RISE

THE ROI OF SAFETY MANAGEMENT IN CONSTRUCTION

# Safety looks expensive. Until you price the alternative.

Extra steps, a safety manager, software and equipment all feel like overhead. Here is one year of doing safety right, next to one bad day of getting it wrong.

THE INVESTMENT

## One year of real safety

Typical 50-person contractor, annual estimate

| | |
|---|---|
| Full-time safety manager, salary and benefits | **$110,000** |
| Crew time for hazard reports, JHAs and toolbox talks (30 min per worker, per week) | **$50,000** |
| Safety management software (hazard capture, risk, corrective actions) | **$45,000** |
| Added schedule time for permits and pre-task checks | **$25,000** |
| Training and certifications (fall protection, competent person) | **$25,000** |
| Fall protection and PPE upgrades | **$20,000** |
| Equipment to close corrective actions (guardrails, gas monitors, shoring) | **$15,000** |
| Third-party audits and inspections | **$10,000** |

TOTAL PER YEAR **$300,000**

THE INCIDENT

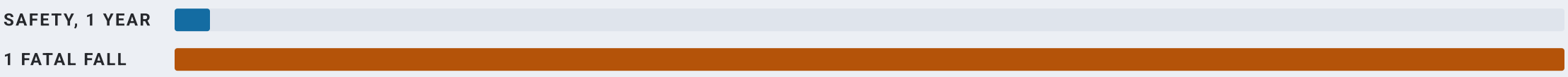
## One fatal fall

A worker dies. What it costs before anyone sues.

| | |
|---|---|
| Lost bids and contracts from damaged reputation (est.) | **$5,000,000** |
| Project shutdown, investigation and delays (est.) | **$2,000,000** |
| Average economic cost of a work death: wages, medical, admin (NSC 2024) Source | **$1,540,000** |
| Legal defense fees (est.) | **$1,500,000** |
| Higher insurance premiums and EMR, 3 years (est.) | **$1,200,000** |
| OSHA penalties: 3 willful citations at the $165,514 maximum Source | **$496,542** |

TOTAL, ONE DAY **$11,736,542**

**39x** One fatal fall costs more than 39 years of running a full safety program.




AND THAT IS BEFORE A JURY

In 2024 a Philadelphia jury awarded $68.5 million to the estate of a construction worker killed in a fall. Add a verdict like that and one bad day costs $80.2 million: more than 267 years of safety. Source

**$80,236,542, or 267x**




## But the money is not the point.

A hazard gets reported. A safety manager acts on it. A control goes in and the corrective action is actually closed. Because those checks were working, someone's dad, daughter or best friend went home tonight.

A LIFE SAVED

**Priceless**

## Elevate safety, everywhere.

RISE helps construction teams capture hazards, assess risk and close every corrective action, so the checks and balances keep working.

RISE
risesms.com

Investment figures are illustrative annual estimates for a 50-person contractor. Items marked (est.) are illustrative. Construction saw 1,034 private-sector worker deaths in 2024, over a third from falls, slips and trips. Sources: Philadelphia Inquirer, June 2024; National Safety Council, Injury Facts; OSHA, 2026 civil penalty adjustments; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2026.