

# Injuries & Fatalities From Contact with Objects

*Employers and employees in Manufacturing need your help*

## NORA

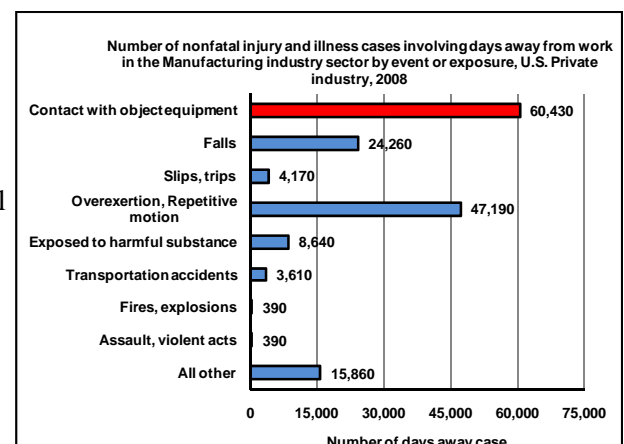
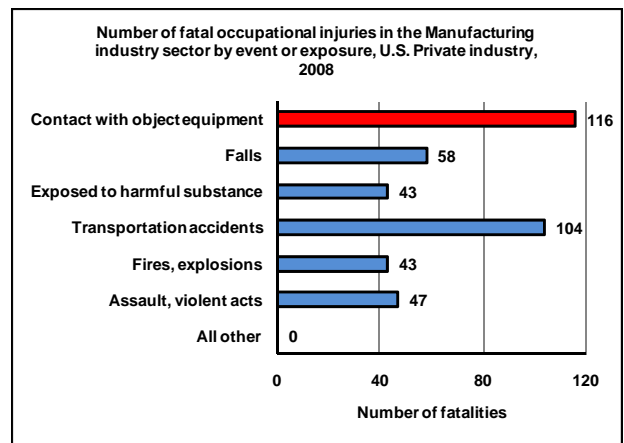
The National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) is a partnership program to stimulate innovative research and improve workplace practices. Unveiled in 1996, NORA has become a framework for guiding Occupational Safety and Health research in the nation. Diverse parties collaborate to identify the most critical issues in the workplace. Partners work together to develop goals, objectives, and an implementation plan for addressing these issues.

## Manufacturing

This sector consists of industries that have been assigned a North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) number between 31 and 33 ([www.census.gov/epcd/naics02/naicod02.htm#N31](http://www.census.gov/epcd/naics02/naicod02.htm#N31)), as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. This sector represents one of the largest workforces and includes a diverse group of manufacturing industries such as Beverage and Tobacco, Food, Wood Products, Primary Metals, Fabricated Metal Products, Transportation Equipment, Furniture, and Chemical Manufacturers.

## Contact with Objects and Equipment in the Manufacturing Sector

An estimated 15.9 million people worked in the Manufacturing Sector in 2008, which accounted for approximately 10.9% of the employed U.S. workforce.<sup>1</sup> In 2008, 411 manufacturing sector workers died from occupational injuries. The leading causes of death were contact with objects and equipment (116), transportation incidents (104), and falls (58).<sup>2</sup> The Sector reported 689,700 non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses with more than half requiring days away from work, job transfer, or restriction.<sup>3</sup> The leading causes of days away from work cases were: contact with objects or equipment (60,430), overexertion and repetitive motion (47,190), and falls (24,260).<sup>4</sup> These data substantiate that Strategic Goal 1 of the National Manufacturing Agenda focuses on one of the three leading sources of occupational injuries and fatalities – contact with objects and equipment.



NIOSH is the federal agency responsible for conducting research and making recommendations to prevent work-related injury, illness, and fatalities. Its mission is to generate new occupational safety and health knowledge and to transfer that knowledge into practice.

## Strategic Goal: Reduction of Injuries and Fatalities due to Contact with Objects and Equipment

The NORA Manufacturing Sector Council has developed goals to guide the reduction of injuries and fatalities due to contact with objects and equipment in this sector. These goals can be found on the NORA Web site ([www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora)) under Strategic Goal 1 of the National Manufacturing Agenda. Public comments on this document are accepted at any time.

### How You Can Help

*Compile databases to disseminate information to employers and employees:*

- Compile existing data on machine related fatal and non-fatal incidents in order to identify gaps in research.
- Gather data on machines which cause potential hazards during set up, normal operations and repair.
- Gather data on injuries to workers due to contact with objects and equipment with emphasis on machine-related hazards.

*Develop and improve manufacturing equipment and training programs:*

- Develop and evaluate interventions based on improved machine design.
- Develop design guidelines and risk assessment tools for the evaluation of equipment.
- Determine best practices for the communication of machine-related hazards, emphasizing language, culture and literacy of workers.
- Review and evaluate standards for machine safety from the US and other countries for effective approaches to ensure operator safety.

*Adopt Design Recommendations:*

- Partner with Standards Committees to make user guidelines available free of charge.
- Develop injury surveillance tools and disseminate to workers, employers and other organizations.
- Disseminate design guidelines and machine risk assessment tools by establishing partnerships with trade associations, employers, labor unions and others.
- Disseminate best practices guidelines and programs through partnerships with employers, trade associations, labor unions and others.

The NORA Manufacturing Sector Council includes individuals from industry, academia, labor, and government. The Council meets face-to-face twice a year. Additional communication occurs through email, conference calls, and web-based meetings. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) facilitates the work of the Council. The Council's workgroup on reducing injuries and fatalities due to contact with objects relies on Corresponding Members for additional expert input and feedback on sector goals. Members and Corresponding Members primarily meet via conference calls and web-based meetings.

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**For more information about NORA or the NORA Manufacturing Sector, please visit:**

NORA Website: [www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora)

NIOSH Manufacturing Program Portfolio:  
[www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/manuf/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/manuf/)

#### References

- Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates, latest available (accessed April 25, 2010)
- (1) [www.bls.gov/cps/cpsa2008.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsa2008.pdf) - See Table 18
  - (2) [www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/cftb0232.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/cftb0232.pdf)
  - (3) [www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/osh/os/ostb2073.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/osh/os/ostb2073.pdf)
  - (4) [www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/osh/case/ostb2086.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/osh/case/ostb2086.pdf)