

Activity P1

Being safe at work: what do the figures tell us?

What's the problem?

There are about 9 000 reported accidents each year in the manufacturing sector. Forty-five were fatal in 2005/2006, an increase of 50% over 2003/2004.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) reports that, between October 2002 and May 2004, three apprentice workers, all under the age of 23, were killed whilst on work placements.

Accidents can also cause major injury. In many cases they cause absence from work of more than 3 days. This activity is to help you to find out more about the causes of accidents and the impact they could have on you and others.

Learning objectives

By the end of this activity you should be able to:

- identify what causes most accidents in manufacturing industry
- analyse your findings and show them in a chart
- consider and explain what it all means for yourself and others.

Materials you will need

- squared paper or flip chart paper
- coloured pens
- ruler, protractor and a pair of compasses, as necessary.

Stage 1

Get ready to work in a small group.

Look at the table on the next page.

Check you understand the figures in it.

Use the percentages to make a chart or diagram to show how accidents are caused. Before you start, agree how you will illustrate the figures. For example, you might choose to make a bar chart or pie chart.

Your teacher or trainer might ask your group to work on just one type of accident (fatalities, non-fatal major accidents or over three day absence) and report back on this to the class.

If you are not sure how to produce a bar chart or pie chart, ask your teacher or trainer to show you how.

Remember to label your chart and give it a title. You must say where the figures came from.

Stage 2

Discuss the main patterns you notice about the figures you have been working on.

- What causes most accidents?
- What might be the impact on you and others?
- Write your main points on a flip chart.

Stage 3

Explain your findings to the whole group. You can use your chart as an illustration.

Accidents to employees reported in manufacturing industries

Cause of accident	Fatal accidents (%)	Non-fatal major accidents (%)	Over three day absence (%)
People struck by moving (including flying/falling) objects	30	16	14
Contact with moving machinery	22	15	8
Struck by moving vehicle	15	3	2
Injured while handling, lifting or carrying	4	15	41
Slips, trips or falls on the same level	0	30	21
Strike against something fixed or stationary	0	5	5
Falls from height	4	10	4
Other, not classified	25	6	5

Source: Health and Safety Executive (HSE) 2004.

The manufacturing sector includes a wide range of industries, including engineering, shipbuilding and repair, motor vehicle repair, textiles, printing, wood working, paper, rubber, plastics, metals, foundries, ceramics, quarries, glass, concrete, cement, and waste recycling. Manufacturing employs around four million people.