																																				
	ADVANCED			1																			1						1								3
	SCAFFOLDER				1																		2						2								5
90	TRAINEE																																				
51-60	LABOURER																																				
	DRIVER																																				
	OTHER							1															1														2
	SUPERVISOR																																				
	ADVANCED																																				
	SCAFFOLDER																												1								1
61+	TRAINEE																																				
	LABOURER																																				
	DRIVER																																		1		1
	TOTALS	3	1	2	1	2	2	2	0	0	1	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	24	1	2	0	1	5	23	0	0	0	0	2	8	0	87
l						1		6										4				2		3		1		-	8)	(0	0	

Total number of falls (operatives):16	
Number of falls from scaffolds and working platforms (SC/WP):7	
Number of falls from ladders (or staircases, hoists, stair towers etc):4	
Number of falls from wagons:2	
Number of falls from places other than shown above:	
Number of falls under 4m:10	
Number of falls at 4m or above:6	
Highest reported fall of operatives:14m	
Additional reported falls from scaffolds arrested by safety harness:	

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.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no accidents to members of the public in 2023.

NOTE: 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).

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 is a bricklayer tripping over his own toolbox on a scaffold, with the bricklaying employer reporting the RIDDOR to the HSE.

INJURIES TO THIRD PARTIES

In 2023, there were three injuries to third parties, two of where were over 7-day incidents and one was a specified injury. The details of these three incidents: falls from height (2), and dislodgement of boarding (1) are shown below.

FALLS FROM HEIGHT - PERSONS

There were two incidents. One operative fell from his inertia line after being lifted off the vehicle by the crane. The other operative fell from a section of 2.0m high plastic decking birdcage.

DISLODGEMENT OF BOARDING / Decking

There was one incident where a third party put their foot through a dislodged or trapped board.

FREQUENCY OF ACCIDENTS IN DIFFERENT SIZED COMPANIES

As part of the annual reporting process

the NASC also identifies the total number of accidents reported relative to the size of the individual companies.

Table 6 indicates the frequency of RIDDOR accidents in different sized companies in 2023.

The majority of incidents were suffered by operatives working for small companies with between 21 and 50 operatives (33). These companies workforce of 3,296 accounted for approximately 20% of the total number of NASC operatives, but 38% of the total RIDDOR accidents.

The incident rate was 2nd highest in the 51 to 100 operative bracket. The 22 incidents recorded by these companies represent 25% of all incidents seen in 2023 despite the 3,196 operatives employed by these members only representing 19% of the workforce.

There were only four incidents reported by Large members (1001+ operatives) whose 4,677 operatives are 28% of the total number of NASC operatives, but only 4.6% of the total number of RIDDOR accidents.

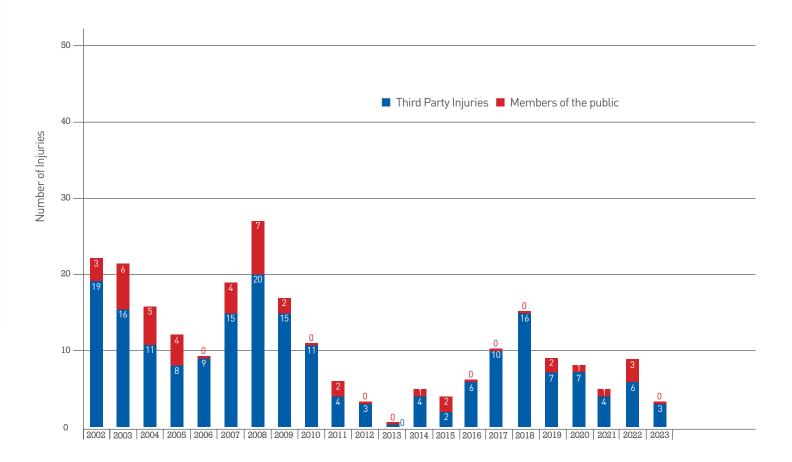


Table 5: Accident Figures - Third Parties and Members of the Public

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)	81	981	61	1,042	9	0	0	0	0	0
21 - 50 (SMALL)	98	2,996	300	3,296	33	0	0	0	2	0
51 - 100 (SMALL - MEDIUM)	46	2,974	222	3,196	22	0	0	0	0	0
101 - 200 (MEDIUM)	14	1,584	303	1,887	9	0	0	0	0	0
201 - 1000 (MEDIUM - LARGE)	7	2,386	183	2,569	10	0	0	0	1	0
1001+ (LARGE)	3	4,516	161	4,677	4	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	249	15,437	1,230	16,667	87	0	0	0	3	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, 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 (38), followed by bruising (10), sprains (9), strains (7), multiple injuries (6), lacerations (5), dislocation causing over 7-day lost time (3), cut (1), amputation of finger (1), burn (1), chemical burn (1), and other uncategorised accidents (5).

The most common body part injured were feet, toes, and ankles (28), hands, fingers, and wrists (15), legs, hips, and groin (11), and back (9).

FALLS FROM HEIGHT - PERSONS

There were 16 falls from height by persons (shown in Table 7.2). Seven of these (44% of the total) resulted in fractures. Four caused multiple injuries, three bruising, one strain, and one categorised as other.

FALLING MATERIALS

Table 7.3 shows that there were four accidents involving falling material, with two resulting in fractures and two with bruising.

MANUAL HANDLING

There were 25 instances of manual handling injuries (see Table 7.4 and the middle pie chart below) recorded in 2023.

The most common injury was a fracture (9), lacerations & cuts (5), dislocations (3), strains (2), bruising (2), finger amputation, 2 categorised as other, and a sprain (1).

SLIPS AND TRIPS ON THE SAME LEVEL

There were 28 instances of slips and trips on the same level (see Table 7.5).

The most common injury was a fracture (15), followed by a sprain (5), strain (4), bruising (2), laceration (1) and other (1).

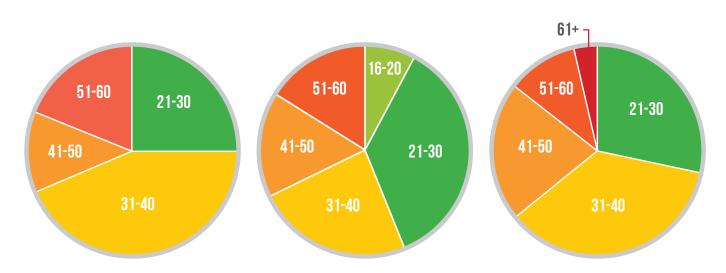
NASC guidance SG4 Preventing falls in scaffolding operations and its User Guide targets the first pie chart. NASC guidance SG6 Management of manual handling in the scaffolding industry and its User Guide target the middle pie chart, and SG31 Management of slips and trips targets the final pie chart.

NASC's new SG6 Manual handling video, which was issued in early 2024, also targets all three pie charts, including visually promoting the importance of scaffolders assessing their work place before work starts.

INJURIES RESULTING FROM FALLS FROM HEIGHT (AGE RANGE)

INJURIES RESULTING FROM MANUAL Handling (Age Range)

INJURIES RESULTING FROM SLIPS AND TRIPS (AGE RANGE)



NOTE: Where there are no light green or red slices in the three separate pie charts, this means that there were no injuries to this demographic last year.

Table 7.1: All Injuries

	EYES	FACE	HEAD	NECK / SHOULDER	RIBS / CHEST / STOMACH	BACK	ARM	HAND / FINGERS / WRIST	LEG / HIP / GROIN	FEET / TOES / ANKLES	MULTIPLE	OTHER	GRAND TOTAL
FRACTURE		2		3	1	1	4	6	5	16			38
AMPUTATION								1					1
DISLOCATION				1			2						3
TEMP. SIGHT LOSS													
BURN										1			1
PENETRATION													
STRAIN						3			3	1			7
SPRAIN						1			1	7			9
ABRASION													
LACERATION		1						4					5
CUT			1										1
BRUISING				1		3		1	2	3			10
CHEMICAL BURN							1						1
MULTIPLE					1	1		1			3		6
OTHER	1	1		1				2					5
GRAND TOTAL	1	4	1	6	2	9	7	15	11	28	3		87

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		2			1		1	2			7
AMPUTATION													
DISLOCATION													
TEMP. SIGHT LOSS													
BURN													
PENETRATION													
STRAIN										1			1
SPRAIN													
ABRASION													
LACERATION													
CUT													
BRUISING				1		1			1				3
MULTIPLE						1					3		4
OTHER				1									1
GRAND TOTAL		1		4		2	1		2	3	3		16

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

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		1	2	1	4			9
AMPUTATION								1					1
DISLOCATION				1			2						3
TEMP. SIGHT LOSS													
BURN													
PENETRATION													
STRAIN						1			1				2
SPRAIN						1							1
ABRASION													
LACERATION		1						3					4
CUT			1										1
BRUISING								1		1			2
MULTIPLE													
OTHER	1							1					2
GRAND TOTAL	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	8	2	5			25

Table 7.5: Slip and Trip Injuries

	EYES	FACE	HEAD	NECK / SHOULDER	RIBS / CHEST / STOMACH	BACK	ARM	HAND / FINGERS / WRIST	LEG / HIP / GROIN	FEET / TOES / ANKLES	MULTIPLE	OTHER	GRAND TOTAL
FRACTURE						1	1	3	2	8			15
AMPUTATION													
DISLOCATION													
TEMP. SIGHT LOSS													
BURN													
PENETRATION													
STRAIN						2			2				4
SPRAIN										5			5
ABRASION													
LACERATION								1					1
CUT													
BRUISING						1				1			2
MULTIPLE													
UNCONSCIOUS													
OTHER		1											1
GRAND TOTAL		1				4	1	4	4	14			28

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							1	1	1	2			5
AMPUTATION													
DISLOCATION													
PERM. SIGHT LOSS													
BURN										1			1
PENETRATION													
STRAIN													
SPRAIN									1	2			3
CHEMICAL BURN							1						1
LACERATION													
CUT													
BRUISING									1				1
MULTIPLE					1			1					2
OTHER								1					1
GRAND TOTAL					1		2	3	3	5			14

KEY FINDINGS AND NEXT STEPS

This report shows that almost 80% of all reported accidents were attributed to three types of event: manual handling, slips and trips, and falls from height.

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.

MANUAL HANDLING

Manual handling continues to be one of the biggest hazards within the scaffolding industry. There has been a slight increase in manual handling injuries (from 23 in 2022 to 25 in 2023). To target this risk, in 2023, the NASC updated SG6 Management of manual handling in the scaffolding industry, and refreshed the SG6 User Guide with new illustrations throughout (see below).

This year (2024) we released the SG6 digitalised manual handling video, which not only drives better manual handling training, but for the first time highlights other risks on site, and preventative measures. We took a holistic approach when engaging specialists to produce the video, and have taken the opportunity to target the scaffolding industry's other hazards and risks, which include:

• Falls from height (also covered by our SG4 guidance note and SG4 User Guide shown below).

• Slips and Trips (also covered by our guidance note SG31).

• Protection of the public (also covered by SG34).

SLIPS AND TRIPS

Management of ground conditions continues to be an issue, with 28 accidents recorded in 2023. Although many incidents were attributed to scaffolding operatives slipping and tripping on poor ground conditions, it must be stressed that scaffolding contractors are responsible for the safety of their employees, and others, when they are put to work on their clients' sites.

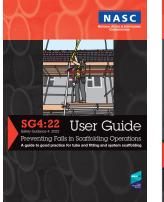
To address this risk, the new SG6 Manual handling video and User Guide includes more detail about what employers should assess when looking at client sites prior to work commencing, and asks them to also consider other NASC guidance in their RAMS, such as SG31 Management of Slips and Trips.

FALLS FROM HEIGHT - PERSONS

There were 16 incidents in 2023 that occurred on site and in members' yards. Falls from height are often the most serious of accidents and fall prevention continues to be our number one priority. NASC produces a raft of guidance to raise awareness and drive safer work at height, and will continue to strive to prevent falls.

Last year the NASC issued the updated SG4 User Guide (A6 pocket sized booklet), and in early 2024 the NASC issued the SG6 Manual handling video, which also visually portrays best practice for working at height, which includes **the scaffolders safe zone single guardrail on the top lift, together with a safe access to a fully boarded lift.** The video also includes slides that remind the viewer on the need to comply with NASC guidance, SG4 Preventing falls in scaffolding operations.

The User Guides (A6 pocket sized booklets) and SG6 video builds on previously updated guidance documents that target safer work at height, including: SG4 Preventing falls in scaffolding operations, TG1 Temporary Edge protection, and SG27 Guidance on edge protection for open steelwork, roofs, and slab edges (Class A and B surfaces).





NATIONAL ACCESS & SCAFFOLDING CONFEDERATION SG6 Manual Handling

NASC ARCHIVE ACCIDENT FIGURES FROM 1975 TO 1981

In 1975, a year after the Department of Employment's report Safety of Scaffolding was published, the NASC collated member accident statistics and continues to do so to this day (see TABLE 1 for latest figures). These archive figures are a reminder of where we were as a scaffolding industry and of the importance of driving health & 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
1981	50	7513	496	66.02	3.3	4	0.53

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE COMMENT

The NASC continues to drive H&S and inclusivity by increasing membership. In 2023, contractor membership increased by 4%, particularly with small-to-medium sized companies joining, but we've also seen an unrelated 4% decrease in operative numbers. Last year, there was a 6% decrease in direct employment in contrast to a 37% increase in subcontractor numbers, reflecting businesses' need to remain agile within the industry (Table 6).

With an increase in small-to-medium sized company membership and a greater reliance on subcontractors, who by the very nature of their flexible working can miss out on continuous H&S training and development, we have witnessed an increase in accidents across as a wide range of ages (21-60). The NASC remains focussed on preventing incidents, and supporting the same induction standard for both employed and subcontract workers, as well ensuring all operatives are trained to the highest standards. Pointedly, there was no increase in the accident rate for trainees in our lowest age group, reinforcing the fact that high quality training prevents accidents. Additionally, we are supporting new NASC members and recommending accelerated training development as a core part of small business competency.

The NASC is constantly striving for innovative ways for companies to engage with H&S, and in turn engage with their workforce. We issued the new digital SG6 Manual handling video in May 2024 to increase engagement and interaction. The video works alongside our new guidance and User Guides to focus on training requirements for Work at Height (SG4), Manual Handling (SG6), and Prevention of Slips & Trips (SG31). NASC members are fully supported with guidance, training materials and provision, typically supported by targeted funding.

Training is an essential core competency in maintaining the welfare and H&S of our workforce, but it's important to also prioritise mental health wellbeing. Training, support, and reporting is the cornerstone of the NASC achieving its objective of tracking and reducing accident rate across all demographics. As the industry strives for greater environmental sustainability, as well as workforce flexibility and inclusivity, the NASC continues to develop and drive progressive H&S standards 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 record by producing guidance, 3 User Guides (A6 pocket sized booklets: SG4, SG6, TG20), bulletins, posters, videos 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.









Leading the Construction Industry





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

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OUR SPECIAL Thanks to...

NASC contractor members for their assistance with this Safety Report.

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The NASC member listings shown below 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: nasc.org.uk/members/

RBS Scaffolding Ltd RDA Scaffolding Ltd Rilmac Scaffolding Ltd Rise Scaffold Services Ltd RJS Scaffolding Ltd Rodells I td Rose System Scaffolding Limited Rowecord Total Access Ltd Rowland Scaffold Co Ltd RPF Scaffolding Ltd Rushar Limited S & K Scaffolding Ltd S & P Scaffolding Ltd S.G.S. Ltd S.N. Scaffolds LLP S.Y.S. (Scaffolding Contractors) Ltd Safe Access (Highland) Ltd Safe Access Scaffolding (Midlands) Ltd Safeguard Scaffolding North West Ltd Safeway Scaffolding Limited SAY Scaffolding (Northern) Ltd SBS Scaffolding (Power) Limited SCA Group Ltd Scaffold North Limited Scaffold Services Ltd Scaffolding 4 MGB Limited Scaffolding Access Limited Scaffolding Access Solutions Ltd Scaffolding Solutions (Wales) Limited Seaboard Scaffolding Ltd Severnside Scaffolding Ltd Shield Environmental Services Limited T/A Shield Services Group Silver Star Services Ltd Skill Scaffolding Limited Sky Scaffolding (Midlands) Ltd Sonic Scaffolding 2000 Ltd South Lincolnshire Scaffolding Ltd South Molton Scaffolding Ltd Sovereign Scaffolding (South West) Ltd Spartan Scaffolding Solutions Ltd Speedier Scaffolding Ltd SRK Scaffolding and Industrial Services Ltd Staffordshire Access Scaffolding Ltd Standard Scaffolding Specialists Ltd Star Scaffolding Ltd Starfish 9 Ltd t/a Starfish Construction Stork Technical Services (RGB) Limited Summit Marine Scaffolding Ltd SW Scaffolding Ltd Swale Scaffolding Ltd SWC Scaffolds Ltd Tag Industrial Scaffolding Limited Tamworth Scaffolding Company Ltd Taziker Industrial Limited T/A Taziker Industrial Services Teal Scaffold Limited Test Account CAScloud TEXO Scaffolding (London) Ltd Thomson Scaffolding Limited Tilson Scaffolding Ltd Tom Garnett Scaffolding Limited Tone Scaffolding Services Ltd TR Scaffolding (Bristol) Ltd Trad Scaffolding Co. Limited TTAG Ltd Tubeline Scaffolding Ltd Tubes Scaffolding Ltd Turner Access Ltd UK Access Solutions Ltd Ultimate Access Solutions Limited

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