

# Injury Fact Sheet—Construction



## Masonry (Bricklayers)

In the years 2000-2004, 66 masonry workers were seriously injured in falls from scaffolds or other elevated surfaces.



These injuries were so serious the workers had to take time off work to recover or in some cases were permanently disabled. These serious injuries are costly and affect your industrial insurance premiums. They contribute to the reason for an base rate of \$3.41 per hour per employee paid by masonry contractors in 2006. In addition, if your company has a higher than average number of injuries (claims), your “experience rating” can increase by as much as 25% to \$4.19 per hour per employee using 2006 rates.

Stated another way, if you had 5 full-time masons, and had an average rate of injuries (claims), you would pay about \$34,100 in 2006. If your experience rating had increased by 25% because of higher than average injuries, you would pay about \$7700 more or \$41,800 in 2006.

### Causes of fall injuries

Masons fall off scaffolds and other elevated surfaces for a variety of reasons, but most often, they fall because there are no guardrails or they are not wearing fall protection. Some falls occur when scaffolds collapse because they were incorrectly erected.



Scaffold needing guard rails

### Ways to prevent fall injuries

Falls from scaffolds can be prevented by erecting them properly and ensuring they have guard rails or workers have fall protection. Guard rails or fall protection is required on scaffolds when they are 10 feet or higher.



Scaffold properly guarded