

Incorrect use of the body	5.9%
Insecure mixing or placing	4.6%
Not using personal protection eq.	3.6%
Other	11.1%

The physical risks to which workers were most commonly exposed were:

Dangerous methods or procedures	49.7%
Public danger (transport/traffic)	13.5%
Work environment danger (lighting, noise, ventilation)	9.2%
Danger due to placement of materials and equipment	8.3%
Defects of agents (bad construction, slippery, worn out)	6.6%
Inadequate protection	3.0%
Other	9.7%

All of the above figures point towards major deficiencies in industrial security measures, ranging from sheer inexistence to malfunctions of installed equipment and human mistakes. Both the government and the industry are aware of these facts but, despite an increasing effort in regulating security on the job, both in quantity and quality, companies have delayed investments in this area due to reasons ranging from ignorance and lack of interest, insufficient training as to the use of security measures, inconsistency and wrong selection of equipment, to financial difficulties faced by many medium and small companies.

## 7. FIRES

The total number of fires registered in Mexico increased 43.5% between 1977 and 1981, when it reached an all time high of 17,060. Since then, increased security measures have brought about a gradual decline bringing fires down to approximately 15,700 per annum. Most of these fires were registered in Mexico City. The total number of fires can be distributed as follows:

Public areas	31.3%
Homes	27.5%
Commercial establishments	8.1%
Forests & parks	7.8%
Service related establ.	6.2%
Industrial establishments	4.6%
Sown lands	2.4%
Other	12.1%

The number of victims taken by fires has fluctuated year to year, but averages 6,500 annually, including deaths (20%) and injuries (80%), while material losses amount to as much as \$80 million.