

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PRESENTATION: 15 Years of Construction Incidents

Q1. How has required worker training affected the number of accidents?

A1. DOB has not studied this; however, the Department is looking into on the worker qualifications information (when the worker involved in an accident was under an obligation to have site safety training). In time DOB will have enough data to answer.

Q2. How many of these personnel accidents involved drugs and alcohol? What is DOB's position on this?

A2. Working while impaired by drugs, alcohol, or other substance is a violation of the law. DOB does not test workers who are involved in an accident, and we do not have data to provide a correlation between accidents and potential impairment.

Q3. If there are some dangerous conditions, and the superintendent of construction reported these conditions, but nobody is listening to him, what should the superintendent do?

A3. The super should report the conditions to DOB. There is an 'anonymous' reporting option.

Q4. It seems the number of accidents, which began a large spike in 2015, follows the increase in regulations and penalties issued. Is it possible the extra regulatory burden may be a contributing factor to site accidents?

A4. There are no clear examples where the increase in regulations contributed to accidents. The new regulations cited in the presentation were rooted in analyses of causes of accidents. Using data from OSHA you will see increases of some types of accidents where there had been no change (or increased) regulation.