

Category: Slips, Trips and Falls

Title: Causes, Sources, and Costs of Falls in a Helicopter Manufacturing Plant

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Abstract

A study has been initiated to evaluate a helicopter manufacturing plant safety intervention program from the baseline period in 2004-2008 through an intervention phase in 2009-2011. The evaluation includes the reduction in injury and cost, and the return on investment of interventions. As part of the baseline phase, company records on workers' compensation claims, first report of injury, and payroll records on number of hours worked were collected on all (4,070) workers employed from January, 2004 to March, 2008. The purpose of this paper is to present baseline data on falls.

During 2004-2008, there were 2,378 injuries. Cause and source of all injuries were coded using the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS), and sources of fall injuries peculiar to the plant were additionally coded.

Baseline results showed that 823 (35%) were due to contact with objects or equipment, 185 (8%) were due to falls; 955 (40%) were due to bodily reaction and exertion; 269 (11%) were due to exposure to harmful substances or environments; 22 (1%) were due to transportation accidents, fires and explosions, and assaults and violent acts; and 124 (5%) were non-classifiable events.

Data will be presented on cost of all injuries by 2-digit OIICS codes. Information will also be presented on causes and sources of falls by 2- and 3-digit OIICS codes. Additionally, data will be presented on the cost of preventable fall injuries. Recommendations for fall preventions in the plant will be discussed.

Objectives: The purpose of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of a safety intervention program in a helicopter manufacturing plant. The additional purpose of this study is to present baseline data on falls within this facility.

Methods: As part of the baseline phase, company records on workers' compensation claims, first report of injury, and payroll records on number of hours worked were collected on all (4,070) workers employed from January, 2004 to March, 2008. Cause and source of all injuries were coded using the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS), and sources of fall injuries peculiar to the plant were additionally coded.

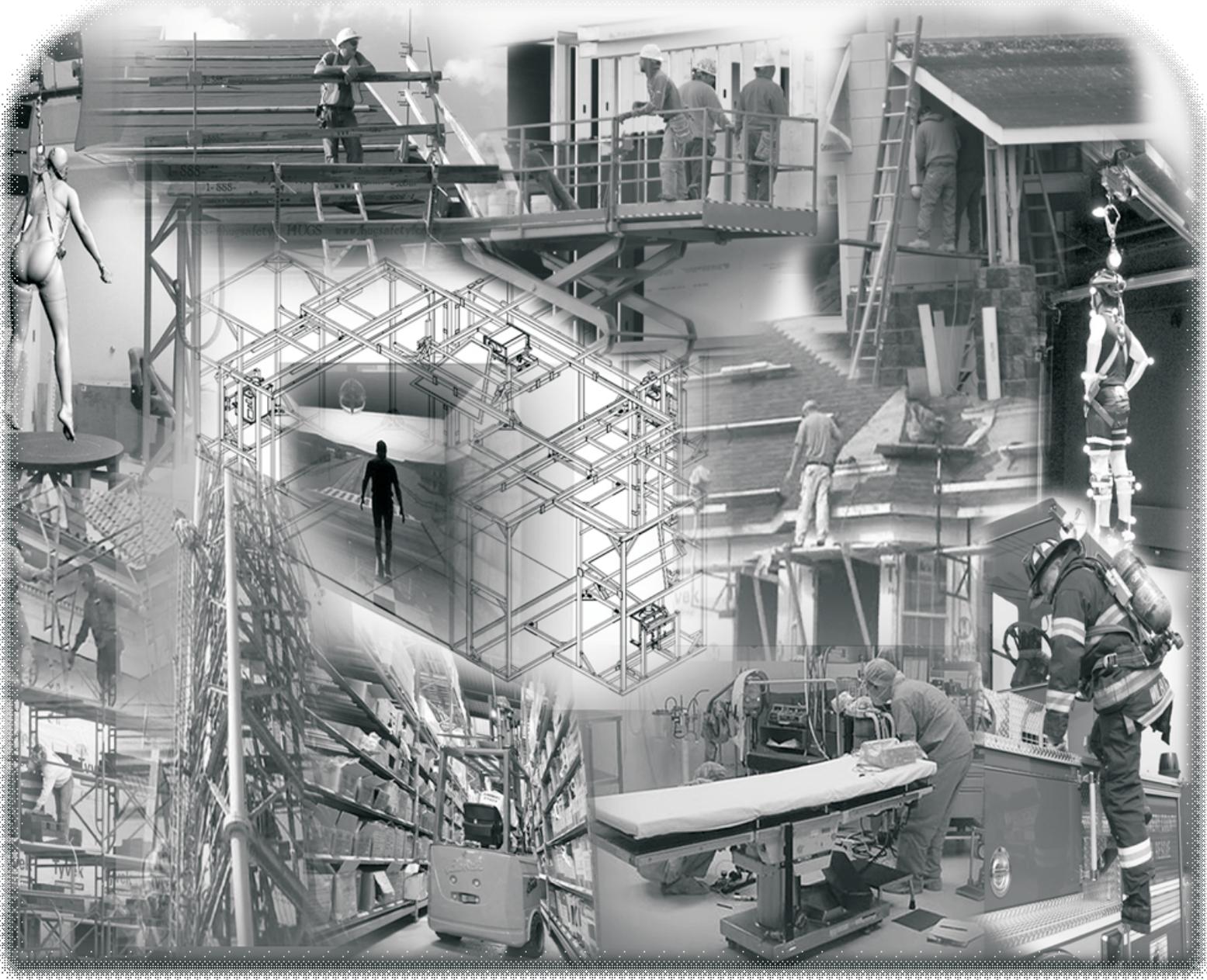
Results: During 2004-2008, there were 2,378 injuries. Baseline results showed that 823 (35%) were due to contact with objects or equipment, 185 (8%) were due to falls; 955 (40%) were due to bodily reaction and exertion; 269 (11%) were due to exposure to harmful substances or environments; 22 (1%) were due to transportation accidents, fires and explosions, and assaults and violent acts; and 124 (5%) were non-classifiable events.

Data will be presented on cost of all injuries by 2-digit OIICS codes. Information will also be presented on causes and sources of falls by 2- and 3-digit OIICS codes. Additionally, data will be presented on the cost of preventable fall injuries.

Conclusions: Recommendations for fall preventions in the plant will be presented and discussed.

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