

# ***The National Campaign to Prevent Falls in Construction Final Report on the 2016 Safety Stand-Down:***

***A follow-up report to the *Final Report on the 2014 & 2015 Safety Stand-Downs:*  
A quantitative and qualitative analysis on data collected from OSHA's Stand-Down Certificate of  
Participation database<sup>1</sup>***



**Safety Pays  
Falls Cost**

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.cpwr.com/sites/default/files/2015 vs 2014 Stand-Down data - final report 12-1-15.pdf](http://www.cpwr.com/sites/default/files/2015%20vs%202014%20Stand-Down%20data%20-%20final%20report%2012-1-15.pdf)

### **Background:**

In 2014 alone, 337 workers died from falls on construction sites. Falls also remain the leading cause of death in the construction industry and lack of proper fall protection remains the [most frequently cited violation](#) by OSHA. In response to the staggering number of fall-related injuries and fatalities, [OSHA](#), the [National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health](#), the NORA Construction Sector Council, and [CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training](#) launched the Fall Prevention Campaign on Workers Memorial Day, 2012. The campaign, now entering its sixth year, encourages contractors to PLAN ahead to get the job done safely; PROVIDE the right equipment to workers; and TRAIN everyone to use the equipment safely year round.

In 2014, as part of the campaign, the partners decided to dedicate a specific period of time during the year to stand-down and spread the word that stopping falls can save lives. This event is called the [National Safety Stand-Down](#) and it brings together employers, workers, and safety associations across the country to pause work on the jobsite and focus on preventing falls through talks, demonstrations, trainings and more.

The Stand-Down has been a tremendous success the last three years, reaching an estimated 5 million workers total. Stand-Downs have been reported in all 50 states and internationally.

This report carries over from a previous report focused on the data analysis and comparison of the 2014 and 2015 Safety Stand-Downs. That report can be accessed in full [here](#). In an effort to not simply repeat the same information, this report will only highlight differences and new information found in the 2016 data analysis.

### **Methods:**

All data included in this and previous analyses were generated from OSHA's Certificate of Participation database. Company information is kept anonymous and confidential. Only demographic and descriptive information is used.

***One major difference*** between the 2016 data and previous years is that the certificate database and associated website were not working properly for 2-3 weeks during and after the Stand-Down. The servers experienced a similar glitch in 2015, but it was for a short time and OSHA was able to determine the number of certificates printed so we could include this data in the analysis (see the previous report for details on that methodology). This year the only data we have from those 2-3 weeks comes from users who followed instructions to submit a form and receive a certificate via email instead of online. Because of this, the data from 2016 cannot be compared side by side to 2014 and 2015. It would appear as though there were a significant decrease in participation, when that was likely not the case.

In addition to this, it is important to note again that these numbers are based only on the OSHA stand-down certificate database. The total number of Stand-Down participants and workers reached is much higher than the numbers reflected here.

### **Total Number of Workers “Reached”**

Each entry in the certificate database represents the request for a certificate and the participation of one company, jobsite, or individual in the Stand-Down. Each entry can represent just one event (possibly of several), or a full week of activities. This is up to the individual completing the certificate survey. The entries are referred to as “responses” below. Each of the individuals submitting those responses is asked how many participants attended their Stand-Down event or week. Those numbers are referred to as “workers reached” below.

<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<b>1,856 Responses*</b>	<b>3,759 Responses</b>	<b>4,882 Responses</b>
<b>417,537 Workers Reached*</b>	<b>1,041,307 Workers Reached</b>	<b>770,193 Workers Reached</b>

*\*As a reminder, these numbers are smaller than expected due to a website glitch (see Methods above).*

### **Extent of Ongoing Participation**

#### **A. Multiple Stand-Downs Each Year**

In order to gauge the depth of participation, we looked at the number of respondent companies who reported Stand-Downs on multiple jobsites and/or on multiple days. While the numbers for 2016 are lower across the board due to underreporting as described above, the percentages provide a better means of comparison between years.

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<b>Number of companies that participated on more than 1 jobsite</b>	<b>320</b> (17%)	<b>449</b> (12%)	<b>409</b> (8%)
<b>Number of companies that participated on more than 1 day</b>	<b>173</b> (9%)	<b>467</b> (12%)	<b>365</b> (7.5%)
<b>Number of companies that mentioned participating every day for 1 week</b>	<b>86</b> (4.5%)	<b>82</b> (2%)	<b>209</b> (4%)
<b>Number of companies that mentioned participating every day of the 2015 Stand-Down period (2 weeks)</b>		<b>85</b> (2%)	

## B. Multiple Stand-Downs across Years

We know based on experiential and anecdotal data that many companies do not feel that it's necessary to come back each year for a certificate even though they are participating. For many, one certificate is enough and then the value seems to decrease. However, when cross-referencing the database we do see some repetition across all three years.

<b>1 year: 4,501</b>	<b>2 years: 743</b>
<b>2016: 846</b>	<b>2015 &amp; 2016: 128</b>
<b>2015: 1,435</b>	<b>2014 &amp; 2016: 146</b>
<b>2014: 2,220</b>	<b>2014 &amp; 2015: 469</b>

**All 3 years: 167**

## Value for both New and Repeat Participants

Whether companies began participating in the Stand-Down in 2014 or were new to the event in 2016, all have found it valuable. Below are just a few examples of feedback from the 2016 certificate database that demonstrates this.

### A. Comments from New Participants

“This was our first time participating in the stand-down and it was well received by the employees and management. We feel that the fact that we were willing to stop work for this helps our workers understand how important the topic and their safety is to us.”

“This was our first time participating in the Stand Down. We believe our employees saw the importance of it and benefited from it. We look forward to next year!”

“It went well, this was our first year so have some improvements to make, however overall had good participation and feedback.”

“This is our first year participating in the stand down, and overall, it was a success. We are on commercial construction projects from Northern KY. to Columbus, OH, and every job site participated.”

“This was my first year of participation in the National Safety Stand-Down week and I felt that the results proved to be a fun, educational filled week”

## B. Comments from Repeat Participants

“We have participated for 3 Years and had great success!!...This year we concentrated on falls from extension ladders.”

“We supported clients with fall protection talks and give away materials. It was well attended on several various sites as well as with our own personnel. Many employees and clients knew about this event from previous years”

“This is the second year we have participated in this national event, and it is an important part of our overall fall prevention strategy”

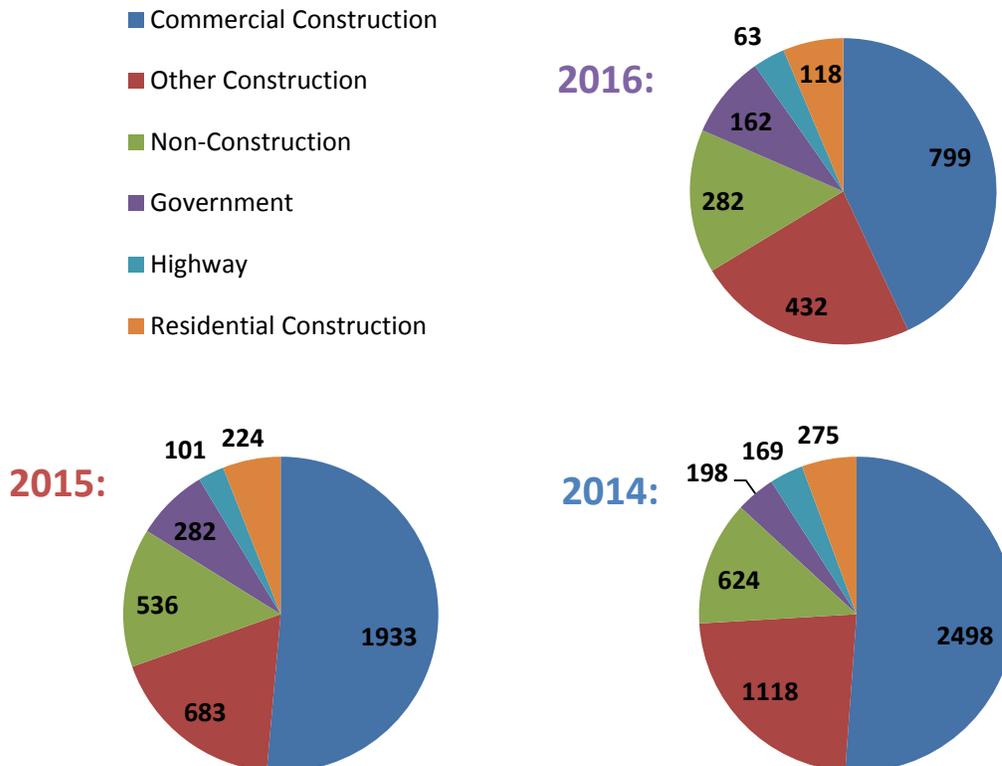
“As we did in previous years we did a five (5) day stand-down...We plan on participating every year in the stand-down.”

“This is our third year participating as an entire company. We utilize a week long format to reach all of our offices and project sites in the United States.”

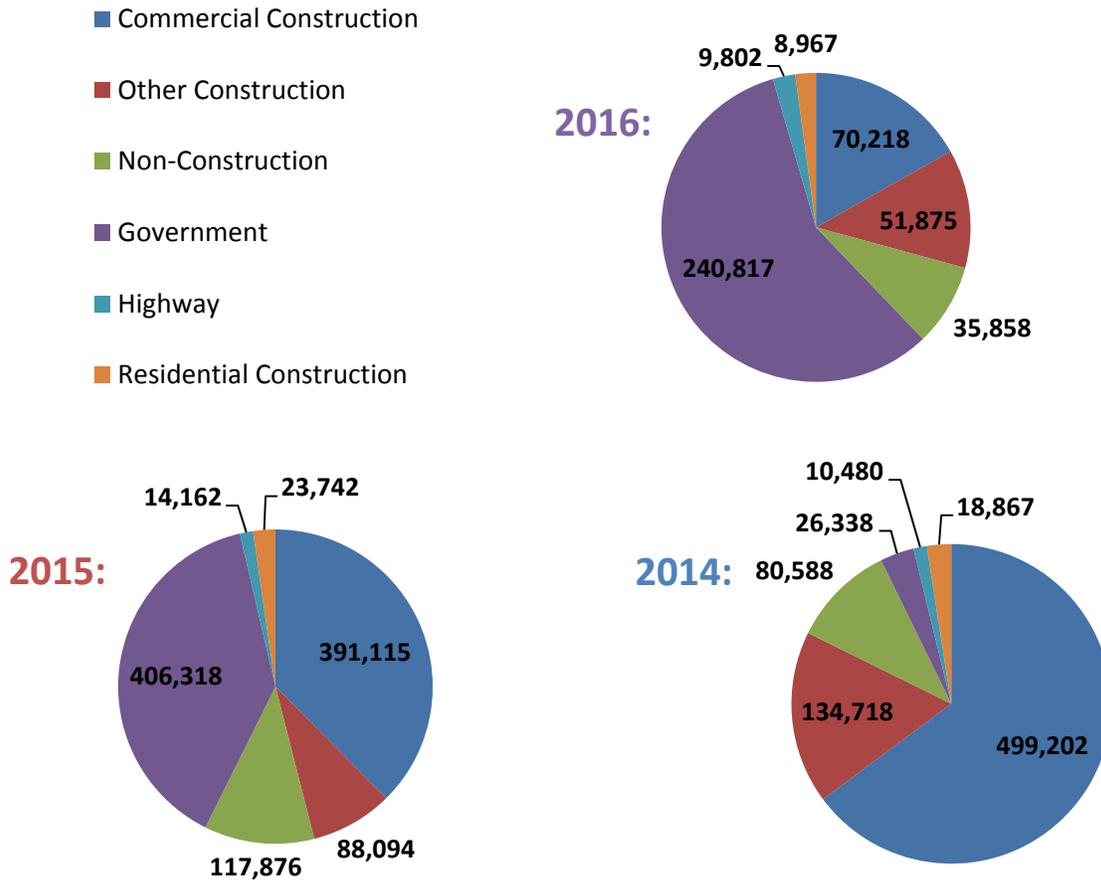
“We do this Safety Stand-Down every year and in general, it went great.”

## Stand-Down Demographics

### A. Stand-Downs (Responses) by Type of Construction



## B. Workers Reached (Participants) by Type of Construction



## C. Stand-Down Size

One of the original goals of the Campaign to Prevent Falls in Construction when it began in 2012 was to reach small, residential contractors, a consistently difficult to reach segment of the industry. While the campaign expanded over the years to include not only construction, but also military, mining, and general industry, we still want to check in to see if we are meeting our goal of including vulnerable, hard-to-reach workers. Below is the data on “small stand-downs.”

Participants were not asked to indicate the size of their company so it is important that the distinction be made between companies of 25 (or 10) or fewer individuals and stand-downs with 25 or fewer individuals in attendance. The information contained here refers strictly to stand-downs that included 25 individuals or less. This includes large companies who simply divided their stand-downs by site, companies that only employ a small number of workers, companies who only targeted their safety teams, and a number of other types of stand-downs. It is also worth noting that many of the larger stand-downs conducted by large contractors also included their subcontractors who employ 25 or fewer individuals and those may not be accounted for here.

The only major difference in 2016 is that we saw a significant increase in the percentage of residential construction stand-downs with 10 or fewer participants, which is in line with our initial goal.

**25 or Fewer Workers**

2016:

42.65% of Total Responses  
49.15% of Residential  
Construction Entries

2015:

43.9% of Total Responses  
51.46% of Residential  
Construction Entries

2014:

49.79% of Total Responses  
57.8% of Residential  
Construction Entries

**10 or Fewer Workers**

2016:

22.89% of Total Responses  
25.42% of Residential  
Construction Entries

2015:

22.98% of Total Responses  
1.90% of Residential  
Construction Entries

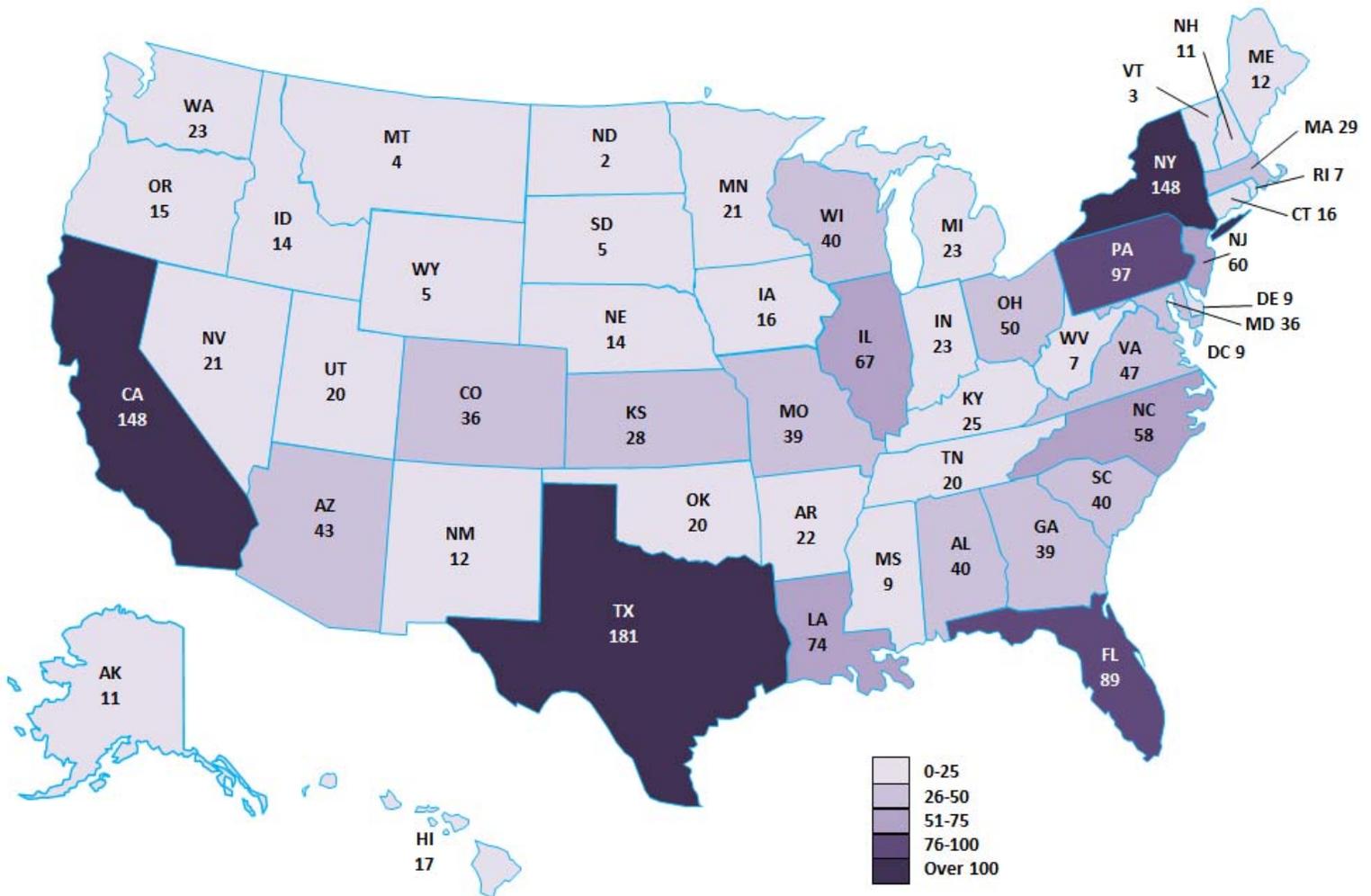
2014:

29.35% of Total Responses  
1.99% of Residential  
Construction Entries

### D. Stand-Downs (Responses) by State

In addition to the states shown on the following map, there were also four stand-downs in Guam, two in Puerto Rico, and one in the U.S. Virgin Islands. There were 41 international stand-downs reported.

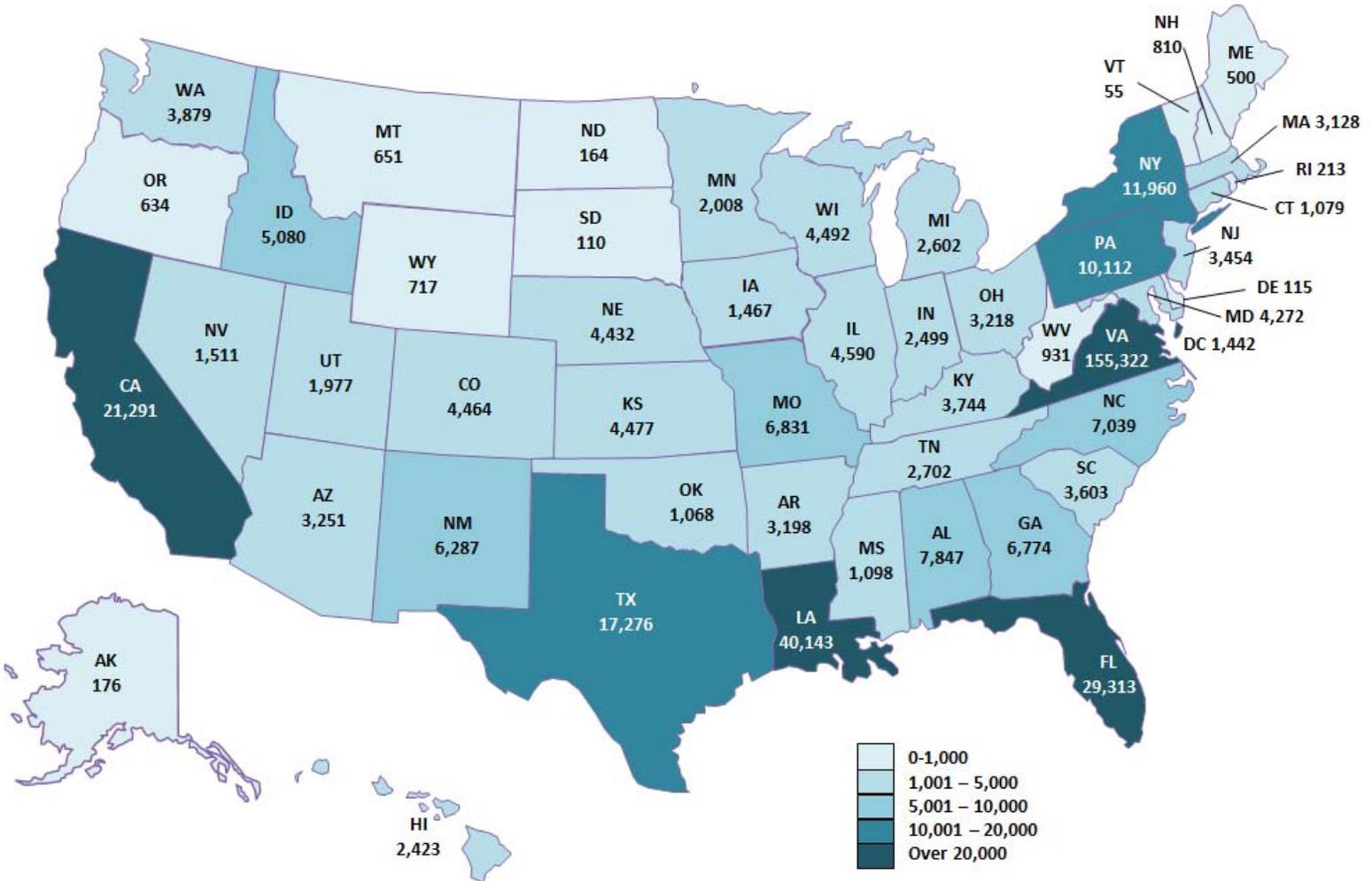
While the numbers on 2016's map are smaller than past years' ([available in the report](#)) due to the website being down, they remained consistent in that the states with the highest number of stand-downs include California, Texas, Florida, Pennsylvania, and New York, and the states with the lowest number of stand-downs include Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and Rhode Island.



### E. Workers Reached (Participants) by State

As mentioned above, we also received responses from U.S. territories not on the map. There were 425 workers reached in Guam, 43 in Puerto Rico, and 95 in the U.S. Virgin Islands. There were 9,962 international participants.

Again, the numbers on this map are smaller than past years, but still somewhat consistent in the level of participation represented. California, Texas, Florida, Louisiana, Virginia, and New York have been among the states consistently reaching the largest number of workers and North Dakota, South Dakota, Rhode Island, and Vermont are among the states with fewer workers reached. Interestingly, while Virginia's participation was relatively high the first year (2014), it really increased in 2015 and 2016. These numbers are reflective of the increase in government participation seen in the pie charts above.



### F. Stand-Downs & Workers Reached by OSHA Region

In addition to looking at the amount of participation by state, we also grouped it by OSHA region. OSHA divides their offices by region, state, and locality. Each region is made up of four to eight states generally located in the same geographic area. A rundown of OSHA’s regions can be found at <https://www.osha.gov/html/RAmap.html>. The first table below provides a breakdown of total stand-downs and amount of participation by both region and type of construction. The following page’s tables provide comparisons to the 2014 and 2015 data, which again, is available in full in the previous report.

Region	Total # of Stand-Downs	Total # of Individuals Reached	Commercial Construction (SD/Indiv.)		Other Construction (SD/Indiv.)		Residential Construction (SD/Indiv.)		Non-Construction (SD/Indiv.)		Government (SD/Indiv.)		Highway (SD/Indiv.)	
1	78	5,785	33	3,033	17	651	7	199	12	628	2	350	7	924
2	211	15,552	84	6,669	50	3,249	21	1,171	39	3,323	6	603	11	537
3	205	172,194	81	6,918	44	3,858	9	577	34	3,657	23	154,538	14	2,646
4	320	62,120	146	14,682	63	13,617	25	1,965	35	5,885	39	23,420	12	2,551
5	224	19,409	117	9,754	45	4,722	15	889	36	3,663	9	318	2	63
6	309	67,972	106	7,461	121	13,852	8	589	48	7,072	17	37,741	9	1,257
7	97	17,207	35	4,013	19	2,679	4	442	32	5,908	2	3,522	5	643
8	72	8,083	36	2,714	13	1,290	5	102	12	1,002	5	2,855	1	120
9	233	28,901	122	11,483	28	2,247	22	1,493	21	2,029	38	10,588	2	1,061
10	63	9,769	26	1,007	18	2,073	1	40	8	285	10	6,364	0	0
INTL	41	9,962	11	1,904	13	3,634	1	1,500	5	2,406	11	518	0	0
UNDEF	3	583	2	580	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,856</b>	<b>417,537</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>70,218</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>51,875</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>8,967</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>35,858</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>240,817</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>9,802</b>

### Total Stand-Downs by Region

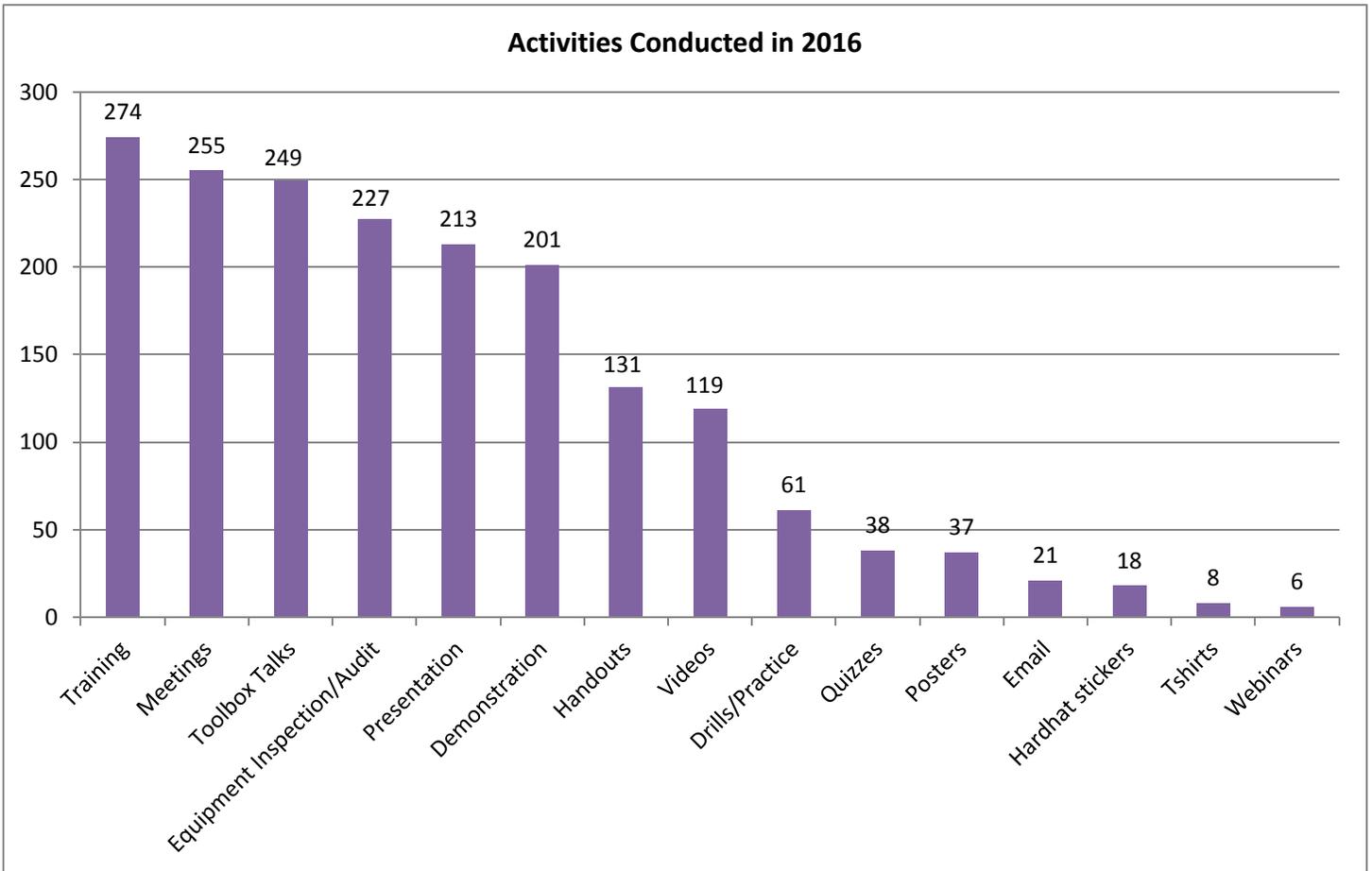
Region	2016	2015	2014
1	78 (4%)	183 (5%)	289 (6%)
2	211 (11%)	304 (8%)	452 (9%)
3	205 (11%)	478 (13%)	514 (11%)
4	320 (17%)	615 (16%)	925 (19%)
5	224 (12%)	560 (15%)	824 (17%)
6	309 (17%)	674 (18%)	663 (14%)
7	97 (5%)	189 (5%)	211 (4%)
8	72 (4%)	173 (3%)	186 (4%)
9	233 (13%)	398 (11%)	543 (11%)
10	63 (4%)	127 (4%)	158 (3%)
INTL	41 (2%)	58 (2%)	115 (2%)
Undefined	3	--	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,856</b>	<b>3,759</b>	<b>4,882</b>

### Total Workers Reached by Region

Region	2016	2015	2014
1	5,785 (1.5%)	20,514 (2%)	20,380 (3%)
2	15,552 (4%)	31,447 (3%)	77,091 (10%)
3	172,194 (41%)	242,000 (23%)	64,104 (8%)
4	62,120 (15%)	230,025 (22%)	78,120 (10%)
5	19,409 (5%)	76,953 (7%)	105,489 (14%)
6	67,972 (16%)	158,383 (15%)	61,271 (8%)
7	17,207 (4%)	29,261 (3%)	15,517 (2%)
8	8,083 (2%)	14,474 (1%)	19,230 (2%)
9	28,901 (7%)	49,983 (5%)	266,668 (35%)
10	9,769 (2%)	20,305 (2%)	10,347 (1%)
INTL	9,962 (2.5%)	167,962 (16%)	51,837 (7%)
Undefined	583	--	139
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>417,537</b>	<b>1,041,307</b>	<b>770,193</b>

**Activities Conducted**

The certificate survey does not specifically ask what types of activities were conducted during the Stand-Down, but many respondents describe their events in the comments section. To get an idea of what is being done, we count the number of times popular activities are mentioned in the database. The graph below shows activities that were most popular in 2016, and the following table shows how that stacks up against the most popular activities in past years. As you can see, there is consistency between the top reported activities from year to year. Full graphs for 2014 and 2015 are available in the previous report.



**Top Reported Activities across Years**

	2016	2015	2014
1.	Training	Training	Meetings
2.	Meetings	Equipment Inspection	Training
3.	Toolbox Talks	Toolbox Talks	Handouts
4.	Equipment Inspection	Meetings	Toolbox Talks
5.	Presentation	Demonstrations	Equipment Inspection

## **Comments & Feedback**

The comments and feedback provided in 2014 and 2015 are covered in detail in our previous report, and much of what was submitted in 2016 is right in line with those past years. However, we did want to highlight some comments on new activities and new feedback that has not been mentioned previously.

### **A. Innovative Stand-Downs**

The quotes below were pulled from a few comments that demonstrate creativity shown by company stand-down organizers that went above and beyond what we suggested.

“[Our joint companies] actively participated across both organizations facilitating a safety **poster development contest**. The winners were selected by [our insurance company’s] judges, and are on display across the...organization.”

“We discussed and **listened to suggestions from our crews** about our current scaffolding procedures, ladder inspections, and Aerial Lifts. **We are going to suggest using Aerial Lifts more frequently on larger projects instead of scaffolding**. Employees will need to be trained on aerial lifts prior to operation so I need to plan for that in my budget.”

“[We] introduced the **new Harness Hero App** you can play on your smart phone. It generated some great conversations about proper tie off methods.”

“**We printed off coloring sheets for the workers to take home to their kids and discuss safety with them**. The guys then brought back the colored sheets...and we posted all the art on the walls and windows of the job trailer. It made the safety awareness carry over from work to home...[the] pictures their kids colored made them remember why they need to work safely...to go home safe to their kids/family every night.”

“We focused in on the **use of [ladders] at home** also as many of us work at elevated heights there too. It is no different. You have to use the right equipment at home and at work.”

### **B. Repeat Feedback**

We received a lot of the same notes as past years, including:

- Provide more material for general industry
- Focus on new hazards
- Provide real-life examples through speakers, videos, stories
- Provide more materials in general – especially videos – participants need something different from past years
- Earlier/better promotion
- Do a stand-down each quarter
- Use more social media
- Add materials in additional languages (not just Spanish and English)

### C. New Feedback

We did receive a few comments and suggestions that were not mentioned in previous years as well:

- Many highlighted the importance of creating an open conversation for employees (improving overall safety culture)
- Training specifically on CFR 1926 Subpart M was mentioned several times
- Some participated for 2 weeks or even a month on their own, despite the Stand-Down officially lasting 1 week
- Heavier involvement from insurance companies
- Increased focus on the importance of daily equipment inspections and requests for materials that provide better guidance on inspection and what issues to look for (i.e. of harnesses and lanyards)
- Suggestion to allow people to sign up for OSHA email alerts separate from other distribution lists like QuickTakes, just to provide information on programs such as this

As always, this feedback will be incorporated into our planning and promotional efforts for the 2017 Safety Stand-Down, to be held May 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>!

For more information on the Campaign to Stop Falls in Construction and the National Safety Stand-Down, visit the joint OSHA-NIOSH-CPWR campaign site [stopconstructionfalls.com](http://stopconstructionfalls.com).



**stopconstructionfalls.com**