The Louisiana Department of Health & Hospital’s Occupational Health & Injury Surveillance Program focuses on identifying workers at high risk for occupational injuries and illnesses and providing data to reduce occupational injuries and diseases through targeted preventive measures. An important data source in this effort is the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), a comprehensive national surveillance system for work-related fatalities in the US.

CFOI data show that Louisiana's Fatal occupational injury rate remains consistently greater than the US rate, and many other states.

Between 2007 and 2011, there was an average of 125 work-related deaths per year in Louisiana.

Fatal injuries vary by industry; transportation and construction industries in Louisiana have the most deaths.

CFOI classifies each fatal event or exposure into one of 6 cause of death categories.

On average, 26 construction workers die every year in Louisiana from a work-related injury.

Data from 2007-2011 show that one quarter of the construction-related fatalities in Louisiana were due to falls.

Most fatal falls are a fall to a lower level such as fall from a roof, scaffold or ladder.

*Other includes 2 categories: Assaults/Violent Acts and Fires/Explosions.
**Transportation accidents exclude commuting to and from work.
***Exposure to harmful substances or environments includes contact with chemicals, electrocution, extreme temperatures, oxygen-depleted spaces and drowning.
The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) investigates all work-related fatalities and disasters. Federal law requires that employers report all work-related deaths to the nearest OSHA office. Descriptions of nine fall fatalities occurring in Louisiana were selected from OSHA’s fatality database.

Falls are the leading cause of death in the construction industry. Falls can be prevented and lives can be saved through 3 simple steps: plan, provide and train.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) & OSHA are part of a nationwide outreach campaign to raise awareness among workers and employers about the hazards of falls.

Visit OSHA’s website at www.osha.gov/stopfalls for posters, training materials and more information about how to be a partner in the campaign.