Aging Infrastructure: Recognizing and Managing Failures in Older Facilities Stats and Facts

FACTS

- **Structural Deterioration:** Aging buildings and structures can weaken over time due to corrosion, fatigue, and material degradation, increasing the risk of collapse or failure.
- **Outdated Electrical Systems:** Older wiring and electrical components may not meet current standards, raising the risk of shocks, fires, and equipment failure.
- **Hidden Material Degradation:** Rust, rot, and internal wear are often not visible, making failures sudden and unexpected without proper inspection.
- **Increased Maintenance Demands:** Older facilities require more frequent repairs, and delayed maintenance can lead to hazardous conditions.
- **Failure of Safety Systems:** Fire suppression, alarms, and ventilation systems in older buildings may be unreliable or non-compliant.
- **Obsolete Equipment and Components:** Replacement parts may be unavailable, leading to temporary fixes or unsafe modifications.
- **Load and Capacity Limitations:** Infrastructure not designed for modern loads or usage may fail under current operational demands.

STATS

- In the United States, **contact with objects and equipment—including structural failures—remains a leading cause of workplace fatalities**, often linked to deteriorating infrastructure (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022–2023).
- U.S. data shows that **falls, slips, and trips—frequently associated with poor facility conditions—account for a significant portion of workplace injuries each year** (BLS, 2021–2023).
- In Canada, **aging infrastructure contributes to workplace incidents related to building conditions, including structural and maintenance-related hazards** (Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada, recent years).
- U.S. safety reports indicate that **electrical failures and fires continue to occur in older facilities due to outdated systems and lack of upgrades** (NFPA and OSHA, 2021–2023).
- In Canada, **maintenance-related incidents—including failures of building systems—are a consistent source of workplace injury claims** (AWCBC, 2021–2023).
- U.S. data highlights that **overexertion and handling injuries increase when infrastructure issues require additional manual workarounds or repairs** (BLS, recent years).