



National Institute for Public Health
and the Environment
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

The same fall, a different cause?

*Exploring and comparing
serious accidents for
consumers and workers*

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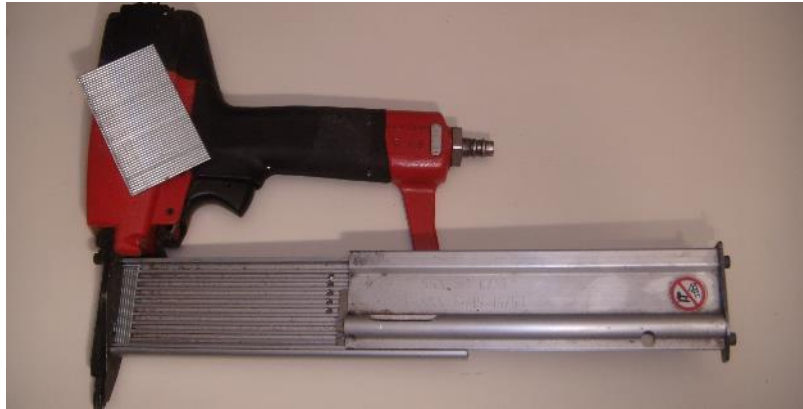


Main points

1. Similar or the same products for DIY tasks and professional jobs
2. Similar accidents and physical, mechanical and electrical hazards
 - More is known about scenarios and the (underlying) causes of worker accidents than for consumers. What can we learn?
3. Investigated similarities and differences using the literature and by looking at occupational accident data
4. Direct causes, events and injuries seem comparable
5. Although consumers seem to be older and injuries more severe (also mostly male).
6. Indirect causes and psychological processes may be different (study needed)
7. We intend to further explore the underlying causes of consumer accidents with focus on determinants of behaviour



What products and tasks are we talking about?



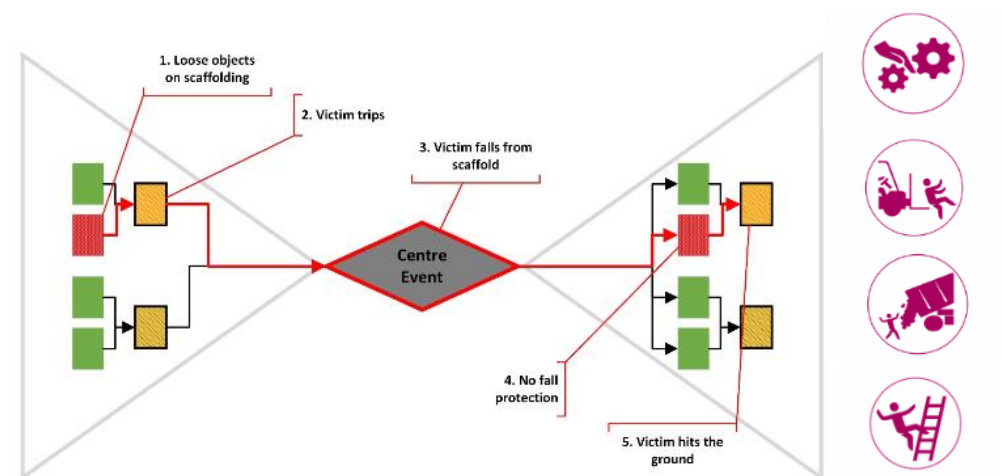


Literature review of consumer accidents

- Systematic search of literature for direct comparisons
- Catalogued differences that were found literature
- Extracted direct and indirect accident causes on consumer accidents with ladders and sawing machines

Comparison to Storybuilder data

- Compared findings related to consumer accidents to data in Storybuilder database
- Only a qualitative comparison was possible





First findings

- Identified five studies with a direct comparison
 - Ten further studies identified that expanded on conditions prior to consumer accidents.
- Data mainly from emergency rooms
 - Consumer victims tended to be older and male
 - Possibly consumers used somewhat older equipment
 - New machine types and economic factors seem to be important (e.g. snowblowers, nail guns)
 - Socio-economic dimension: Do you DIY or do you hire a professional?



First findings (ctd)

- Events, activities and direct causes seem similar when using the same product. Information from occupational accidents may be of use for consumer safety
- More detailed data on accident scenarios and the underlying causes of consumer accidents is needed
- Data at the inspectorate suggests that consumer behaviour is a key determinant (in addition to technical characteristics and design)



Next step: understanding potential influencers on consumer accidents

Where can the conditions around an active DIY consumer be improved?

- Psychological factors? (e.g. risk perception, peer pressure)
- Knowledge and skills?
- Equipment design and maintenance?
- Manuals, plans and instructions?
- Social environment? (e.g. family or helpers)
- Inherently safer design?





A final question for you

If you can, please helps us by answering one key question:

*If you wanted to reduce the number of consumer accidents,
where would you start?*