

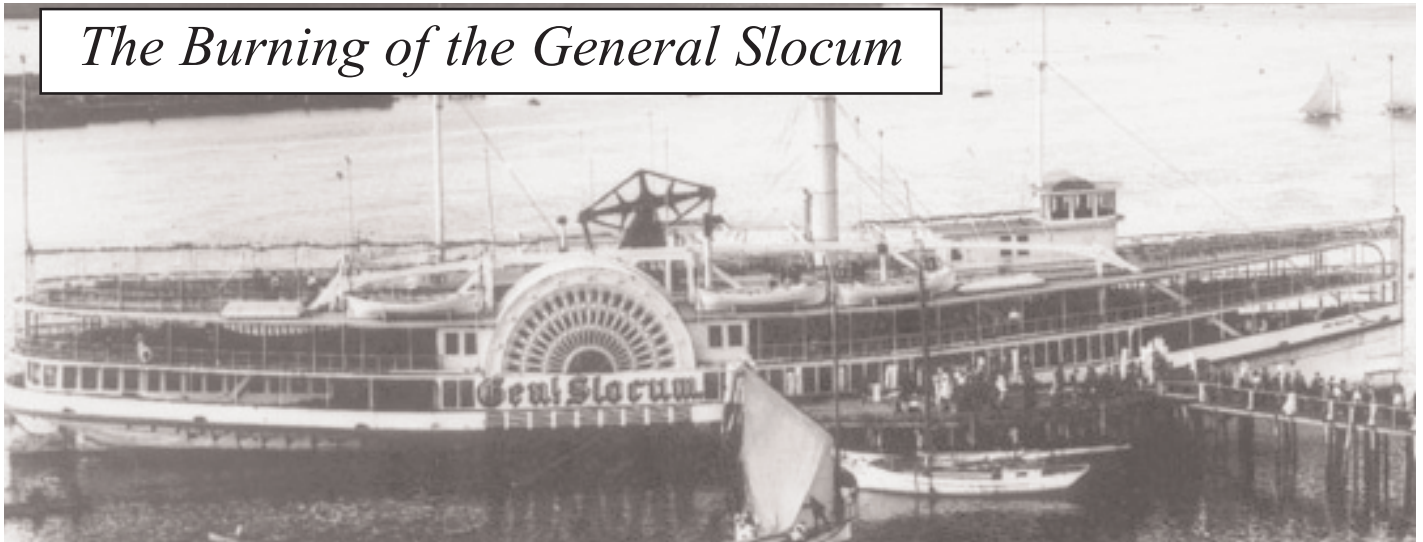
Together With



Fall 2011

A PUBLICATION OF THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Burning of the General Slocum



On June 15, 1904, the General Slocum ferry was chartered by St. Mark's Lutheran Church in the East Village of New York. Some 1,358 members of Kleindeutschland (Little Germany), the tightly knit German immigrant community, boarded the ferry around nine that morning at a pier on Third Street and the East River. They were bound for an annual picnic at Locust Point in bucolic Huntington on Long Island's North Shore. Their beloved pastor, Reverend George Haas, and leaders of the church were with them on deck. The New York Times reported that the General Slocum, which had been recently overhauled, departed with much fanfare that morning.

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TOSHA 2010 Fatality Report

TOSHA investigates fatalities where violations of TOSHA standards may have contributed to the incident. TOSHA does not investigate traffic fatalities because the police department/highway patrol has that jurisdiction. TOSHA does not investigate assaults and violent acts because the police department has that jurisdiction also.

In calendar year 2010, TOSHA investigated 35 workplace fatalities. Fall fatalities headed the list with struck-by incidents next. Falls were from a concrete column, an aerial lift, roofs (3), a 3rd story landing, a ladder, a loading dock, and into a sinkhole. Persons were struck by a steel coil, trees (3), a section of a power pole, a piece of a natural gas well head, a metal ramp, and a truck.

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Type of Event	# Events
Fall	9
Struck by	8
Crushed by	3
Electrocution	4
Slip, Trip, Fall	2
Asphyxiation	2
Fire, burns	2
Equipment fallover	3
Caught in	1
Drowning	1
Totals	35



Together with TOSHA
is the newsletter of
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The Burning of the General Slocum Continued

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"As she cast off and stood out into the stream her flags were flying, the band was playing a lively air, and her three decks were crowded to their capacity with a happy throng that looked for a pleasant day's outing at Locust Point, on the Sound."

The ship got underway at 9:30 a.m. As it was passing East 90th Street, a fire was started in the Lamp Room, perhaps caused by a discarded cigarette or match and fueled by the oily rags, straw and lamp oil strewn around the room. A paint locker filled with flammable liquids and a cabin filled with gasoline also fueled the fire. Apparently, no effort had been made to maintain or replace the ship's



safety equipment. The fire hoses had been allowed to rot, and fell apart when the crew attempted to put out the fire. Likewise, the crew had never had a fire drill, and the lifeboats were tied up (some claim they were wired and painted in place) and inaccessible.

Survivors reported that the life preservers were useless and fell apart in their hands. Desperate mothers placed life jackets on their children and tossed them into the water, only to watch in horror as their children sank instead of floated. Most of those on board were women and children who, like most Americans of the time, could not swim; even victims who did not don the worthless life preservers found that their heavy wool clothing weighed them down in the water.

All told, 1,021 perished out of the original 1,358 who boarded the ship that morning. It was the heaviest loss of life in New York until the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center.



TOSHA 2010 Fatality Report (continued)

Two catastrophes (three or more workers admitted to the hospital as the result of a single event) were investigated by TOSHA in 2010. Four employees were injured when a boom line broke on a crane during a bridge construction project and the boom struck the employees. A fire/explosion during the manufacture of flares for the military injured six persons.

Ten years ago in 2000, TOSHA investigated 46 workplace fatalities. The 2010 number is a decrease of 24 percent. The trend is definitely downward and TOSHA appreciates the work of our partners in occupational safety and health. Keep up the good work!

Condition:

A competent person did not frequently and regularly inspect the job site and equipment.

Potential Effects:

Injuries, illnesses, and deaths, from undetected hazards.

Standard:

29 CFR 1926.20(b)(2)

Recommended Action:

Include as part of your safety and health program the inspections required by this standard. OSHA defines a competent person as one who is capable of identifying existing or predictable hazards in the work environment and who has the authority to order prompt action to remove the hazards or reduce the threat from them. The inspections and correction of hazards identified should be documented. All hazards that can be corrected during the inspection and all unsafe work practices noticed should be corrected immediately. Timetables should be worked out for correction of other hazards, and interim protection provided when necessary. Ideally, members of top management and employee representatives should participate in some of the inspections. Compliance with inspection requirements should be audited at least annually.

As a general contractor, inspections should include subcontractors and all operations, material, and equipment on the job site.

Injury/Illness Rates Decline

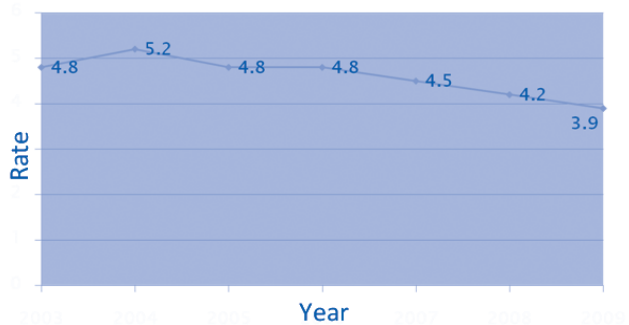
In the state fiscal year 2010 (July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011), TOSHA conducted 2,045 inspections and identified 8,298 hazards in Tennessee workplaces. Few changes occurred in the program, but three legislative changes are of some significance.

They are the following:

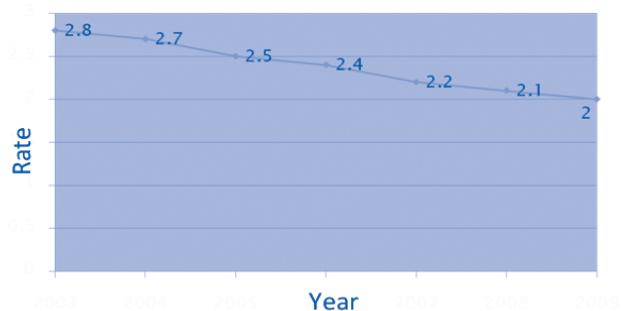
- The TOSHA Advisory Committee was eliminated
- A relatively unknown law addressing safe distances to power lines was updated from 6 ft. to 10 ft., unless a TOSHA standard requires additional distance
- A law passed by the legislature states if an employer allows guns in the workplace a TOSHA violation does not occur

The good news also is that injuries and illnesses in Tennessee are steadily decreasing. The two graphs shown here illustrate this. The total recordable and the DART rate are the best indicators we have of the numbers of injuries and illnesses occurring in Tennessee each year.

Tennessee Total Recordable Case Rate, 2003-2009



Tennessee DART Rate, 2003-2009



LEARN & LIVE

Consultation Services On-Site Problem Solver

Falls historically are one of the leading causes of workplace fatalities investigated by TOSHA. Changes regarding fall protection in residential construction has led employers in the homebuilding industry to look for additional guidance. Recently, the owner of a small roofing company visited the Nashville Consultative Services office looking for information on how to protect his workers from falls during residential roofing work. One of TOSHA's compliance officers met with the owner and recommended to the individual that he should contact TOSHA Consultation Services for further guidance.

The customer then worked with one of our supervisors to set up a training meeting in the Nashville office. With the aid of a translator from within the department and some bilingual fall protection training material, the supervisor spent two hours discussing fall protection rules, concepts, technology, and solutions for the individual to help him protect his workers.



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