

# FATALITY CASE STUDY, MULTI-EMPLOYER, RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION



# PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- **Background Information on the Case**
  - **Scope of Activities**
  - **Residential Construction**
  - **Multi-Employer Policy**
  - **Language Barrier (Non-English Speaking employees)**
- **OSHA Citations Issued**
- **Lessons Learned**



# SCOPE OF ACTIVITY

## RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

- Custom, single-family home builder/owner, 700 employees
- Construction of custom home, 4297square foot and 33 feet, 7-inch in height
- Primary Framing Subcontractor
  - Husband and wife business



# SCOPE OF ACTIVITY

- Secondary Framing Subcontractor
  - Work crew of six employees
  - One employee was handing a rafter from the second floor, to a coworker, who was standing on the frame work of the attic. Employee fell 10-foot, 3-inches through floor opening along with the 2'x8'x20" rafter
- Safety Guardrail System Company

















# RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

## Applicable OSHA Standards:

- 29 CFR 1926.501(b)(13), Subpart M – Fall Protection
- STD 3-0.1A Interim Fall Protection Compliance Guidelines for Residential construction

## Definition:

Working environment, materials, methods and procedures are same as those used in building a typical single-family home or townhouse.



# RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

- Materials

- Wood framing (not steel or concrete);  
wooden floor joists and roof surfaces

- Methods

- Traditional wood frame construction  
techniques

- Construction of discrete part of a large commercial building, such as wood frame, shingled entranceway

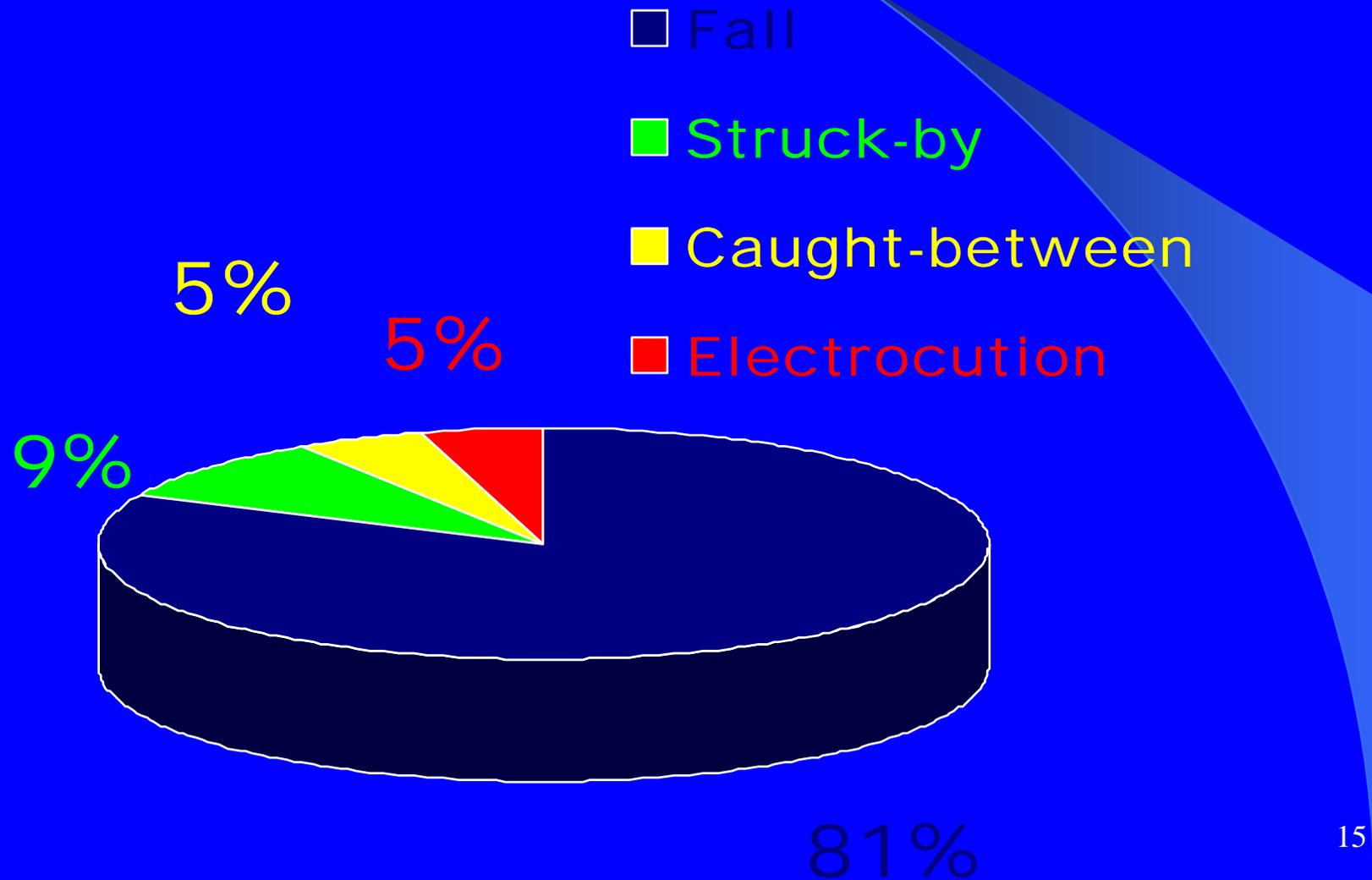


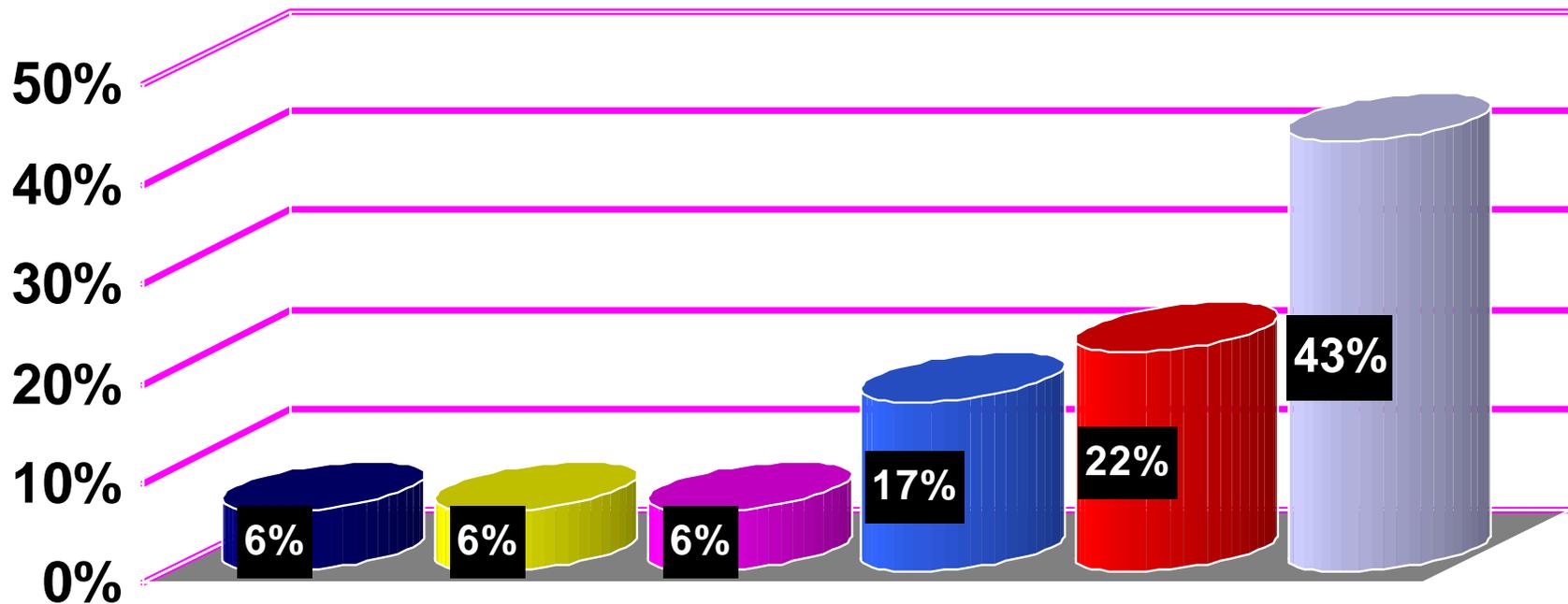
# RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

- Four groups of residential construction activities:
  - Group 1 to Group 4
- **Fatality Rate** (in Region VI, DAO):
  - 81% from falls in construction
- **Number of non-English speaking** (in Region VI, DAO):
  - At least 57% in construction, more in residential construction

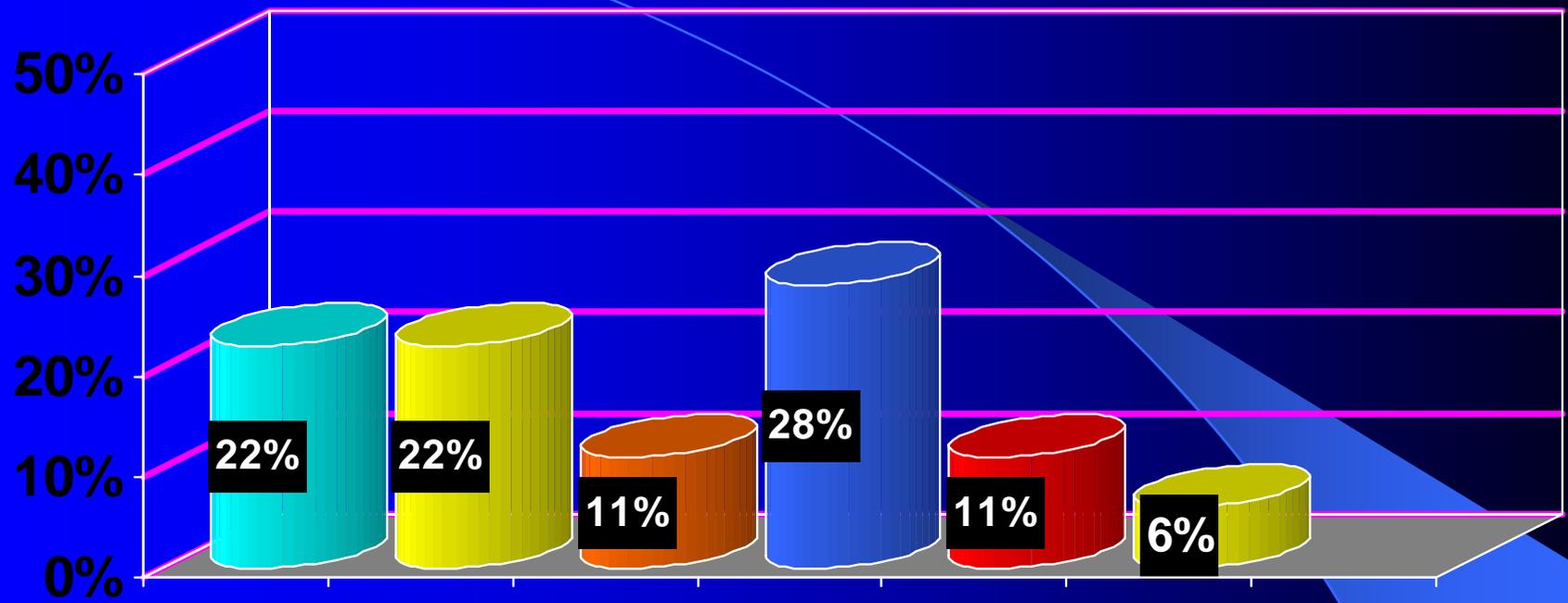


# Hazards Associated with Fatalities





- Other
- Setting Roof Trusses/Rafters
- Exterior Decking/Cornice
- Roof Decking
- Floor Decking
- Setting Floor Joists/Trusses



- Scaffolding
- Top Plate
- Rafters/Trusses
- Decking
- Stairs
- Other

# OSHA Multi-Employer Policy

- General Contractor
  - Controlling
  - Creating
- Primary Framing Subcontractor
  - Correcting
- Secondary Framing Subcontractor
  - Creating
  - Exposing
  - Correcting



# Non-English Speaking Workforce

- Growing number of non-English Speaking workforce in construction
- Lack of communication regarding safety procedures and policies
- Many employers have not tailored company safety and health policies and safety training to adequately train non-English speaking employees



# Non-English Speaking Workforce

- No efficient methods to report safety hazards and concerns to the employer
- Employers hire employees based upon inexpensive labor, not on prior job experience
- Most Non-English Speaking work force has no prior knowledge of OSHA
- Non-English speaking employees, who have never worked in this country



# OSHA Citations Issued

## GENERAL CONTRACTOR

29 CFR 1926.501 (b)(13)

29 CFR 1926.1052 (c)(1)

## PRIMARY FRAMING SUBCONTRACTOR

29 CFR 1926.501 (b)(13)

29 CFR 1926.1052 (c)(1)

## SECONDARY FRAMING SUBCONTRACTOR

29 CFR 1926.25 (a)

29 CFR 1926.100 (a)

29 CFR 1926.501 (b)(13)

29 CFR 1926.501 (c)

29 CFR 1926.1052 (c)(1)



# Abatement

## GENERAL CONTRACTOR

- Insured the installation of guardrail system along stairway, balcony and floor opening

- Assist their subcontractors with the development of a detailed fall protection plan

## PRIMARY FRAMING SUBCONTRACTOR

- Participated in a Spanish 10-hour construction safety course sponsored by OSHA



# Abatement

## SECONDARY FRAMING SUBCONTRACTOR

- Sent all of his employees to the Spanish 10-hour construction safety course taught by bilingual OSHA compliance safety and health officers









# Lessons Learned

- Review company safety programs and policies with all subcontractors before starting work
- Hold safety meetings with all subcontractors before the start of each phase or on a routine basis
- Establish effective communication with non-English speaking work crew



# Lessons Learned

- Need to perform documented, routine safety inspections and communicate hazards with all parties who may be exposed.
- Follow up requested safety services, in this case, from Safety Guardrail Systems Company
- Insure safety and health measures are handled in a timely manner and taken beginning of each construction phase.



# EFFORTS of OSHA DALLAS AREA OFFICE for FY01 & FY02

- Established a Task Force consisting of framing and general contractors
- Obtained 150 % employer participation from other states to develop a uniform fall protection plan
- Developed a 10-hour Construction Safety and Health Training
- Conduct the 10-hour Construction Safety and Health Training in both Spanish and English, on a monthly basis

