



# ATLAS Accident Survey Report 2015

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 2015.

**ATLAS**

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## ATLAS Members

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

ATLAS members employed **1,562** operatives, **1,424 (91%)** of which were direct employees and **138 (9%)** of which were labour only sub-contractors. The size of the workforce has decreased by 21% during 2015.

Of the total number of direct employees, **343 (24%)** were steeplejacks, **380 (27%)** were lightning conductor engineers and **701 (49%)** 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 (%)
<b>Advanced Steeplejacks</b>	2,002	135	6.74%
<b>Steeplejacks</b>	1,904	46	2.42%
<b>Trainee Steeplejacks</b>	1,765	419	23.74%
<b>Advanced Lightning Conductors</b>	1,988	48	2.41%
<b>Lightning Conductors</b>	1,929	49	2.54%
<b>Trainee Lightning Conductors</b>	1,753	343	19.57%
<b>Other Site Operatives</b>	1,519	46	3.03%
<b>Office Staff</b>	1,842	34	1.85%
<b>All Staff</b>	1,823	73	4%

## 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 2015

	Fatal Injuries	Specified Injuries	Over 7-Day Injuries
<b>Employees</b>	0	5	1
<b>Self-employed</b>	0	0	0
<b>Members of the public</b>	0	0	N/A

ATLAS members reported three Dangerous Occurrences but no work-related diseases. They also recorded a further 12 injuries in 2015 which were not reportable.

## Accident Incident Rates

To compare its figures from 2015 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	0	3	35
Fatal injury rate (per 100,000 workers)	0	1.12	1.62

### Rate of Specified Injuries

	ATLAS	Build UK	Industry
No. of specified injuries	5	405	2,468
Specified injury rate (per 100,000 workers)	320.1	151.7	114.6

### Rate of Over 7-Day Injuries

	ATLAS	Build UK	Industry
No. of Over 7-Day injuries	1	440	4,278
7-day injury rate (per 100,000 workers)	64	164.8	200.6

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

A visual comparison of ATLAS and industry incidence rates from the last eight years can be found in appendix G. Build UK statistics from this year are included and as Build UK was formed in 2015, there is no historical data to compare ATLAS results against.

## Types of Accidents

### Breakdown of types of reportable accidents occurring to ATLAS members in 2015

	Specified	%	Over 7-Day	%
Hit by a moving vehicle	1	20%		
Hit by a moving, flying or falling object	2	40%	1	100%
Slipped, tripped or fell on the same level	2	40%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>

Details of each of the above reportable accidents can be found in appendices E (specified injuries) and F (over 7-day injuries).

## The Construction Industry Profile

Around 6% of employees in the UK are engaged in construction occupations. Construction accounts for 7% of all reported injuries to employees in the workplace but 24% of deaths and 10% of specified injuries.<sup>1</sup>

In 2014/15, half of fatalities in the construction sector were the result of a fall from height compared with 29% across all industries. Falls also made up 33% of the specified injuries in construction. Slips and trips were responsible for 27% and struck by an object 13% of all construction specified injuries.<sup>2</sup>

Handling injuries accounted for 30% of all over 7-day injuries in construction which is similar to the figure across all industries (28%). 21% of over 7-day injuries in construction were the result of a slip or trip compared to 25% across all industries. Falls from height only represented 11% of all construction 7-day injuries.

## Conclusion

ATLAS members recorded **no fatalities** for the seventh consecutive year. The ATLAS incidence rate for all accidents, both reportable and non-reportable, has continued to decrease and the rate of **1,152 per 100,000 workers** in 2015 was the lowest ever recorded. This is also reflected in the accident frequency rate which has also decreased the lowest ever recorded: **144,210**.

The five specified injuries and one over 7-day injuries reported by ATLAS members clearly demonstrate the commitment of ATLAS members to ensure the continued safety of their operatives who spend significant amounts of time working at extreme heights since none of the accidents were due to falls from height.

The five specified injuries resulted in an incidence rate of **320.1 per 100,000 workers** which was 179% higher than the wider industry (114.6) and 111% higher than Build UK (151.7). One over 7-day injury was reported providing an incidence rate of **64 per 100,000 workers**. This was 68% lower than the wider industry (200.6) and 61% lower than Build UK (164.8).

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.

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<sup>1</sup> HSE, *Health and Safety in Construction Sector in Great Britain, 2014/15*

<sup>2</sup> HSE, *Health and Safety Statistics Annual Report for Great Britain 2014/15*

## Appendix A - ATLAS Members

A C Wallbridge & Co Ltd	Lightning Protection Services
Access Maintenance Solutions Ltd	Mistras Group
ALPS (Scotland) Ltd	National Height Specialists
Bailey International Steeplejack Co Ltd	Nimbus Lightning Protection Ltd
Baltimore Specialist Contracts Ltd	Northern Steeplejacks (Edinburgh) Ltd
BEST Services Ltd	Omega Red Group Ltd
Braileys Ltd	Orion Lightning Protection Ltd
Cedars Steeplejacks Midlands Ltd	Osborne Delta (Lightning Conductors) Ltd
Central High Rise Ltd	P C Richardson & Co Ltd
Churchill Specialist Contracting Ltd	Pendrich
Crown Services Organisations Ltd	Proteq (Northern) Ltd
Cuttings	PTSG Electrical Services Ltd
Delta International	Rafferty International Ltd
Earthing Equipment Supplies (Southern) Ltd	Rodells Ltd
G & S Steeplejacks Ltd	Sentinel Lightning Protection and Earthing Ltd
Guardian Lightning Protection Ltd	Southern Lightning Engineers Ltd
H & A Height Services Ltd	St Ives Steeplejacks
Horizon Specialist Contracting Ltd	Stone Technical Services Group Ltd
JW Gray	Syntex Engineering Services Ltd
K2 Specialist Services (UK) Ltd	Zenith SAS 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)
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
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
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 Specified Injuries of ATLAS Members in 2015

Cause of injury	Employee type	Employee profession	Employee age	Body part injured	Injury type
Hit by a moving vehicle	Direct employee	Advanced Lightning Conductor Engineer	55+	Leg	Break
Hit by a moving, flying or falling object	Direct employee	Lightning Conductor Engineer	55+	Hand (incl. Fingers)	Break

Hit by a moving, flying or falling object	Direct employee	Lightning Conductor Engineer	19-24	Neck	Crush
Slipped, tripped or fell on the same level	Direct employee	Lightning Conductor Engineer	19-24	Arm	Fracture
Slipped, tripped or fell on the same level	Direct employee	Other Lightning Conductor Related	25-40	Wrist	Break

### Appendix F - Details of Over 7-Day Injuries of ATLAS Members in 2015

Cause of injury	Employee type	Employee profession	Employee age	Body part injured	Injury type
Hit by a moving, flying or falling object	Direct employee	Trainee Steeplejack	25-40	Arm	Bruise

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



