

Employee Safety

## Top Work-Related Injury Causes

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The top three leading causes of work-related injuries –***overexertion and bodily reaction, contact with objects and equipment***, and ***slips, trips and falls***– account for more than 85% of all nonfatal injuries involving days away from work.

### Overexertion and bodily reaction includes:

- ***Non-impact injuries***: Result from excessive physical effort directed at an outside source; common activities include lifting, pushing, turning, holding, carrying or throwing
- ***Repetitive motion***: Microtasks resulting in stress or strain on some part of the body due to the repetitive nature of the task, typically without strenuous effort such as heavy lifting

### Contact with objects and equipment, including:

- A moving object striking a worker
- A worker striking against an object or equipment, including bumping into, stepping on, kicking or being pushed or thrown onto an object
- A part of a worker's body being squeezed, pinched, compressed or crushed in equipment, between shifting objects, between stationary objects or in a wire or rope
- A worker being struck, caught or crushed in collapsing structure, equipment or material
- A worker being injured as a result of friction or pressure between the person and the source of injury
- A worker being injured from vibration

### Slips, trips and falls include the following types of events:

- Slips and trips without falling; injuries occurring when a worker catches himself or herself from falling due to slip or trip

- Falling on the same level; includes tripping, slipping, falling while sitting, and falling onto or against object on the same level
- Falling to a lower level; includes falling from a collapsing structure, falling through surfaces, and falling from ladders, roofs, scaffolding or other structures
- Jumping to a lower level, which is different from falls because they are controlled and voluntary

The following infographic provides a summary of the eight leading nonfatal work-related injuries involving days away from work in 2017. Please visit ***data details*** for additional information on both nonfatal and fatal injury events.

## OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES INVOLVING DAYS AWAY FROM WORK UNITED STATES, 2017



TOP 3

### #1

#### Overexertion, bodily reaction

- **Injury rate:** 30.0 per 10,000 full-time workers
- **Age group** most at risk: 45 to 54
- **Industry** most at risk: transportation and warehousing
- **Typical days lost:** 13
- Most frequent **part of body** hurt: back

### #2

#### Contact with objects/equipment

- **Injury rate:** 23.2 per 10,000 full-time workers
- **Age group** most at risk: 16 to 24
- **Industry** most at risk: agriculture, construction, and transportation and warehousing
- **Typical days lost:** 5
- Most frequent **type of injury:** cuts, lacerations, punctures

### #3

#### Falls, slips, trips

- **Injury rate:** 23.1 per 10,000 full-time workers
- **Age group** most at risk: 55 and over
- **Industries** most at risk: transportation and warehousing and agriculture
- **Typical days lost:** 12
- Most frequent **type of injury:** sprains, strains, tears



295,830



229,170



227,760



## OTHER EVENTS OR EXPOSURES

#4 Transportation incidents  
47,910 injuries

#6 Exposure to harmful substances  
or environments  
37,110 injuries

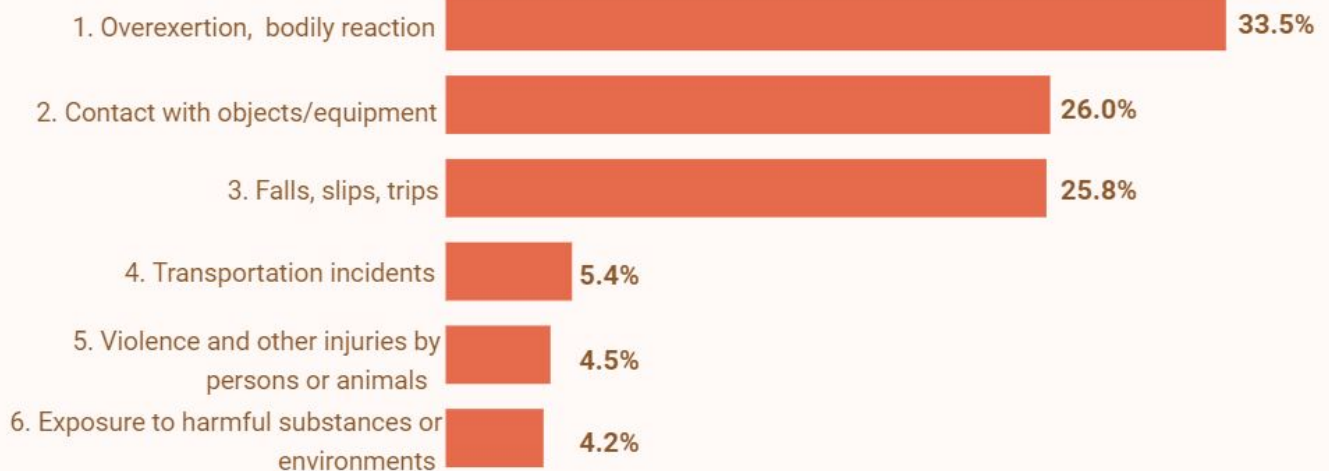
#5 Violence and other injuries by  
persons or animals  
39,750 injuries

#7 Nonclassifiable  
3,730 injuries

#8 Fire and explosions  
1,470 injuries



## TOP INJURIES OR EXPOSURES



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

*Previously Featured on National Safety Council's website.*

