

# Construction Clients Group

August 2011

Making Workplaces Safe & Healthy  
Harm Reduction and Falls From Heights

Department of Labour  
TE TARI MAHI



# Overview

- **Health & Safety in New Zealand**
- **Harm Reduction Programme**
- **Why Falls from Heights**
- **The Approach**



# Health and Safety In New Zealand



# New Zealand needs to do better...

- Workplace accidents costs New Zealand an estimated **\$16 billion** a year
- Workplace injuries are **killing** about **100 people** a year
- More than **700 people** die **prematurely** from work-related illness or disease every year
- More than **200,000 people** are seriously harmed every year, requiring them to make an ACC claim
- Construction, agriculture, forestry, manufacturing and fishing consistently have above average fatal and major injury rates, these sectors account for **37% percent** of all ACC claims



# With more needed in some areas than others

Three common causes of fatal injury account for almost half of all the fatalities:

- **Hit by a falling object (tree felling represented 13%)**
- **Hit by a moving object (farm vehicles accounted for 23%)**
- **Falls from height (48% occurred in the construction sector)**



# Department of Labour Harm Reduction Programme

- Moving from reactive to proactive
- Selecting and understanding important problems
- Designing tailor made interventions and tools, including targeted and credible enforcement
- **Three known harms we are tackling:**
  - Quad bike use in agriculture
  - Falls in construction
  - Carbon monoxide poisoning



# Lessons Learned from practice

- Clear, evidence-based understanding of the problem is critical
- Coordinated stakeholder engagement is foundational
- Health and safety isn't a vending machine - different problems require different approaches
- Patience is required – the problems selected are not 12 month initiatives



# Health and Safety In Construction





# Falls in construction are unacceptably high

Construction has:

- the highest rate of fatalities
- third highest rate of injury
- an upward trend of fatalities per 100,000 FTEs

Annually, falls account for an ongoing ACC cost estimated at **\$24 million** per annum



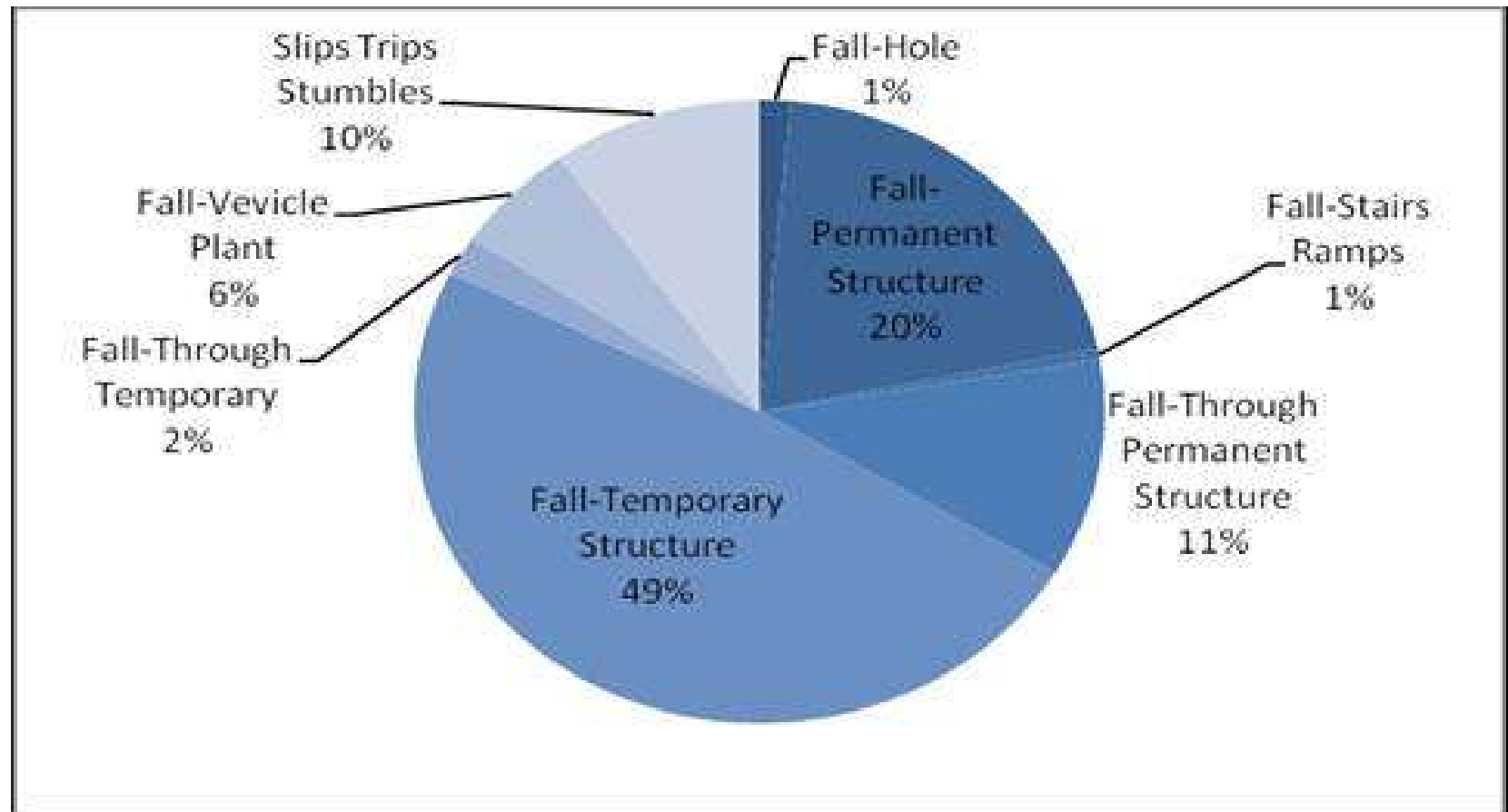
# We know the problems to tackle

## Workers are falling off...

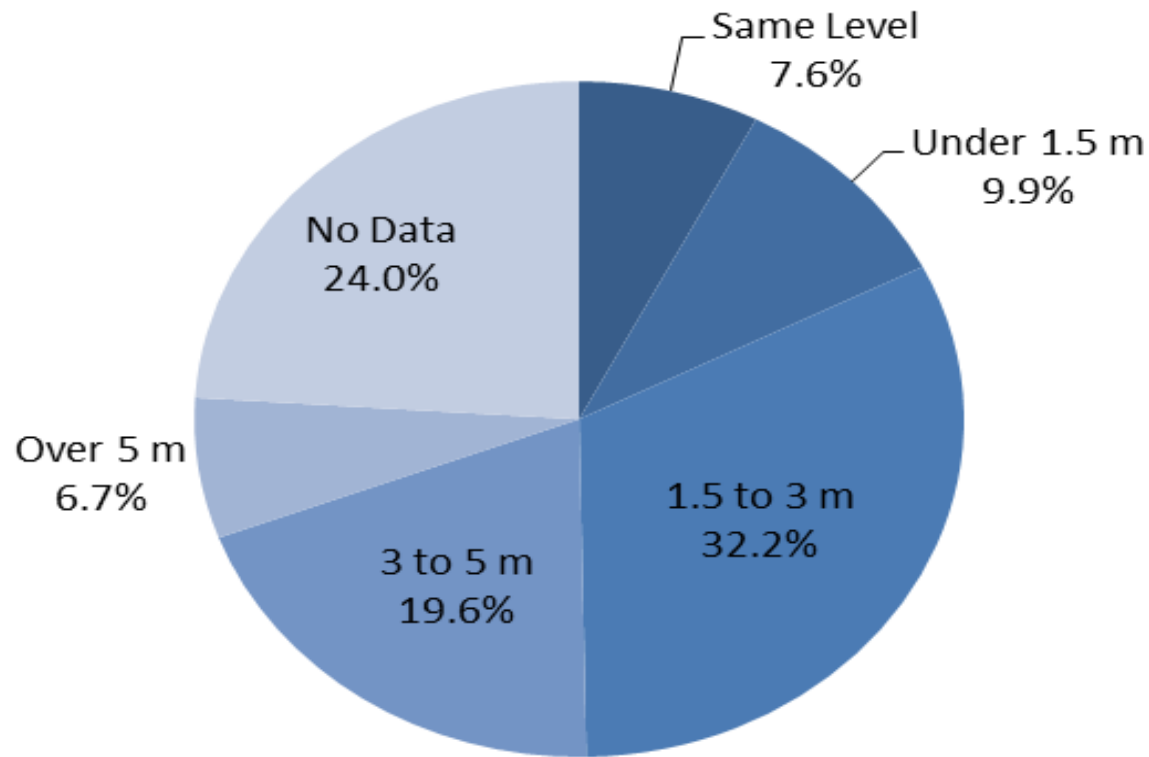
- Ladders (over 30% in residential & commercial)
- Roofs (22% in residential)
- Planks and platforms (15% in residential)
- Scaffolding (19% in commercial)



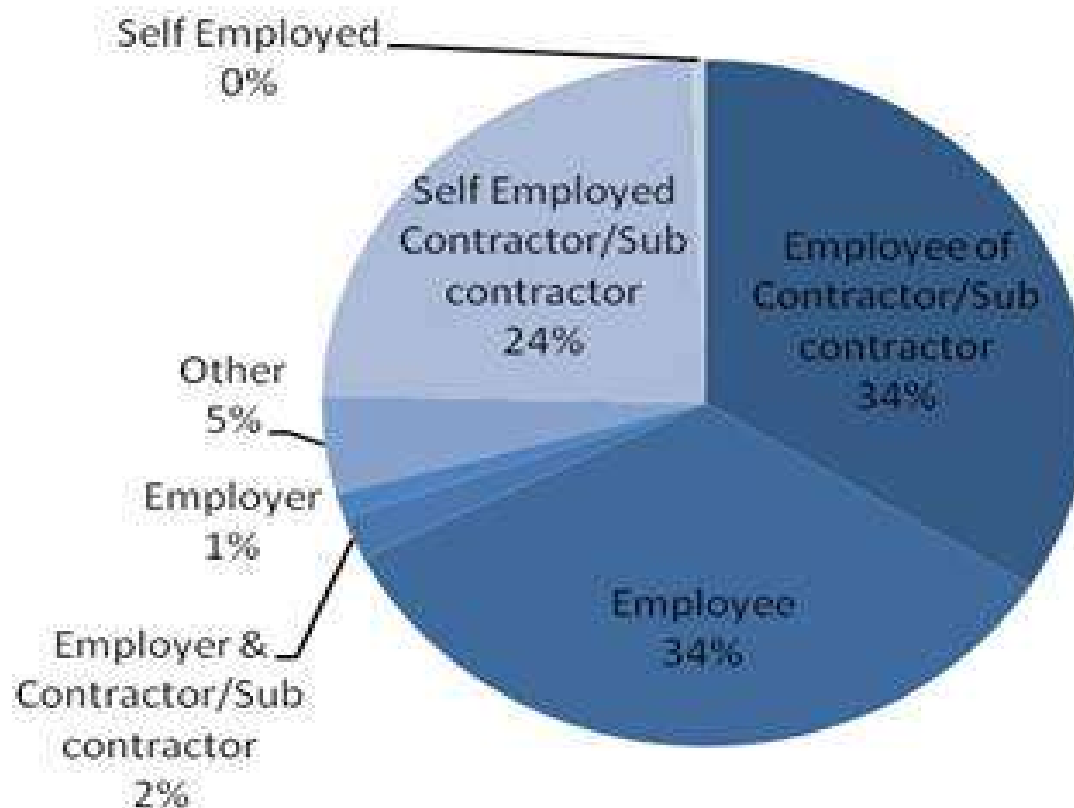
# Why focus on ladders and falls from roofs?



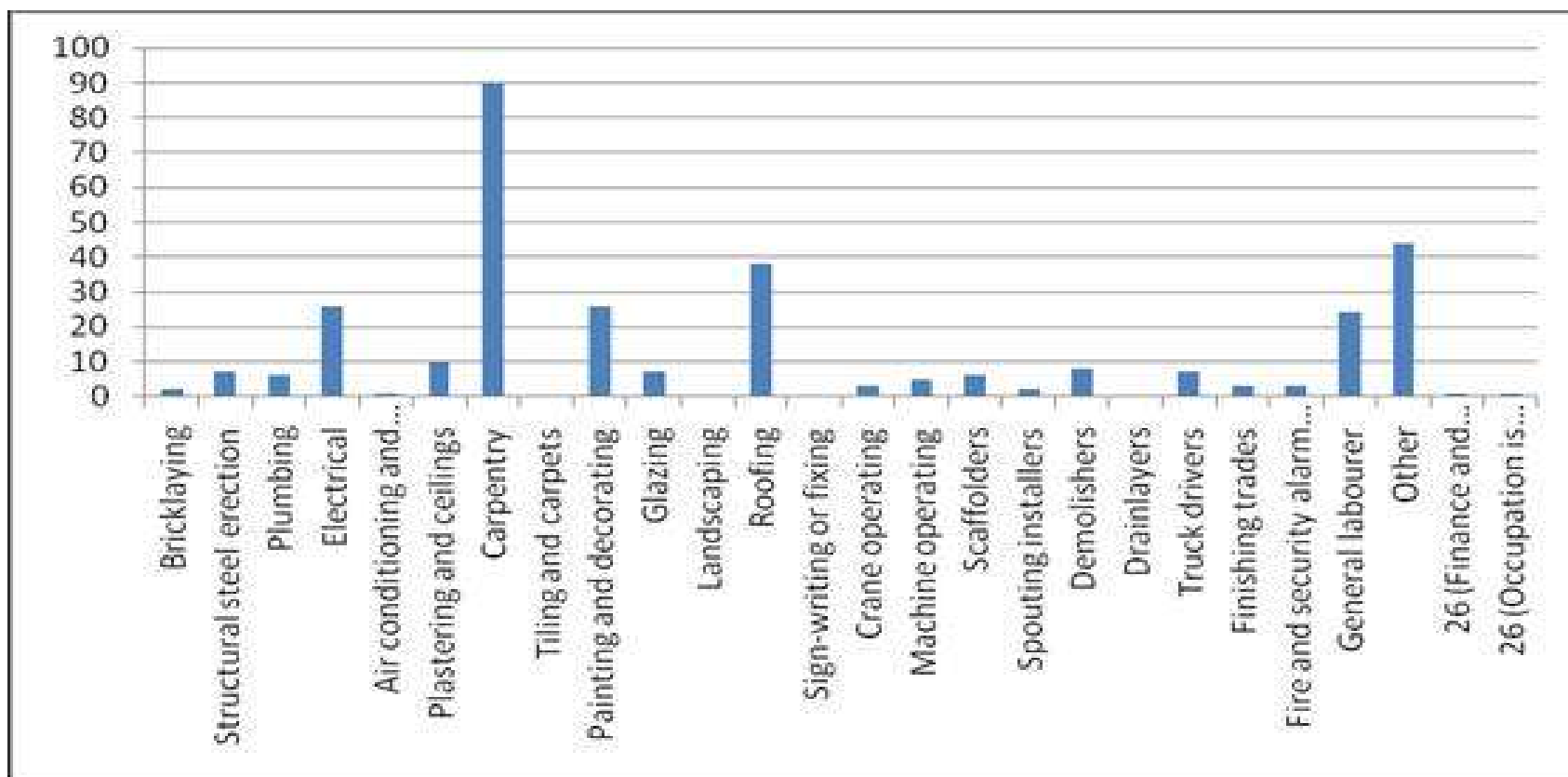
# Why focus on falls under 3m?



# Why look at principals and contractors?



# Why focus on these trades?



# Too many people fall off ladders, and from roofs less than 3 metres

- The largest victim groups were builders, roofers and painters & decorators
- Falls from ladders, off and through permanent structures (i.e. roofs) accounted for 80% of serious harm notifications
- 55% of serious harm notifications involved a fall from under 3 metres



# Contributing factors

- Confusion about health and safety responsibilities and accountability across clients, contractors and sub-contractors
- Perceived confusion on the legal requirements for safety standards working under 3 metres, and height safety standards generally
- A perceived sense that commercial pressures squeeze out safe planning, design and equipment selection
- A belief that non-compliance won't be detected.





# Different problem...different response

Tackling falls will involve different tools and approaches:

- Working up the **supply chain**
- Ensuring Department **presence on worksites**
- Working with the **leading performers**
- Supporting the new **Construction Safety Council**
- Delivering on the **Construction Sector Action Plan**



# Approach

| Intervention                          | Strategy  | Impact   |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <i>Hearts and Minds</i>               | Make clear the legal, human and financial risk of falls under 3 metres on the Worksite and to Principals and Sector leaders   | Raise awareness of the need to change behaviour.   |
| <i>Targeted Information Provision</i> | Clear and concise information to support industry safe practice at the Worksite and better safety planning and accountability by Principals                                     | Increase understanding of who, how and what to change through information and education.                             |
| <i>Targeted Enforcement</i>           | Increased enforcement activity focussed on Worksite audience and events plus Principals to demonstrate that non-compliance will be detected and relevant action will be taken   | Evidence of best practice increases with enforcement visibility and action.  |
| <i>Sector Pressure</i>                | Create sector pressure to consider safe work at heights across the construction supply chain, from planning to build and including issues of procurement and quality assurance. | Business systems prepare for and manage safe working at heights expectations, including performance accountability.  |
| <i>Strategic Intelligence</i>         | Develop mechanism to capture, analyse and share problem definition and project performance data   | Increased knowledge and understanding of the problem and reaction to intervention to inform ongoing project activity |



# What will these activities look like?

- Information and guidance for safe work with ladders and on roofs will clarify...
  - what safe looks like
  - how to do it
  - why it's important (legal, financial, emotional)
  - what to expect from DoL
- Information will be appropriate for the audience i.e. illustrations vs. text



# What will these activities look like?

Enforcement will be:

- targeted initially on workplaces known to DoL and ACC
- firm with ladders from the outset
- increasingly firm on working on roofs as awareness of expected practice increases
- Supported by agreed enforcement policies for consistency

Principal's duties to prevent falls

- direct engagement will be based on work site assessments
- detected non-compliance will result in principal/s engagement.
- initially focused on awareness raising and information provision



# Access Health and Safety Information – DOL Website

- Home
- About
- Employment Relations
- Health & Safety
- Immigration
- Labour Market
- Key Projects
- Publications
- Careers
- Contact

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR - HEALTH AND SAFETY SITE

### WHAT'S NEW



- [Quad bike safety](#)
- [Realising the Health Benefits of Work](#)
- [Health and safety for small businesses](#)
- [Hazard Alerts](#)

### I NEED TO REPORT...



- [Serious Harm](#)
- [Hazardous Works](#)
- [Notifiable Disease](#)
- [Other incidents](#)

### INFORMATION



- [Contents](#)
- [Publications and Research](#)
- [Health & Safety FAQs](#)
- [Information Campaigns](#)

### TOOLS



- [Hazard Handler](#)
- [Forms & Templates](#)
- [Safety Culture Snapshot](#)
- [Statistics](#)

### OUR SERVICES



- [What we do](#)
- [Workshops/Training](#)
- [Locate Forklift Trainers](#)

### LAWS & REGULATIONS



- [HSE Act](#)
- [HSNO Act](#)
- [Regulations](#)
- [Rights & Obligations](#)

### FAQ KNOWLEDGEBASE

- [Search our Health & Safety FAQs](#)

### NEWS

- [Quad Bike Farm Safety Checks Continue](#) (2011-09-12)
- [Adventure company in court after bungy accident](#) (2011-09-05)
- [Media Releases](#)
- For media queries: [Please contact our media desk](#)  
Media phone: +64 27 442 2141

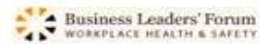
### EVENTS

- [All Events](#)

### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- [New Zealand Guidelines for the Management and Removal of Asbestos](#) (2011-09-01)

[newzealand.govt.nz](http://newzealand.govt.nz)



Department of Labour  
TE TARI MAHI



**THANK  
YOU**

**for your time....**

