

12 April, 2002

# The Falls from Heights problem

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# A snapshot – Falls from Heavy Vehicles

- ✍ **Claims period 1/7/98 to 30/6/01**
- ✍ **Free text analysis of “falls from height”**
- ✍ **More than 700 falls from heavy vehicles - largely excluding falls from the cab**
- ✍ **Direct claims cost to date \$8.7 m**
- ✍ **Focus on Transport & Storage & Trade - excludes ‘manufacturing’ fleet**
- ✍ **Very many falls found in the ‘sprains and strains’ classification**

# Limitations of the methodology

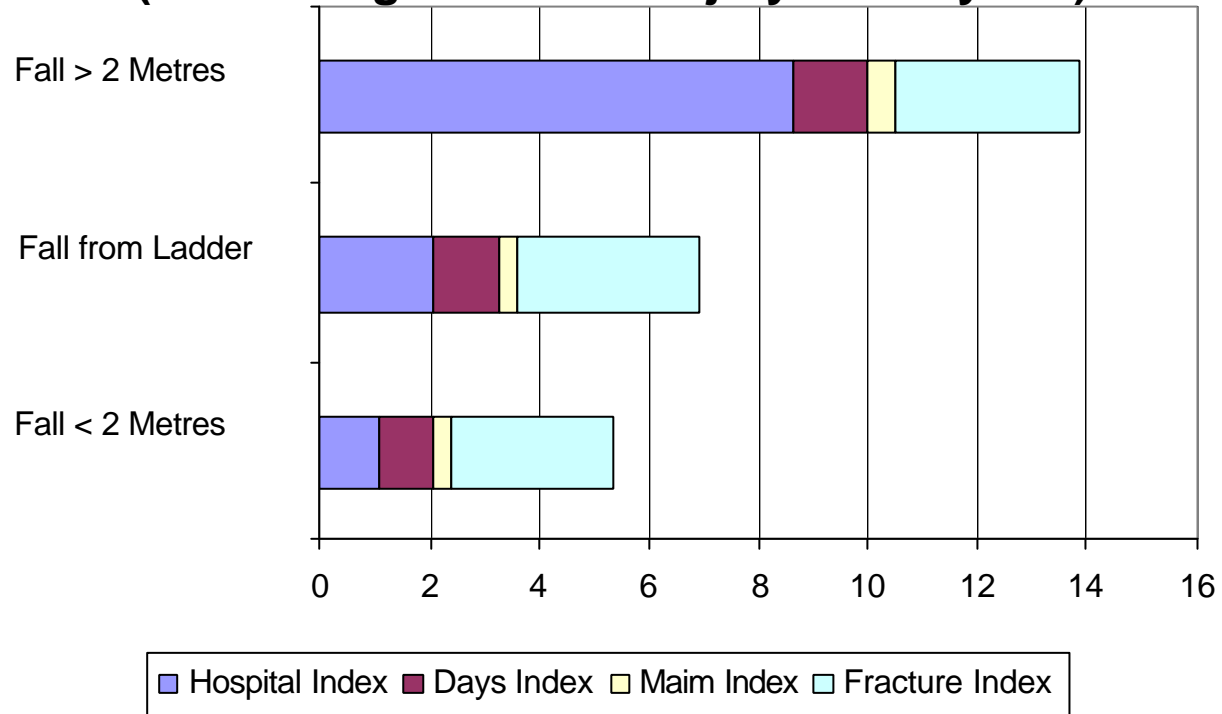
- ✍ **Excludes self-insured**
- ✍ **Free text often lacks info on vehicle type**
- ✍ **Suspect major under-reporting - O/Drivers**
- ✍ **Many falls with minor outcomes not recorded**
- ✍ **A lack of records at Transport workplaces and investigations are extremely rare.**

# Structures and outcomes

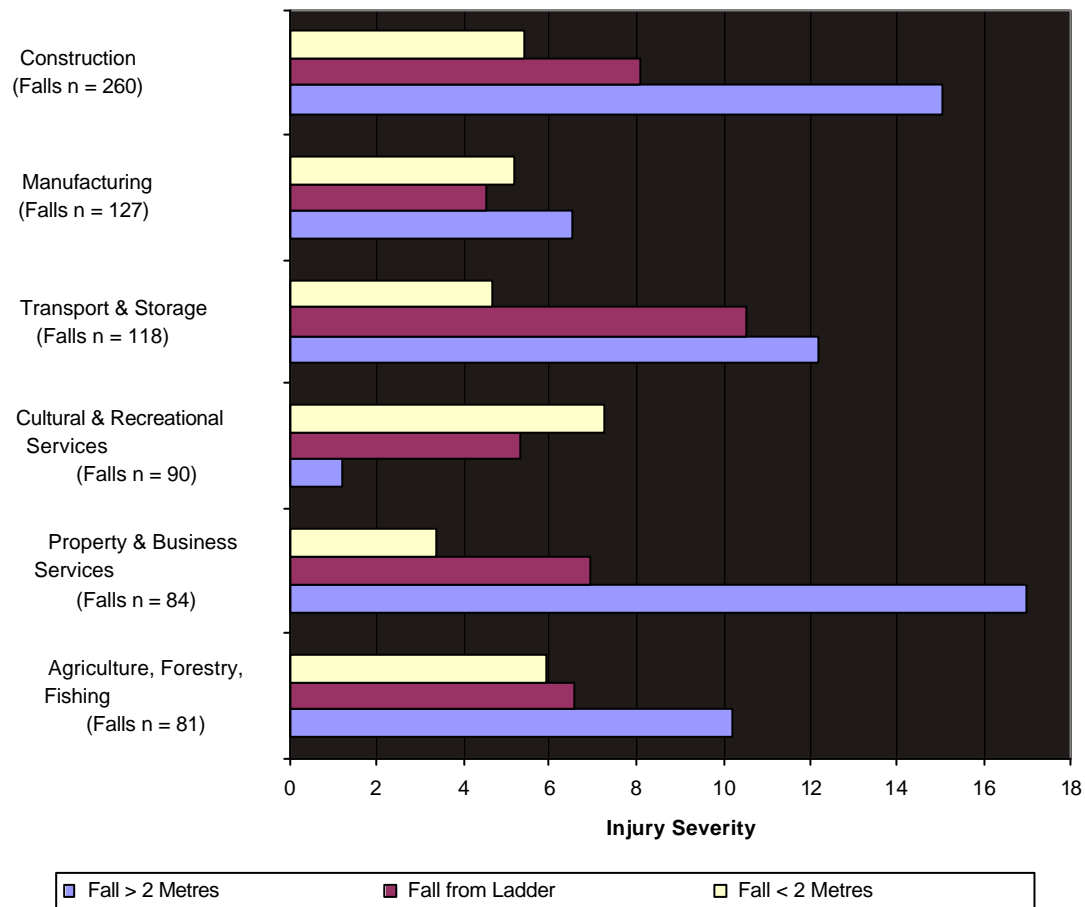
- ✍ **What about bulk tankers data? They can be hard to find but scrutiny of one 'bulk' tanker operator showed 10% of injuries are from falls.**
- ✍ **transport worker falls - 78% from < 2 mtrs**
- ✍ **In broad terms the vehicle type doesn't matter -**
- ✍ **The laws of gravity don't distinguish between industry, structures or occupation!**
- ✍ **However – the higher they are .....**

## INJURY SEVERITY

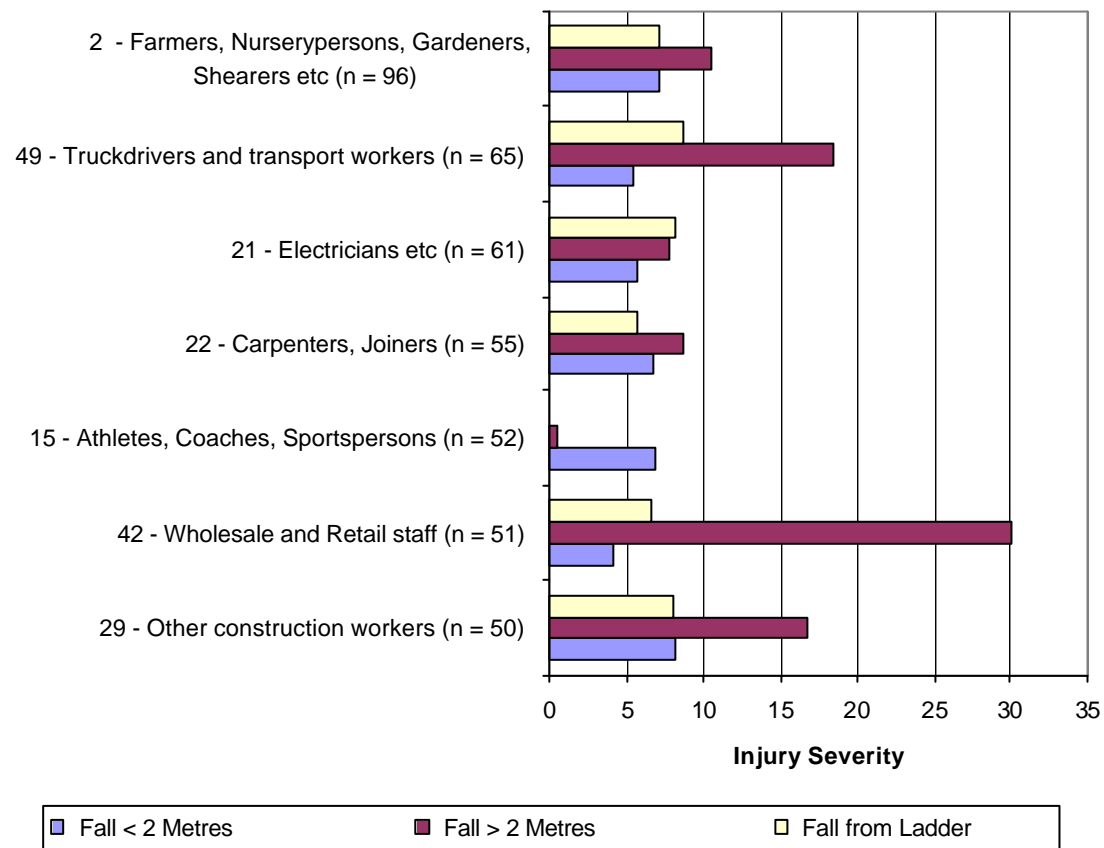
(The average all claims injury severity is 4)



**Top 6 Industries by # Claims showing Injury Severity and Fall Type**  
 (The average all industry injury severity is 4)



### Occupations where the number of claims $\geq 50$ claims showing Injury Severity and Fall Type













# Draft Occupational Health & safety (Prevention of Falls) Regulations 2000

- ✍ **Scope “apply to tasks at a workplace with potential for a person to fall more than 2metres.”**
- ✍ **During cleaning, construction, inspection, or maintenance**
- ✍ **Sloping, unstable or slippery surfaces**
- ✍ **Close to edges, a hole or pit**

# Employer duties

- ✍ **Identify fall hazards re: conduct of tasks including travelling to and from that task**
- ✍ **Assess the risk considering:**
  - ✍ **Nature and duration of task**
  - ✍ **Work environment**
  - ✍ **Risks associated with control measures & their placement and removal (eg: lanyards)**
- ✍ **In any case – must control risk if within 2 metres of an unprotected edge or slope > 45 degrees**

# Risk control








-  **Eliminate or reduce “so far as is practicable”**
-  **Hierarchy of control:**
  -  **1 arrange for work**
    -  on the ground or
    -  on a solid construction
  -  **2 ... Or if 1 is not practicable or if risk still remains**
    -  Use temporary work platform
    -  A device which prevents a fall to a lower level
  -  **3 if there is still a risk use a fall arrest system**
  -  **4 if there is still a risk use a fixed or portable ladder, or administrative controls or both**

# Risk control

- ✍ **Where only administrative controls are used:**
  - ✍ **Record details and which workplaces it applies to and**
  - ✍ **the part of the task it applies to**
  - ✍ **Keep records of the above**

# Risk control

## Other:

-  **develop emergency procedures if not working on ground or on solid structure**
-  **Include recovery and first aid**
-  **Extensive requirements on ladders**
-  **Instruction and training**
-  **Employee duties**
-  **Contractors are employees for these purposes**
-  **Consultation**