

Areas within the  
NAICS 71 sector:

- Performing arts
- Spectator sports
- Sports teams and clubs
- Racetracks
- Promoters of performing arts
- Artists, writers, and performers
- Museums, historical sites, zoos, and parks
- Amusement and theme parks
- Gambling establishments
- Golf courses
- Skiing facilities
- Marinas
- Fitness and recreational centers
- Bowling centers

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# Art, Entertainment, Leisure, and Recreation Worker Safety Newsletter

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## What is NORA?

The National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) is a partnership program to stimulate innovative research and improved workplace practices. NORA is sponsored by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), which is part of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP).

Unveiled in 1996, NORA has become a research framework for NIOSH and the nation. Diverse parties collaborate to identify the most critical issues in workplace safety and health. Partners then work together to develop goals and objectives for addressing these needs. The following types of information help inform the program's priority setting process:

- The numbers of workers at risk for a particular injury or illness

- The seriousness of the hazard or issue
- The probability that new information and approaches will make a difference

Participation in NORA is broad, including stakeholders from universities, large and small businesses, professional societies, government agencies, and worker organizations.

NIOSH and its partners have formed eight NORA Sector Councils, including participants from academia, industry, labor, and government. Each Council will draft goals, performance measures, and implementation plans for the nation. These agendas will provide guidance to the entire occupational safety and health community for moving research to practice in workplaces.

**N**ational  
**O**ccupational  
**R**esearch  
**A**genda





## Welcome

The Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (AER) sector (NAICS Code 71) contains numerous sub categories ranging from museums to health clubs and professional sport teams. The industry had approximately 1,974,230 employees in 2008 and that number is projected to increase 15% by 2018 to 2.27 million. This number focuses on full-time employees, but the sector also employs a significant number of part-time employees. Each employee in this industry sector faces the potential for workplace injuries and this guide is designed to help identify some of the risks that can be faced in this sector and then provide some concrete steps to help reduce the threat of injuries. The ultimate goal of this guide and the NORA/NIOSH sector group is to reduce workplace injuries in our sector by 30%, by 2012. We hope this guide assists in this effort and encourage your feedback and assistance as we try to reduce injuries.

Sincerely,  
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“More than  
550,000  
injuries per  
year (15%  
of all  
disabling  
injuries in  
the  
workforce)  
are due to  
slip and fall  
incidents”



## Industry Comparison

The following chart highlights the number of nonfatal injuries in various industry sectors. The numbers show a slight decrease in the number of injuries in the broader leisure/hospitality sector (71-72), but there were still 400,800 injuries in 2007.

<b>Sector Group (NAICS)</b>	<b>Nonfatal injuries in 2007 (in 000s)(change from 2003 in parenthesis)</b>
Private Industry	4,002.7 (decrease 363,000)
Service Industry	2,766.6 (decrease 143,000)
Leisure/Hospitality Ind. (71-72)	400.8 (decrease 10,200)(includes all 71-72 NAICS)
Art, Entertainment, & Rec (71)	68.5 (flat)(includes 17.3 for performing arts and spectator sports, 9.2 for spectator sports, 6.2 for sports teams, and 2.0 for racetracks)
Amusement, gambling, and rec.	46.9(slight decrease)(include 27.4 other amusement/rec center, 11.8 gambling industry, 11.6 golf courses/country clubs, 7.7 amusement parks, 7.4 theme parks, 6.5 fitness/recreational centers, 3.1 ski areas)
Museums, historical places, zoos (712)	4.2 (slight increase)
Promoters of performing arts (7113)	2.6 (flat)
Independent Artists/Performers (7115)	0.4 (slight decrease)
Agents and Managers (7114)	0.1 (flat)

Within these categories certain segments had significantly more injuries, as measured by the rates of non-fatal injuries per 100 full time workers. Skiing facilities had the highest injury proportions with 16.5 injuries per 100 employees in 2007. Skiing facilities were followed by 16.2 injuries for sport teams/clubs, 10.3 for spectator sports, and amusement/theme parks was fourth with 8.2 injuries per 100 workers. These rates are significantly higher than the private industry proportions of 4.2 injuries per 100 employees and the service sector proportion of 3.8 injuries. Thus, our industry sector has a significantly higher rate of injuries compared to the national norm for the private sector, and even higher rates than the injury rates in hazardous industries such as coal mining or construction (5.3 rate per 100 employees and 4.7 respectively). It should be noted that skiing facilities and sport teams/clubs both had the highest rate of days away from work with a rate of 3.8 injuries per 100 full-time workers. This rate is significantly higher than the private industry norm of 1.2 and the service sector rate of 1.1 days away from work for every 100 full time employees.

## Deaths in Our Sector

While most employees go to work thinking they will return home safely, there are a number of documented deaths in our industry. A significant number of these deaths centered around construction and facility management related tasks as highlighted below.



*“Some claim that over 40 workers died while building the Birds Nest in Beijing.”*



- A member of the San Diego Chargers' game day staff died 12 hours after falling out of the press box before a nationally televised game in 2009. The worker fell 25-20 feet out of a broadcasting booth where he was working.
- In 2002, a construction worker helping to renovate the University of Florida's Ben Hill Griffin Stadium fell to his death when a piece of steel knocked him to a platform 60 feet below. He was killed during a \$50 million construction project to add skybox seats and a new press box to the facility.
- In 2003 a worker fell 200 feet from a beam at the Edward Jones Dome (St. Louis) when trying to install sound absorbing tiles.
- Several employees have been injured or killed at the new Dallas Cowboys' stadium which opened in 2009. In June 2008 an electrician was electrocuted while performing some tests on wiring. He was standing on a ladder when he touched a high-voltage line in the ceiling of the stadium's concourse level. Through June 2008 170 workers had been injured (primarily minor injuries) working on the facility. Approximately 1,400 workers were working at the site on an average day. Two other construction workers were seriously injured while building the facility. One of these was a 20 foot fall from scaffolding onto the field. Even after construction the facility was still facing issues (as would be the case at any potential facility) as two workers were seriously injured when they were working on the roof and slipped and then tumbled 50 feet before landing on a rain gutter. The roof was icy at the time of the fall.
- Similarly there were a number of injuries while building the new Yankees Stadium which also opened in 2008. In contrast, numerous people have died while building international Olympic facilities. An estimated 11 workers died while building the Olympic stadium in Athens and some claim that over 40 workers died while building the Birds Nest in Beijing.

Besides construction related deaths there are numerous other deaths each year in various segments of the industry as highlighted in the following pages.

## Raceways

-In August of 2009 a safety crew member at the Hartford Motor Speedway died from injuries sustained when he fell off the back of a fire safety truck during a race.

-A promoter working at a monster truck show at the Alliant Energy Center in Wisconsin was killed in January of 2008 when he accidentally walked in front of a truck during the show.

-In 2008 a race crew safety member was killed at the Anderson Speedway (Indiana) when he entered the track too soon on a caution and his back was turned to oncoming vehicles.



## Theme Parks

-In March of 2009, a stunt performer for the Sinbad show at Universal Studios was seriously injured when he fell from a rope.

-In 1996, a male employee working at Six Flags Theme Park in California was killed after he was struck by a six ton rollercoaster while he was trying to cross the tracks.

-A Bulgarian student working at an amusement park in Seaside Heights, New Jersey was killed when a rollercoaster struck him in 2008.

-A 21 year old worker at an amusement park in New York was killed when she was thrown from a ride. She was in the process of strapping in some riders when another employee started the ride.

-Disney had a few difficult months between July-August 2009 when three workers died. One was killed while rehearsing for the Indiana Jones Epic Stunt Spectacular. In July, 2003 one worker was killed in a monorail accident and a performer died after an onstage fall during Captain Jack's Pirate Tutorial.

The National Floor Safety Institute states: more than 3 million food service employees are injured annually as a result of restaurant slip and fall accidents.





## Ski Resorts

-In August of 2008 a 44 year old electrical contractor was killed at Whiteface Mountain Ski Center in Wilmington, NY when he was electrocuted while testing a transformer.

-An employee of Hunter Mountain in New York was killed in February of 2007 when he was pulled into a six foot wide snow blower.

-In January of 2010 a longtime employee of Jackson Hole in Wyoming named "Big Wally" was killed in an avalanche during a routine inspection of the mountain.

A woman working at Snow Planet, an indoor ski facility in New Zealand, was seriously injured when a cable from a lift dislodged and struck her in the head.

## Golf Courses

-An employee working for Las Colinas Country Club golf course in Texas drowned in June of 2009. He was diving to retrieve golf balls at the various water hazards around the course.

-In July of 2009, a PGA pro who was working at the Congressional Golf Course in Bethesda, MD was nearly struck by lightning while working with a student on the course. He was rushed to the hospital where his condition was listed as serious.

-A mechanic was crushed by a golf cart while working on the vehicle at the Cypress Knolls golf course in Palm Coast, FL in January of 2010.

-A 16 year old employee at Kernwood Country Club in Salem, MA died in September of 2000 when his golf cart slammed into an overhanging deck.

-A long time maintenance employee of Sky Meadow Country Club in Brookline, NH died in January of 2009 when a tree fell on him. He was in the process of cutting down trees and shrubs around the course.