



ATLAS Accident Survey Report 2017

The Association of Technical Lightning & Access Specialists (ATLAS) is committed to reducing accident incidence rates within the construction industry in partnership with Build UK.

In order to measure progress, ATLAS collects information from its members annually on accidents occurring to their workforces. This report summarises the results of the ATLAS Accident Survey for the period 1 January to 31 December 2017.

ATLAS

6-8 Bonhill Street, London, EC2A 4BX

T: 0844 249 0026 E: info@atlas.org.uk W: www.atlas.org.uk

Registered in England No. 5026089 VAT Registration Number: 245 6019 69

ATLAS Members

43 ATLAS members provided their accident figures as part of this survey which is a **100% response rate** (see appendix A).

ATLAS members employed **1,395** operatives, **1,354 (97%)** of which were direct employees and **41 (3%)** of which were labour only sub-contractors. The size of the workforce has decreased by 3% during 2017.

Of the total number of direct employees, **307 (23%)** were steeplejacks, **449 (33%)** were lightning conductor engineers and **639 (47%)** were other staff.

Working and Training Hours

The average working and training hours for the different occupations employed by ATLAS members are shown in the table below.

	Average Hours Worked	Average Training Hours	Average Training Hours (%)
Advanced Steeplejacks	2,010	41	2.04%
Steeplejacks	2,000	37	1.84%
Trainee Steeplejacks	1,736	414	23.83%
Advanced Lightning Conductors	2,059	41	2.02%
Lightning Conductors	2,268	74	3.25
Trainee Lightning Conductors	1,566	308	19.67%
Other Site Operatives	1,647	22	1.31%
Office Staff	1,617	18	1.12%
All Staff	1,863	119	6.89%

Accidents

ATLAS members were asked to provide the following accident information in relation to the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR):

- Fatal injuries
- Specified injuries
- Injuries resulting in more than 7 days absence from normal activities
- Dangerous Occurrences
- Work-related diseases.

Collated reportable accidents occurring to ATLAS members in 2017

	Fatal Injuries	Specified Injuries	Over 7-Day Injuries
Employees	1	3	0
Self-employed	0	0	0
Members of the public	0	0	N/A

ATLAS members reported two Dangerous Occurrences and one work-related diseases. They also recorded a further 13 injuries in 2017 which were not reportable.

Accident Incident Rates

To compare its figures from 2017 with those from previous years, ATLAS has calculated accident incidence rates as follows:

$$\frac{\text{No. of reported accidents} \times 100,000}{\text{Total no. of operatives}}$$

In addition, ATLAS has compared its accident rates with those of the wider industry and companies represented by Build UK. However, caution should be exercised when considering the results as it is believed that the accident figures for the industry as compiled by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) are under-reported by approximately 40%.

Rate of Fatal Injuries

	ATLAS	Build UK	Industry
No. of fatal injuries	1	4	30
Fatal injury rate (per 100,000 workers)	71.6	2.0	1.4

Rate of Specified Injuries

	ATLAS	Build UK	Industry
No. of specified injuries	3	342	2,587
Specified injury rate (per 100,000 workers)	215	179.3	119.7

Rate of Over 7-Day Injuries

	ATLAS	Build UK	Industry
No. of Over 7-Day injuries	0	469	3,861
7-day injury rate (per 100,000 workers)	0.0	245.9	178.5

Appendix B outlines the historical incidence rates for accidents reported under RIDDOR by ATLAS members over the last ten years. Appendices C and D outline the incidence and frequency rates for all accidents over the last ten years.

A visual comparison of ATLAS and industry incidence rates from the last ten years can be found in appendix F.

Types of Accidents

Breakdown of types of reportable accidents occurring to ATLAS members in 2017

	Fatality	%	Specified	%
Fell from a height (more than 2m)	1	100%		
Fell from a height (less than 2m)			1	33%
Other			2	66%
Total	1	100%	3	100%

Details of each of the above reportable accidents can be found in appendix E (Injuries).

Conclusion

ATLAS members unfortunately recorded **one fatality** for the year due to an incident of a fall from height. The fatality resulted in an incidence rate of **71.6 per 100,000 workers** which was far higher than the wider industry (1.4) and Build UK (2.0). Caution should be exercised for this figure as the low base for determining ATLAS's AIR numbers means that a single fatality will skew the figure disproportionately.

The three specified injuries reported resulted in an incidence rate of **215 per 100,000 workers** which was 80% higher than the wider industry (119.7) and 20% higher than Build UK (179.3).

The ATLAS incidence rate for all accidents, both reportable and non-reportable, is **1,219 per 100,000 workers** in 2017 and the accident frequency rate is **152,261**.

ATLAS will continue to collect this information every year to monitor progress, identify accident trends amongst ATLAS members, and provide guidance to reduce the likelihood of recurrence.

Appendix A - ATLAS Members

A.C. Wallbridge & Co Ltd	Lightning Protection Ireland
Access Maintenance Solutions Ltd	Lightning Protection Services
ALPS (Scotland) Ltd	M J Fuller Ltd t/a M J Fuller & Associates
Bacon Lightning Protection Limited	Nimbus Lightning Protection Limited
Bailey International Steeplejacks	Northern Steeplejacks Limited
Balmore Specialist Contracts Ltd	Omega Red Group Ltd
Brooke Edgley Specialist Technical Services Ltd	Orion Lightning Protection
C F & J Brailey Ltd.	Osborne Delta (Lightning Conductors) Limited
Cedar Steeplejacks Mid Ltd	P C Richardson & Co (Middlesbrough) Ltd
Central High Rise Ltd.	Pendrich Height Services Ltd
Churchill Specialist Contracting Ltd	Proteq (Northern) Limited
Crown Services Organisations Ltd	PTSG Electrical Services Ltd
Delta International	R C Cutting & Co Ltd
Earthing Equipment Supplies Southern Ltd	Rafferty International Limited
Earthing Risk Management	Rodells Ltd
Furse (ABB Ltd)	Sentinel Lightning Protection & Earthing Ltd
G & S Steeplejacks Ltd	Southern Lightning Engineers Ltd
Guardian Lightning Protection Limited	St. Ives steeplejacks ltd
H&A Height Services Ltd	Stone Technical Services Group Ltd
Horizon Specialist Contracting Ltd	Syntex Engineering SVS Ltd
J W Gray Lightning Protection Ltd	Zenith SAS Ltd
K2 Specialist Services (UK) Ltd	

Appendix B - ATLAS Accident Incidence Rates (under RIDDOR)

Year	Fatal injury rate (per 100,000 workers)	Specified injury rate (per 100,000 workers)	Over 7-Day injury rate (per 100,000 workers)
2017	71.6	215	0
2016	0	70.2	0
2015	0	351.1	70.2
2014	0	110.9	55.4
2013	0	87	435.2
2012	0	93.4	186.7
2011	0	89.3	803.6
2010	0	271.7	724.6

2009	0	0	886.5
2008	79.9	159.8	639.2

Appendix C - ATLAS Accident Incidence Rates (all accidents)

Year	Total injury rate (per 100,000 workers)	Percentage Change
2017	1,219	+ 15.8%
2016	1,053	- 8.6%
2015	1,152	- 38.9%
2014	1,885	- 5.8%
2013	2,001	- 53.4%
2012	4,291	- 1.9%
2011	4,375	- 12.2%
2010	4,982	- 12.2%
2009	5,673	+ 51.0%
2008	3,756	

Appendix D - ATLAS Accident Frequency Rates (all accidents)

Year	Hours worked per accident	Percentage Change
2017	152,261	- 9.1%
2016	167,466	+ 15.9%
2015	144,210	+ 83%
2014	78,893	- 17%
2013	96,087	+ 200%
2012	32,038	- 23.9%
2011	42,091	+ 12.7%
2010	37,342	+ 11.4%
2009	33,528	- 39.3%
2008	55,198	

Appendix E - Details of Injuries of ATLAS Members in 2017

Fatal

Cause of injury	Employee type	Employee profession	Employee age	Body part injured	Injury type
Fell from a height (More than 2m)	Direct employee	Steeplejack	37	Multiple	Multiple

Specified

Cause of injury	Employee type	Employee profession	Employee age	Body part injured	Injury type
Fell from a height (less than 2m)	Direct employee	No Information Provided	No Information Provided	No Information Provided	No Information Provided
Other	Direct employee	No Information Provided	No Information Provided	No Information Provided	No Information Provided
Other	Direct employee	No Information Provided	No Information Provided	No Information Provided	No Information Provided

Appendix F - Comparison of ATLAS, Build UK and Industry Accident Incidence Rates



