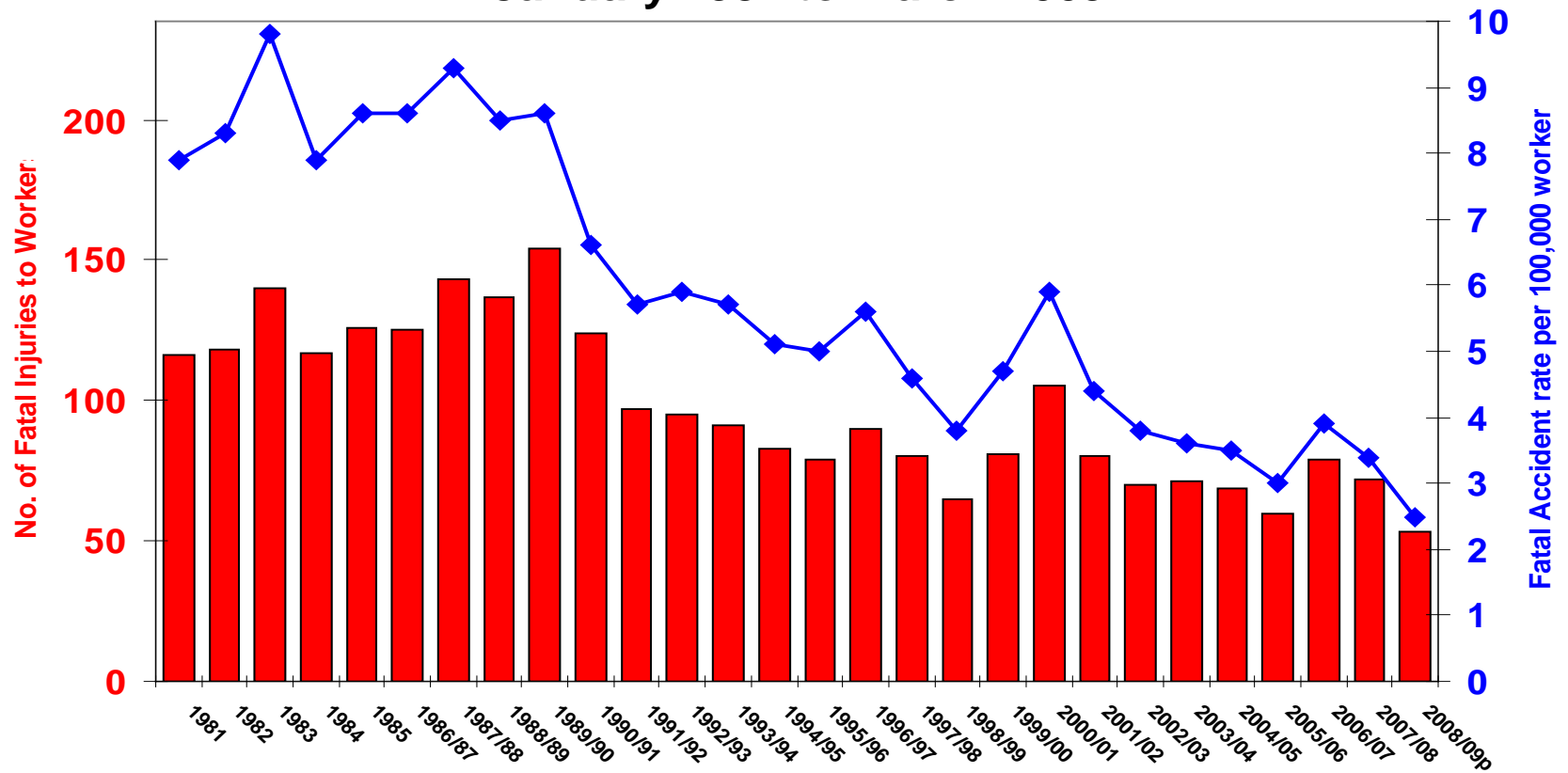


# **APSE National Housing, Construction and Building Maintenance Seminar 2010**

Alan Pojur  
HM Inspector of Health and Safety  
Construction Division, Health and  
Safety Executive

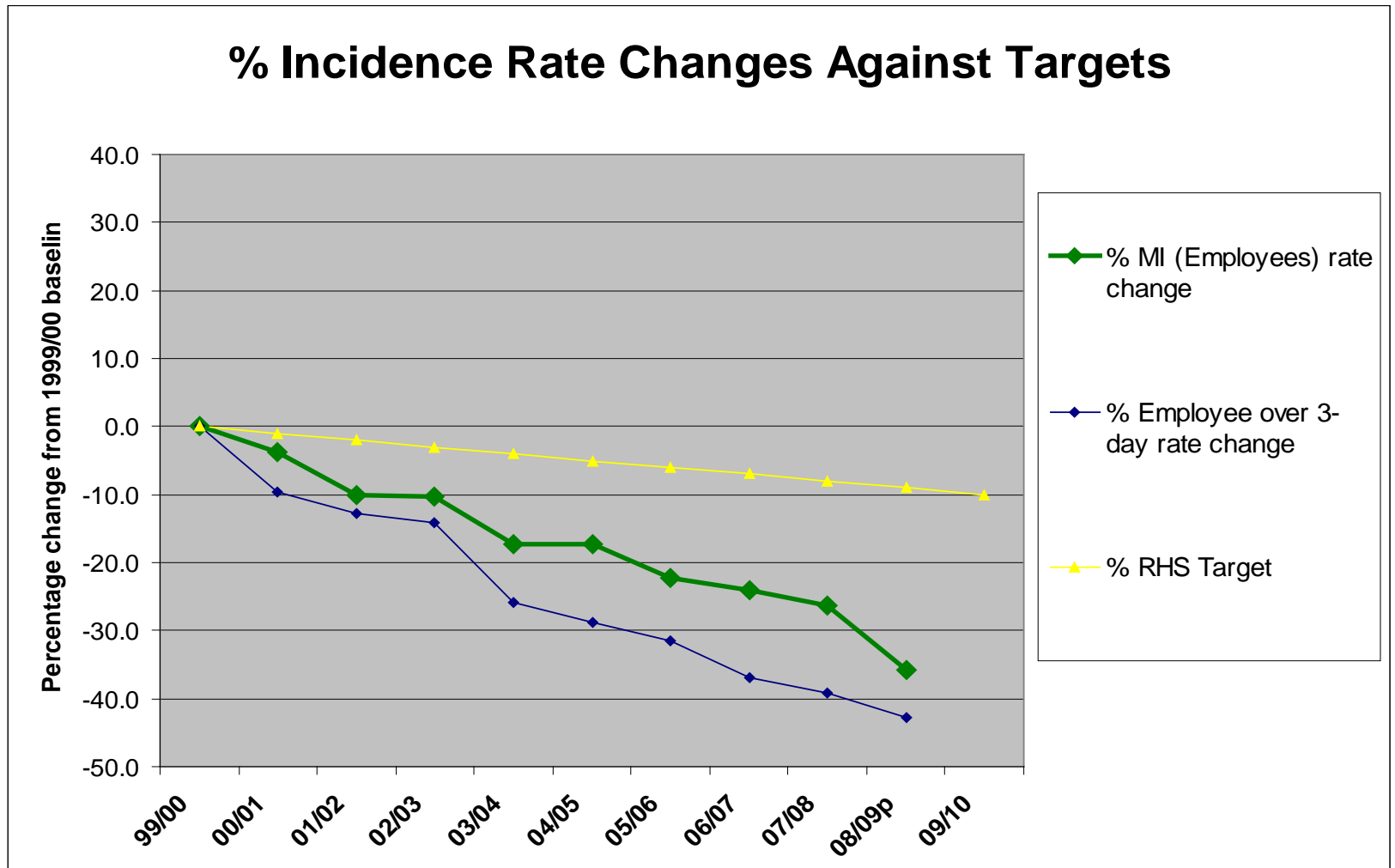
# Accident history 1

## Fatal Injuries to Workers in Construction January 1981 to March 2009



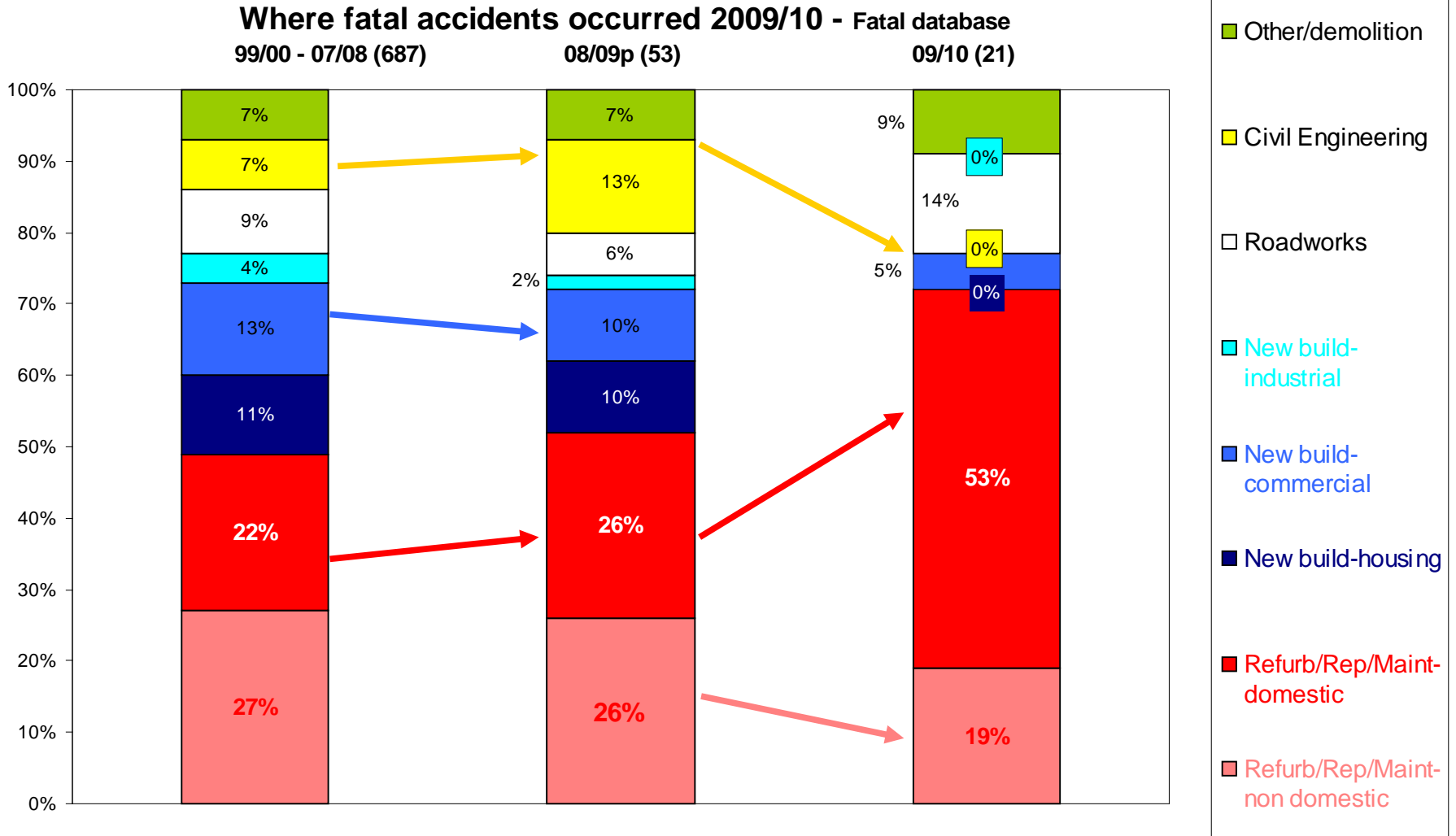
Injury figures for 1996/7 cannot be compared directly with previous year's figures because of introduction of RIDDOR 95

# Accident history 2



# Accident history 3

## Fatal Accidents 1<sup>st</sup> half 2009/10



## Accident history 4

### **III Health in Construction:**

- 2.4m working days lost per year through ill health
  - Dermatitis & skin disease – 10% of bricklayers leave industry each year
  - Noise/vibration up to 6x industry average
  - Silica research – high levels of exposure to silica dust in construction increases risks of developing silicosis
  - Asbestos related diseases – responsible for estimated 4,000 deaths per year (many tradesmen)
  - 56% of cancer deaths in men attributable to construction work – recent Occ. Cancer research
- 1,000's of ill health problems not reported

# Construction Division Plan of Work 2010/11 (1)

- Continuing aim is to deliver cultural change
- Industry ownership
- Evidence based approach
- Targeted interventions
- Inspection/enforcement core to delivery but range of intervention techniques



# Construction Division Plan of Work 2010/11 (2)

## **Priority Inspection Sectors 2010/11:**

- Asbestos Licensing (licence approval & removal work)
- Small Sites
- Refurbishment
- Homebuilding
- Major Projects



# Construction Division Plan of Work 2010/11 (3)

## **Main Target Topics 2010/11:**

- Common risks:
  - Falls
  - Asbestos Risks
  - Site Transport
  - Welfare
  - Slips & Trips (Good Order)

# Construction Division Plan of Work 2010/11 (4)

## **Other activities:**

- Respiratory Risks – silica dust
  - Significant concern on silicosis and lung cancer
  - Over exposure = serious health risk
  - Number of priorities
    - kerbs/paving/block cutting
    - wall chasing, re-pointing masonry work
    - scabbing and surface grinding
    - site housekeeping

# Construction Division Plan of Work 2010/11 (5)

## **Other Activities:**

- Temporary Works
  - Adequate management arrangements
- Manual Handling
  - Blocks, plasterboard, kerbs
- Improving dutyholder compliance
  - Targeting particular local/regional contractors

# Small Sites Strategy – especially domestic refurbishment

- Inspector feedback = standards are poor.
- 2009/10\* - 76% fatal accidents on smaller sites (>5).
- Increased inspection activity in 2010/11.
- Robust enforcement as required.
- Simple, straightforward guidance.
- Working Well Together (WWT) as partner.

\*in first 6 months of year

# Roof repair work

What you need to know as a busy builder

Want to stay on top as a roof worker on a busy building site?

These are the essential health and safety top tips you should follow, even if you don't directly employ the people working on your site.

- Almost all domestic roof work needs scaffolding – fit edge protection to stop people and materials from falling from eaves and gable ends.
- On terraced properties make sure you provide scaffolding at the front and back of the property.
- Use scaffolding around chimneys and roof windows.
- Do not throw materials from the roof or the scaffold ('bombing') – use a chute or similar.
- Stop materials falling onto the street, and people – for example, use debris netting sheeting and/or close fitting scaffold boards.
- Keep people away from the area below the roof work.
- Do not go onto fragile roof surfaces such as cement sheets or those with skylights.

Work from underneath, reach from an access platform or cover fragile areas on the roof.

- Ladders can be used to access the workplace but working from ladders is allowed only as a last resort.
- Make sure your roof workers are properly trained and competent to do the work safely.

This is just a summary – you can find out what else you need to know about health and safety by visiting [www.hse.gov.uk/construction/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/index.htm)

### What can happen if health and safety is ignored?

*A 20-year-old worker repairing a factory roof fell through a skylight and died. His employer had provided only two crawling boards and had not trained him properly. The company owner was convicted of manslaughter and health and safety offences, sentenced to 12 months in prison and banned from being a company director for three years.*

See over for examples of good practice...

Unacceptable



Good example



### Further information

For information about health and safety ring HSE's Infoline  
Tel: 0845 345 0055 Fax: 0845 408 9696  
Textphone: 0845 408 9577 e-mail: [hse.infoline@natbrit.com](mailto:hse.infoline@natbrit.com)  
or write to HSE Information Services, Caerphilly Business Park, Caerphilly CF83 3GG.

This document is available web-only at:  
[www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/lite3.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/lite3.pdf).

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# Ongoing Challenges

- Maintaining downward trends
- Reaching SMEs
- Changing attitudes & behaviours
- Recession
  - impact on accidents
  - rationalisation
- Coming out of recession
  - industry needs to be prepared
  - growth of new/small businesses
  - new entrants
- Looking at future trends
  - type/nature of work
- Inspection and enforcement core to HSE's work