

***The National Campaign to Prevent Falls in Construction
Final Report on the 2019 Safety Stand-Down
based on OSHA Certificate of Participation Data***



**Safety Pays
Falls Cost**

***Jessica Bunting, MPH
CPWR – The Center for Construction Research & Training
January 2020***

Background:

Falls remain the leading cause of death in the construction industry, and lack of proper fall protection remains the [most frequently cited violation](#) by OSHA. In 2018, slips, trips and falls accounted for 338 of the 1,008 construction total construction fatalities. In response to the staggering number of fall-related injuries and fatalities, [OSHA](#), the [National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health](#), the NORA Construction Sector Council, and [CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training](#) launched the National Campaign to Prevent Falls in Construction on Workers Memorial Day in 2012. The campaign, now entering its ninth year, encourages contractors to PLAN ahead to get the job done safely; PROVIDE the right equipment to workers; and TRAIN everyone to use the equipment safely year-round.

In 2014, as part of the campaign, the partners decided to dedicate a specific period of time during the year to stand down and spread the word that preventing falls can save lives. This event is called the [National Safety Stand-Down](#) and it brings together employers, workers, and safety associations across the country to pause work on the jobsite and focus on preventing falls through talks, demonstrations, trainings and more.

The Stand-Down has been a tremendous success the past six years, reaching millions of workers. Stand-Down events have been reported in all 50 states and internationally.

For previous years' reports, visit the [Evaluation Efforts](#) page on [stopconstructionfalls.com](#).

Methods:

All data included in this analysis were generated from OSHA's Certificate of Participation database. Company information was kept anonymous and confidential. Only demographic and descriptive information was used.

Since these numbers are based only on the OSHA stand-down certificate database, the total numbers of stand-downs held and workers reached are much higher than the numbers reflected here.

Total Number of Stand-Downs & Workers Reached

Each entry in the certificate database represents the request for a certificate and the participation of one company, jobsite, or individual in the Stand-Down. Each entry can represent just one activity or day of participation, several activities, or a full week of stand-downs and activities. This is up to the individual completing the certificate survey. The entries are referred to as responses or stand-downs below. Each of the individuals submitting those responses is asked how many participants attended their Stand-Down event or week. Those numbers are referred to as workers reached. In 2019, there were **3,435 total stand-downs** reported and **457,251 workers reached**.

Extent of Ongoing Participation

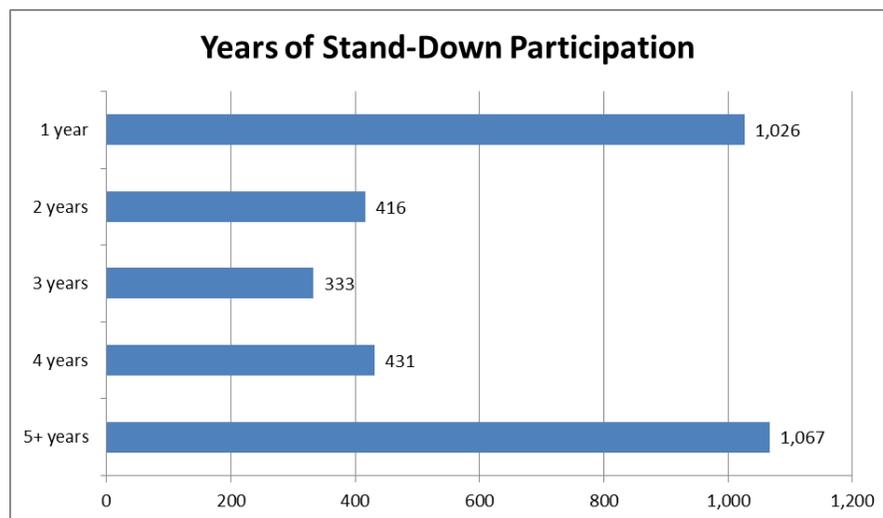
A. Multiple Stand-Downs Each Year

In order to gauge the depth of participation, we looked at the number of respondent companies who reported Stand-Downs on multiple jobsites or locations. Of the 3,435 stand-downs reported, **1,934 were held by unique companies or individuals**. The remaining **1,501 stand-downs were held by 289 companies** that had at least two separate events.

B. Multiple Stand-Downs across Years

We know based on experiential and anecdotal data that many companies do not feel that it's necessary to come back each year for a certificate even though they are participating. For many, one certificate is enough and then the value seems to decrease, making it impossible to track participation longitudinally. However, OSHA included a question on this year's certificate form asking respondents how many years they have participated. We found that while we have many long-time Stand-Down participants, the Falls Campaign is also still reaching new audiences. Despite the Stand-Down being in its 6th year, **30% of respondents identified as first-time participants**.

- 1 year = 1,026
- 2 years = 416
- 3 years = 333
- 4 years = 431
- 5+ years = 1,067
- Blank = 162

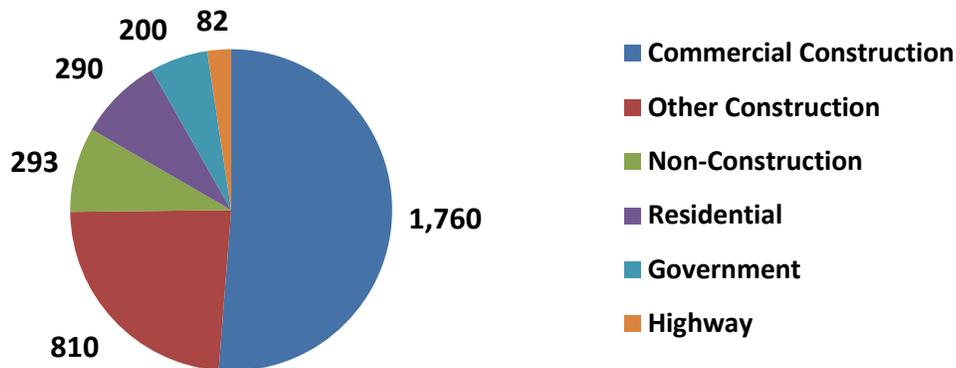


Stand-Down Demographics

A. Stand-Downs (Responses) by Type of Construction

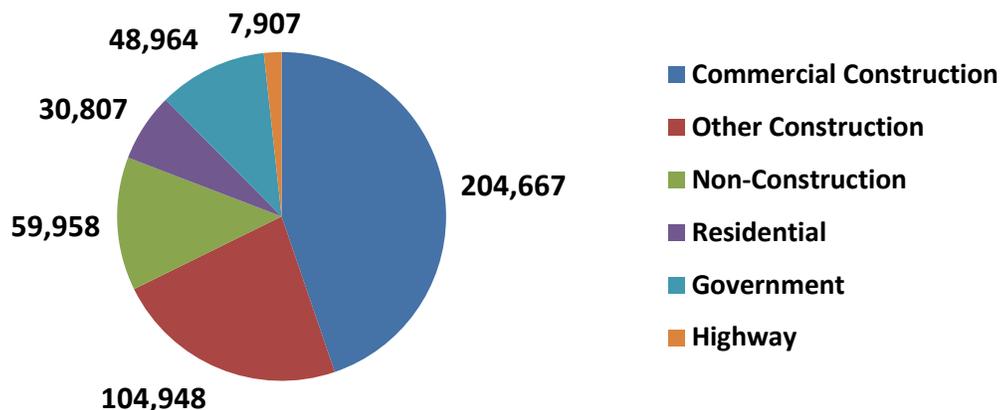
Respondents were given a drop-down list of options to classify the type of construction their company does, including a non-construction option for those in other industries. Of the 3,435 stand-downs reported, **51% were in commercial construction.**

One of the original goals of the National Campaign to Prevent Falls in Construction when it began in 2012 was to reach small, residential contractors, a consistently difficult to reach segment of the industry. While the campaign expanded over the years to include not only construction, but also military, mining, and general industry, we still want to check in to see if we are meeting our goal of including vulnerable, hard-to-reach workers. In 2019, **approximately 8% of the stand-downs reported took place in residential construction.**



B. Workers Reached (Participants) by Type of Construction

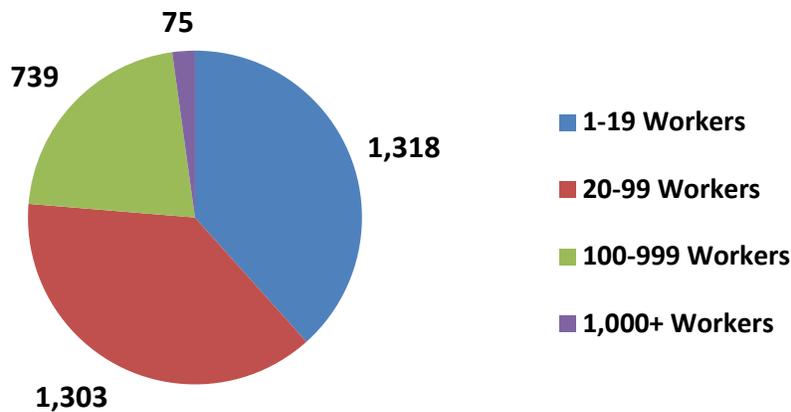
Each respondent was asked to estimate the number of workers who attended their event(s). Based on the construction type category described above, we identified the number of workers reached in each. Of the 457,251 total workers reached, **45% are in commercial construction.** Looking again at our target population, **approximately 7% of workers reached participated in residential construction stand-downs.**



C. Stand-Down Size

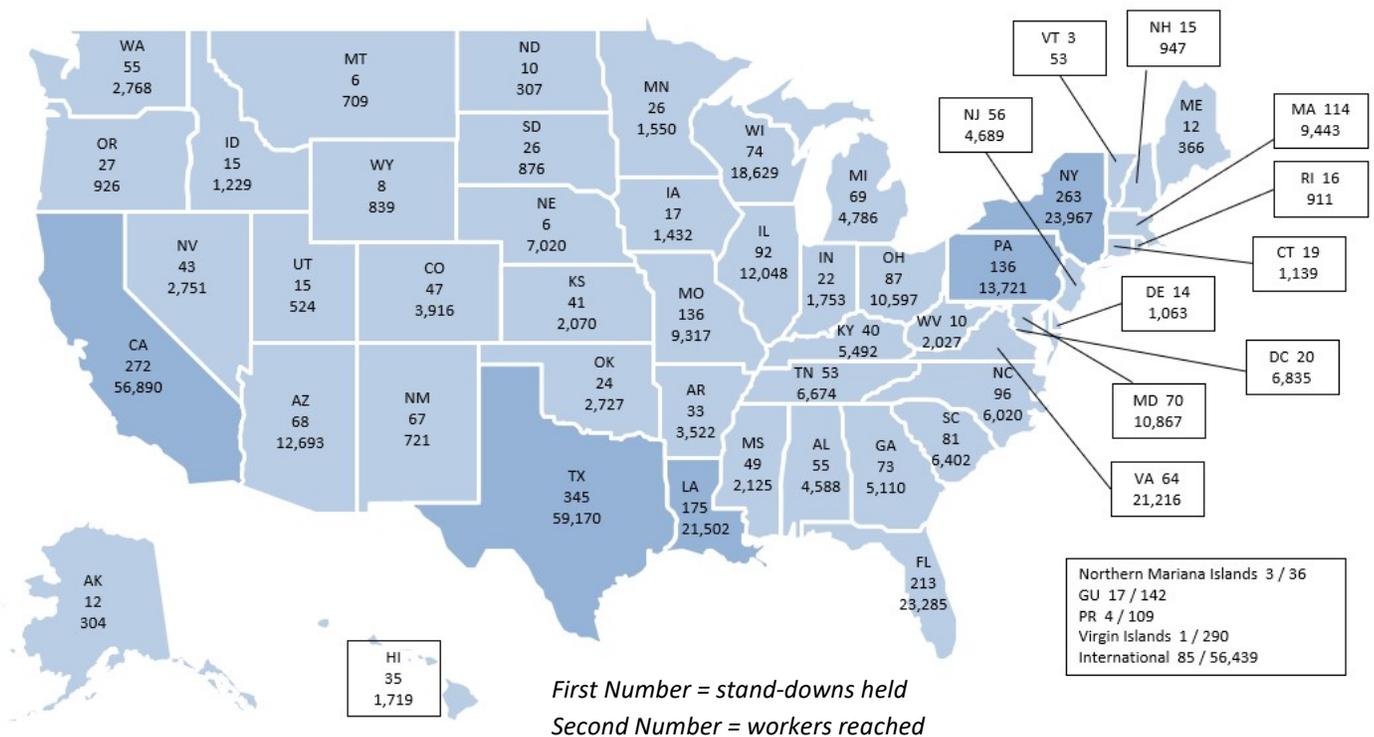
As mentioned above, one of the goals of the Stand-Down is to reach small, residential contractors and their often vulnerable workers. While we do not have a record of company size, we do know the number of workers at each stand-down reported. It is important to note that the following information therefore refers to stand-downs that included fewer than 20 workers and does not imply company size. This includes large companies who simply divided their stand-downs by site, companies that only employ a small number of workers, companies who only targeted their safety teams, and a number of other types of stand-downs. It is also worth noting that many of the larger stand-downs conducted by large contractors also included their subcontractors who employ 20 or fewer workers and those may not be accounted for here.

Thirty-eight percent (38%) of stand-downs held were for fewer than 20 workers. Of the 290 stand-downs in residential construction, 75 were for fewer than 20 workers.



D. Stand-Downs (Responses) & Workers Reached (Participants) by State

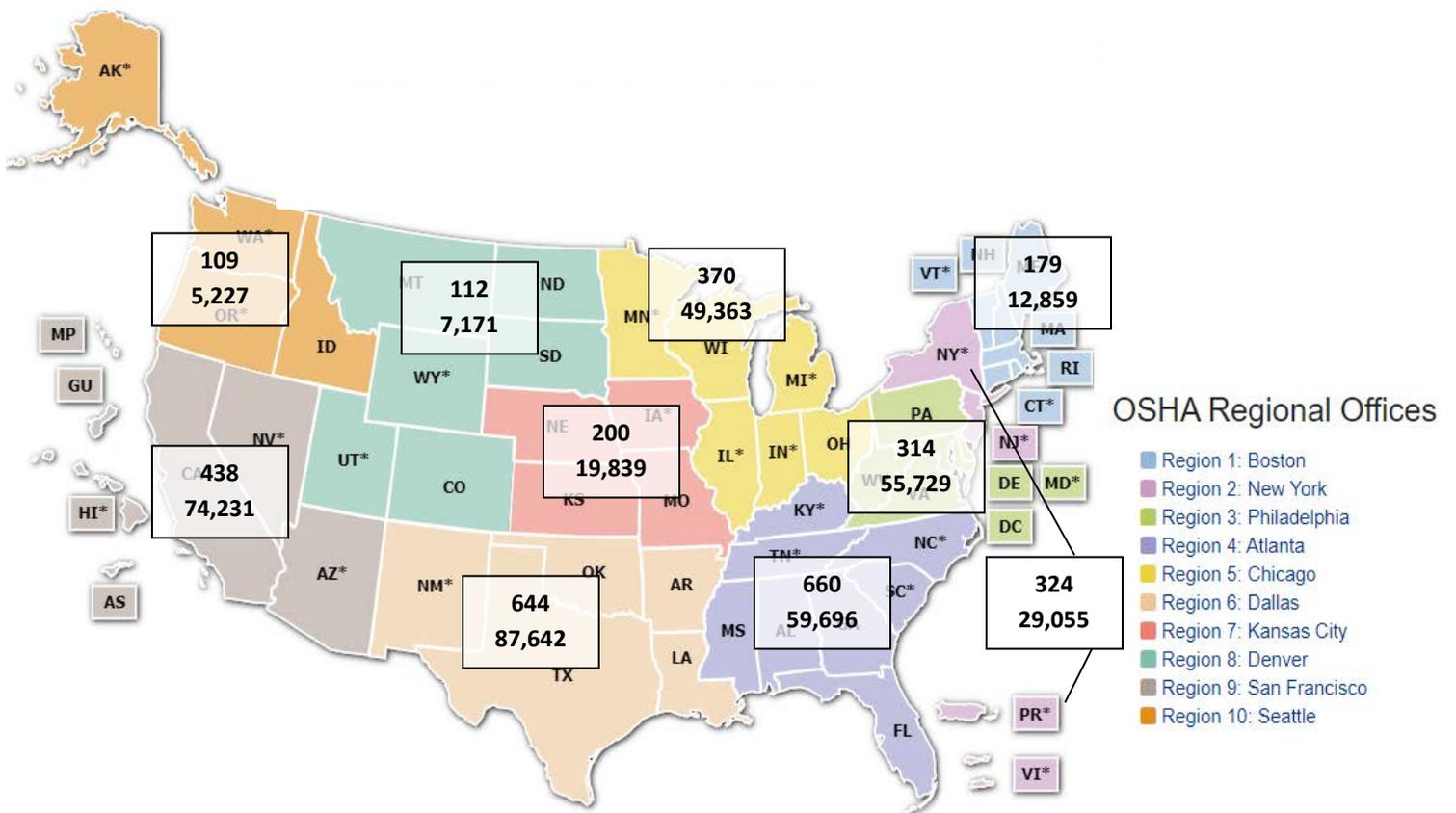
In addition to the states shown on the following map, there were also 17 stand-downs in Guam, three in the Northern Mariana Islands, four in Puerto Rico, and one in the U.S. Virgin Islands. There were **85 international stand-downs** reported.



E. Stand-Downs (Responses) & Workers Reached (Participants) by OSHA Region

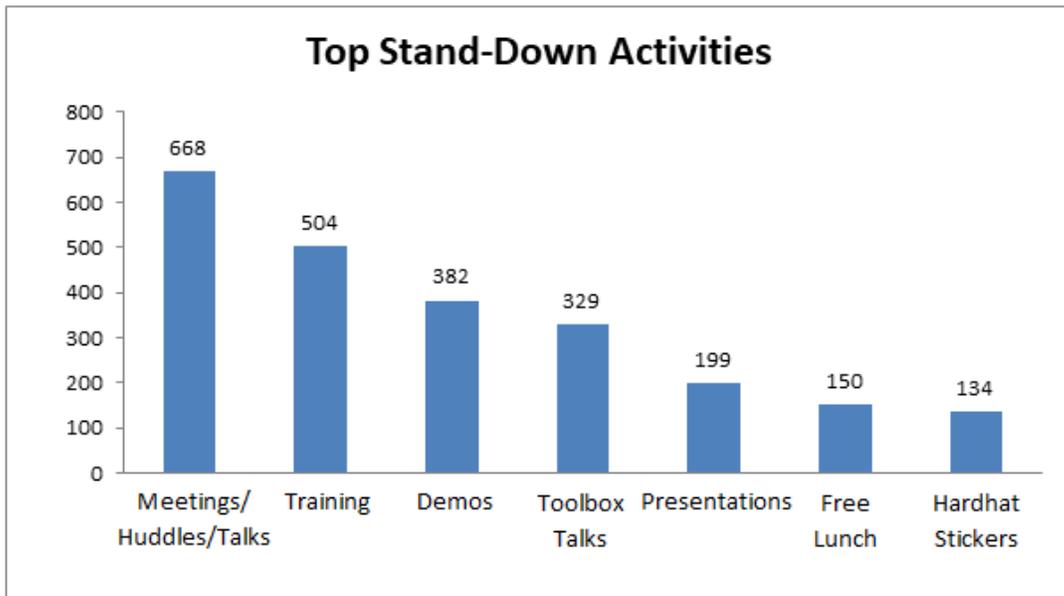
Another way of looking at the geographic spread of Stand-Down participation is by OSHA Region. In 2019, **Regions 4 and 6 held the highest number of stand-downs**. When it comes to workers reached, however, Regions 6 and 9 had the highest numbers.

	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
Stand-Downs	179	324	314	660	370	644	200	112	438	109
Workers Reached	12,859	29,055	55,729	59,696	49,363	87,642	19,839	7,171	74,231	5,227



Activities Conducted

The certificate survey does not specifically ask what types of activities were conducted during the Stand-Down, but many respondents describe their events in the comments section. To get an idea of what is being done, we count the number of times popular activities are mentioned in the database. The graph below shows activities that were most popular in 2019. Additional activities included equipment inspections, contests, quizzes, and giveaways.



For ideas and resources to hold your own stand-down event, visit <https://stopconstructionfalls.com/one-stop-stand-down-shop/>.

For more information on the National Campaign to Prevent Falls in Construction and the National Safety Stand-Down, visit the joint OSHA-NIOSH-CPWR campaign site stopconstructionfalls.com.



stopconstructionfalls.com