

2017 Annual Worker Compensation Report

During calendar year 2017 there were 109 accident reports filed. Four were record only with no medical attention sought, 105 resulted in worker compensation claims, an increase of 1% compared to 2016 totals, as illustrated in Figure 1. Total incurred costs (which includes medical and wage loss expenses that have already been paid out to date and reserves) is \$692,953. The 2017 incurred total includes \$261,794 being held in reserves for 24 open claims. Of the 105 claims filed 21 of the claims were classified as serious.

Figure 1
UI Workers' Compensation Claims & Costs
2013 through 2017

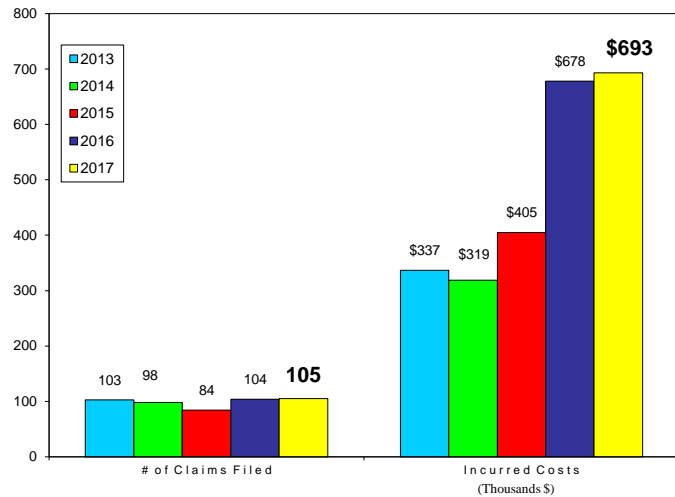
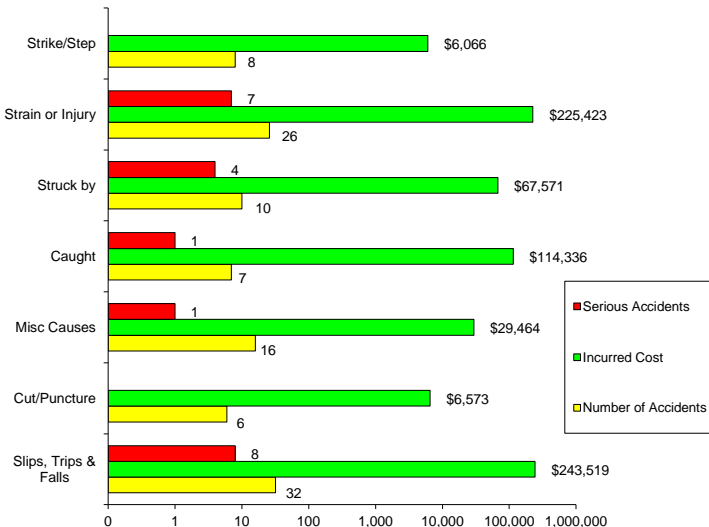


Figure 2
UI Incurred Cost by Accident Type
2017



Total # of Reports Filed:	109
# Reports not claims:	4
Total # of Serious Claims:	13
Total Cost of Claims:	\$692,953

Figure 2 is a breakdown of the accidents that occurred by type, total costs, and serious claims, defined as single claims that involved an incurred costs of over \$5,000. Serious claims comprised 20% of the number of accident claims. These serious claims accounted for 87.4% of the incurred cost of all claims filed. The incurred costs include a large reserve being held on the 13 serious claims that are still open. Accidents involving slips, trips and falls category accounted for 35% of the total incurred cost, strain or injury accidents accounted for another 33%.

Figure 3, on the following page, shows the number of accidents compared to the serious accident and the percentages of incurred cost for the past five years.

Figure 3
Total Claims Cost vs. Serious Claims Cost
Last 5 Years

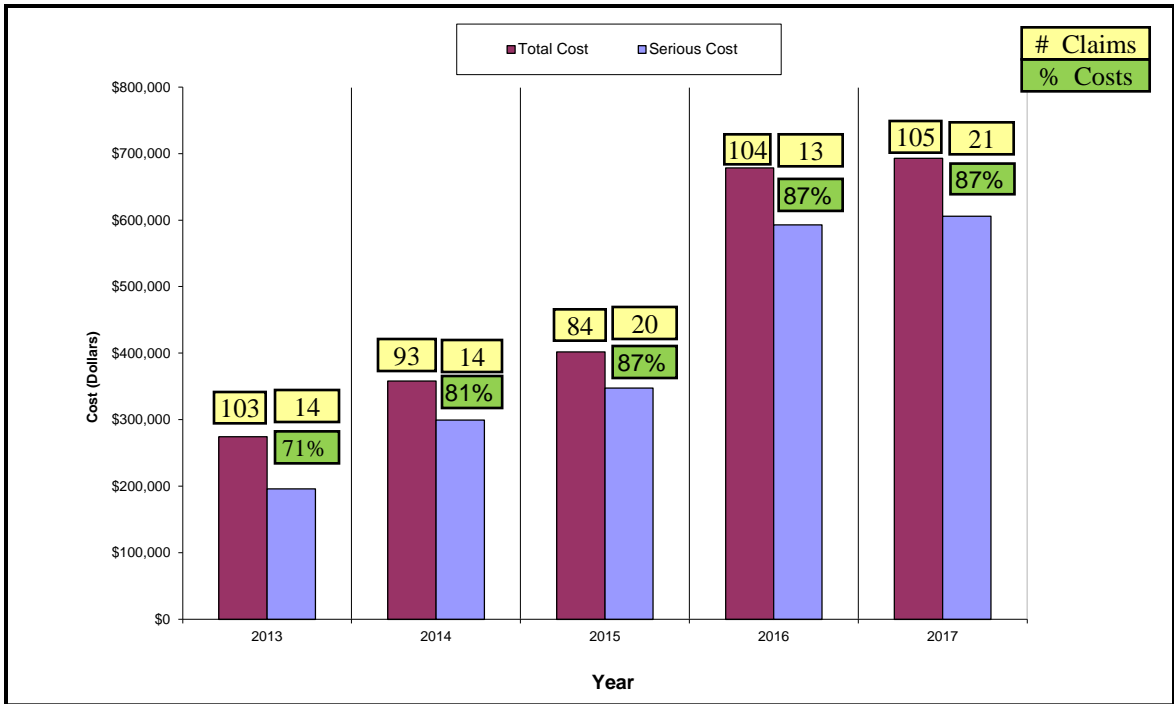
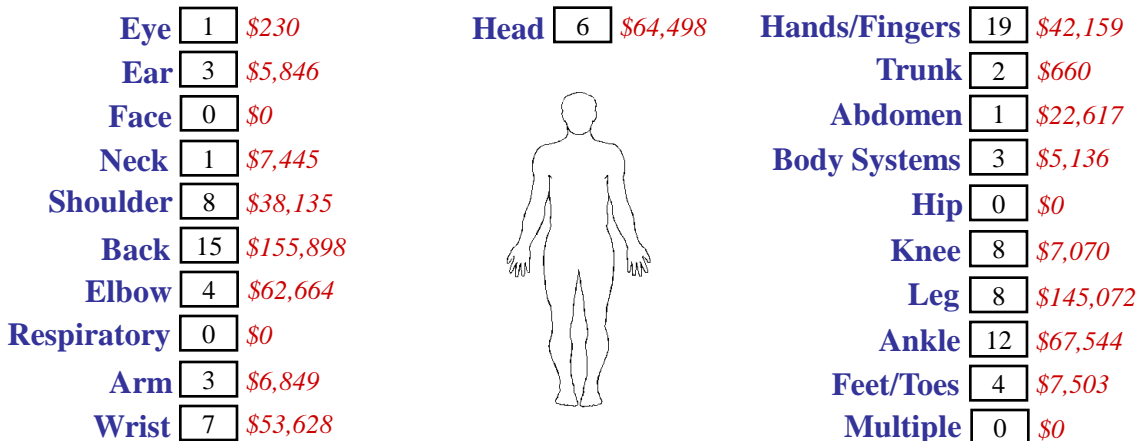


Figure 4
UI Injury Summary By Part Of Body
2017



Total Claims = 105 Total Cost = \$692,952

Figure 4 presents a breakdown of incurred costs by part of body injured. All the accidents in back and shoulders were attributed to slips, trips, and falls and strain or injury accidents. The average incurred cost for a slip, trip and falls (due to ice/snow) accident was \$9,657.

Figure 5 Number of Claims 2017

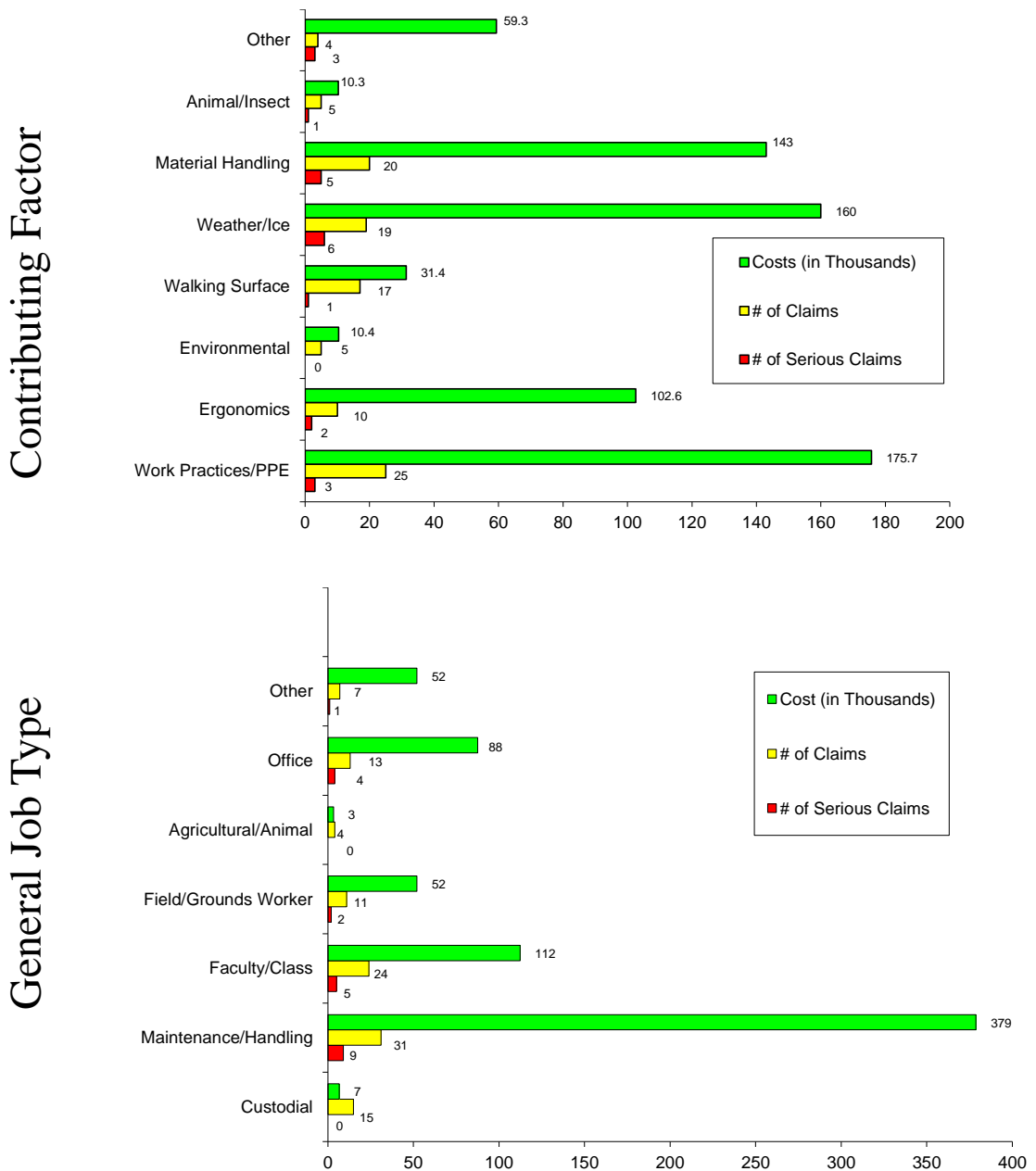


Figure 5 illustrates the number of claims and claim costs associated with the major contributing factor attributed to each accident (upper graph) and the general job type of the employee injured (lower graph). Work practices accidents generally occur when there are gaps in our safety and operations systems, the maintenance and handling category had the highest claims cost contributions. Many material handling claims involve ergonomic issues. Nine serious accident to maintenance and handling personnel put them as the highest cost by general job type. Descriptions of serious claims, represented by the red bars on these graphs, may be found on the following page.

The total costs associated with the 21 serious claims amounted to just over \$605,770, over 87.4% of the total cost of all claims filed. Incurred totals include \$247,229 being held in reserve for 13 of the serious claims that are still open.

The most serious claim, with the highest incurred cost, occurred when an employee was working next to an unstable retaining wall. This accident resulted in \$109,286 cost. Facilities had an assessment of these retaining systems done by a third party and established a program to do semiannual assessments.

The two next serious claims involved materials handling operations that resulted in back injuries with a combined cost of \$144,685. Both of these jobs could be made safer with the use of lift assisting equipment.

Ice and snow conditions led to five slip and fall accidents, resulting in injuries to a wrist, an elbow and thigh and two concussions. The total incurred cost for these was \$144,622.

In a moment of haste to resume work, an employee stumbled and fell. The incurred cost of an ambulance ride and fractured ankle was \$49,527.

A logging incident resulted in injuries to an employee when a skidder was struck by a falling tree. Resulting costs were \$36,477.

Two employees experienced abdominal strain as a result of awkward carrying techniques, one due to a narrow egress path and the other due to an unstable load. One of these claims is still open, and the combined costs could exceed \$42,000.

Continuous use of tools for long periods led to carpal tunnel syndrome in both hands and an incurred cost of \$14,899.

Use of a portable air compressor with a faulty regulator resulted in a fractured thumb when the tire that was being filled separated from the rim and incurred a cost of \$14,533.

Four more strain or injury claims resulting from handling objects or materials caused three strained shoulders and a thigh injury at \$13,232; \$8,700; \$7,168 and \$5,239 respectively.

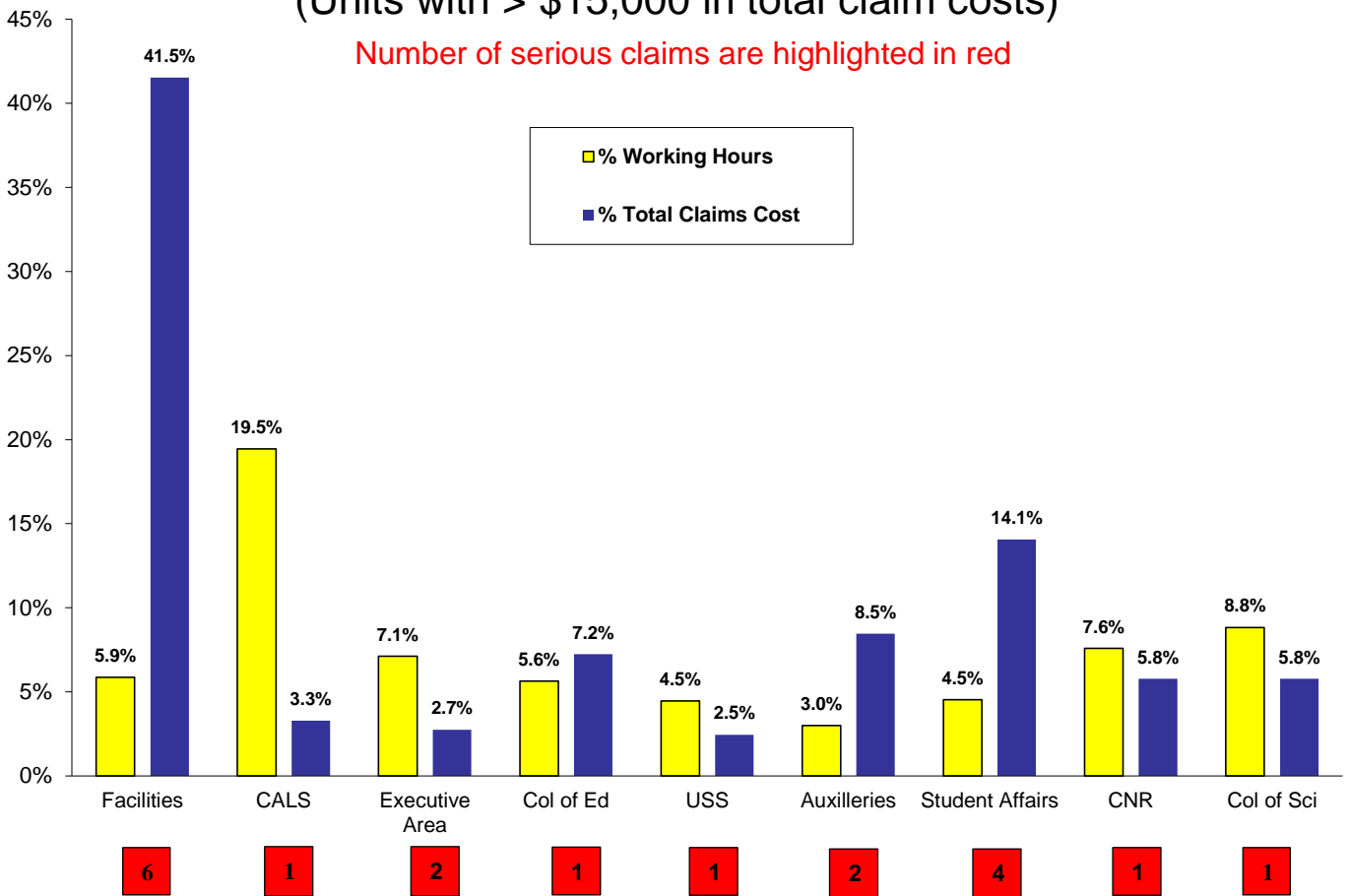
A frightened cow in a chute reared its head back and struck an employee in the head. The employee suffered a strained neck; the incurred cost was \$7,445.

While walking on the sidewalk an employee was struck by a vehicle, the resulting fall injured the employees ankle, incurred cost \$6,573.

Missing the last step on a ladder caused an employee to twist an ankle, fall and incur a cost of \$6,150.

The Unit Safety Program organizational units were used to track the University of Idaho’s workers’ compensation claim experience during calendar year 2017. The nine organizational units that experienced over \$15,000 in total incurred costs are presented below in Figure 6. The bars represent the claims cost and hours worked for each unit as percentages of the total incurred cost and total number of hours worked by university employees.

Figure 6
Unit Breakdown
 (Units with > \$15,000 in total claim costs)



Summary

The preceding data shows an increase in the incurred costs without an increase in the number of accidents for the 2017 calendar year. The increase in serious accidents accounted for most of the cost increase. The total incurred cost given of \$692,953 includes \$261,794 being held in reserve that should be considered spent.

Weather conditions continue to keep the “Slip, Trip and Fall” category as one of the top causes of injury. A significant increase in “Strain or Injury” and the seriousness of the injuries has prompted an increased emphasis for job hazard assessment and ergonomics during 2018. EHS is working closely with the Unit Safety Committees to reduce these accidents.