If a Slab Falls, Does Anyone Hear It?

WestON – September 30, 2016
Denver, Colorado

Bob Harrison, California Department of Public Health
John Beckman, California Department of Public Health
Daniel Wright, Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Michael Hodgson, Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Stone yards, slabs and dangerous work
Stone yards, slabs and dangerous work
Does the system work for stopping worker deaths?
“Making a living shouldn’t have to cost you your life. Workplace fatalities, injuries, and illnesses are preventable.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Employer/Address of Incident</th>
<th>Victim(s)</th>
<th>Hazard Description</th>
<th>Fatality or Catastrophe</th>
<th>Inspecton #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/28/2016</td>
<td>Nidi Tec, Inc., Denver, CO 80216</td>
<td>Carlos Ismael Cazarea-Gandara</td>
<td>granite</td>
<td>Fatality</td>
<td>1121670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/17/2015</td>
<td>US Marble and Granite Corp., Westlake, OH 44145</td>
<td>Mitchell R. Williams</td>
<td>granite</td>
<td>Fatality</td>
<td>1113335</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Holy smokes! 46 workers died over the past decade

Case Definition

- Acute traumatic fatality
- Occurring in a stone, marble, or granite wholesaler, retailer, manufacturing, machining or fabricating facility; or during
- Storage, transfer, transport or
- Installation of stone, marble or granite pieces

Case Ascertainment

IMIS, FATCAT, FACE Programs
Google Fusion Map
46 Worker Fatalities Involving Slabs
2006-2016
“Info Window”
46 Worker Fatalities Involving Slabs
2006-2016
46 Worker Fatalities Involving Slabs by Year
2006-2016
36 Worker Fatalities Involving Slabs by Slab Type 2006-2016

- Individual Slab(s): 75%
- Bundle: 14%
- Crate: 8%
- Unknown: 3%
36 Worker Fatalities Involving Slabs by Equipment Type
2006-2016
36 Worker Fatalities Involving Slabs
2006-2016
Adequate Training Yes/No

Number of Workers

Yes
No
Unknown
36 Worker Fatalities Involving Slabs
2006-2016
Victim in Fall or Shadow Zone
36 Worker Fatalities Involving Slabs
2006-2016
Fall Zone Marked Yes/No

![Chart showing number of workers in fall zones marked as Yes, No, or Unknown.](image-url)
Key Findings

• In $\frac{3}{4}$ of the cases individual slab(s) were the cause

• In $\frac{3}{4}$ of the events involving a forklift, the operator killed someone else

• More than half of the events involved inadequate training
What if the next slab (or tree) falls?
Occupational Health Alert Network

The future is here,

But we need to be on the same ship.

-Toxic Avenger