

## For Your Safety: The Cost of Accidents

The cost living, inflation, taxes—these are things that affect all of us. They're topics that creep into every conversation at home and at work because they deal with money. One thing that is not often discussed is how accidents can drive up these costs. On-the-job accidents in an average year cost the U.S. economy about 120 billion dollars. It is a cost we all pay for through increased taxes, additional insurance costs and inflated prices for consumer goods and services.

Sometimes the cost of accidents is more difficult to measure in dollars and cents. What is the cost to the injured worker? What is the cost of pain? What is the cost of the stress an injured workers has to deal with thinking about if he or she will ever be able to earn a living again?

Finally, there is a cost of accidents charged to families and communities. What does it cost a family both mentally and financially to have dad in the hospital because a work place injury? What does it cost the community when their volunteer firefighters, baseball coaches and PTA members are no longer able to serve because they are hurt or disabled?

So how do you cut these costs? How do you help the U.S. economy save billions of dollars? How do you ensure your community will prosper? These questions can be answered with two words:

## **Work Safely**

### For Your Information: May 20-26 National Safe Boating Week

It is that time of year when many people are rolling out their boats and getting ready for a summer on the water. Don't forget to take safety with you. Make sure to check the condition of your safety equipment before heading to the ramp. If you are new to boating, don't be afraid to take a boater safety course. You'll be surprised what you will learn. On average 700 people drown each year in recreational boating accidents, so don't forget to wear your life jacket. More information: [www.safeboatingcouncil.org](http://www.safeboatingcouncil.org)

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