

Together With



Winter
2010-2011

A PUBLICATION OF THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Distracted / Unsafe Driving

Year after year, the leading cause of worker fatalities in Tennessee and in the nation is motor vehicle crashes.

There's no question that new communications technologies are helping business work smarter and faster, but they are also contributing to traffic accidents. Because millions of workers' jobs require them to spend part or all of their work day driving, visiting clients and customers, making site visits, or delivering goods and services, new technologies may be contributing to workplace fatalities also. Getting work done faster does not justify the dramatically increased risk of injury and death that comes with cell phone use, especially texting, while driving.

Drive Safely Work Week was October 4-8, 2010, but throughout the year, we must work together to prevent workers from being injured and killed on the road.



Thirty-eight percent (51) of the work-related fatal injuries in Tennessee in 2008 were the result of transportation incidents. The good news is that the number is down 23% from a total of 66 in 2007. Is the decrease because workers are driving more safely or because fewer workers are on the road due to the downturn of the economy? We don't know, though we all hope for the former. OSHA is partnering with others across government, industry and the public to bring together important information and tools to attack texting while driving and other distracted driver hazards. We invite you to learn more about combating this problem at www.osha.gov and at DOT's distracted driving website, www.distraction.gov. Remember there is a Tennessee law prohibiting texting while driving.

TOSHA Hires New Compliance Officers and Consultants

Since October 1, 2010, TOSHA has hired six new compliance officers and one new consultant. Four of the newly-hired compliance officers are Occupational Safety Specialists (OSS) and two will serve as Industrial Hygienists (IH) enforcing TOSHA's occupational health related requirements. One of the new OSS will serve the public sector and will eventually work in the west Tennessee area. Other OSS and IH staff will work out of the Nashville and Knoxville offices. The consultant is an OSS and will serve the employers and employees in east Tennessee. These newly hired staff members are currently undergoing an extensive formal training program at the OSHA National Training Institute. They are also getting valuable on-the-job training by assisting with TOSHA inspections and consultative visits. Two of TOSHA's existing IH staff have recently been promoted to the supervisor level, one in Knoxville and one in Memphis, both due to retirement of previous supervisors. These new supervisors have extensive IH experience with TOSHA. These positions have all been filled due to vacancies created by retirement or resignation of previous TOSHA employees.

Spring 2011 TOSHA Training Schedule

TOSHA's schedule of training seminars to be conducted by TOSHA trainers was published on December 15, 2010. The schedule can be found by visiting www.tn.gov/labor-wfd/tosha.html. Also, on the Web site you can sign up to be reminded by e-mail of the availability of individual seminars two to three weeks before they occur.



Together with TOSHA
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principles of equal opportunity,
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with disabilities.

TOSHA Gets New Manager of Standards and Procedures 2

After over 30 years of service to Tennessee, Mike Maenza has retired from TOSHA and state government. At the time of his retirement, Mike was serving as TOSHA's Manager of Standards and Procedures. Mike began his career with TOSHA as a compliance officer in the Nashville office and later was the Manager of Consultative Services for many years. Mike was also a TOSHA trainer with expertise in electrical safety, machines and machine guarding, and safety and health programs, as well as most topics relating to occupational safety. He will now be devoting his skills and knowledge to his family and friends and to many happy retirement years.

Stepping into the role of Manager of Standards and Procedures is Jim Cothron. Jim has over 25 years of service with TOSHA, most recently as TOSHA's Manager of Consultative Services. Jim served as a compliance officer and consultant in east Tennessee before moving to Nashville. Jim is familiar with the role of the standards and procedures section, and TOSHA will not experience any decrease in expertise in that section. A new manager of Consultative Services has not yet been named.

For answers to questions about TOSHA standards, rules, regulations, and procedures contact Jim Cothron at 615-741-2793. For the time being, you may also contact Jim to request a visit by one of TOSHA's consultants.

TOSHA TIPS

Condition: Employee(s) was exposed to a hazardous chemical at levels in excess of the Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs) set in Table Z-1-A. PELs may be eight-hour time weighted averages, short term exposure limits (STELs), or ceiling limits.

Standard: Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD) Rule 0800-1-1-.07(2)(d)

Correction/Prevention: Provide and require overexposed employees to use effective respiratory protection as an interim protective measure until feasible engineering controls can be implemented to reduce employee exposure(s). Whenever such control does not reduce exposure to within the Permissible Limits, effective respiratory protection must be used.

- Develop a detailed plan of abatement outlining a schedule for the implementation of engineering controls to control employee exposure. The plan should include target dates for evaluation of engineering control options, selection of optimum control methods and completion of design, and procurement, installation, and operation of control measures.
- The final step should be testing and acceptance of the controls to ensure employees exposures to hazardous chemicals are brought to as low as technically feasible.
- Establish an ongoing monitoring and maintenance program for the engineering controls.

The 34th Annual

Tennessee Safety and Health Congress

July 31 - August 4, 2011

Features of the 2011 Congress

- **Workshops on occupational safety, occupational health, and environmental safety**
- **Keynote address by Jack McCall**
"Penetrating insights, refreshingly entertaining style"
- **Vallie Collins**
Survivor of Hudson River plane crash
- **The Mayberry Deputy**
Crimestopper Extraordinaire
- **Large exhibition area**
More than 100 vendors, prizes, give-aways, trips, free MONEY!
- **See what Opryland Hotel has done now!**



Look for the 2011 Information and Registration brochure to be mailed in March 2011. Exhibitor contracts will be available in January 2011. For more information, contact (615) 741-7143 or visit www.tnsafetycongress.org.

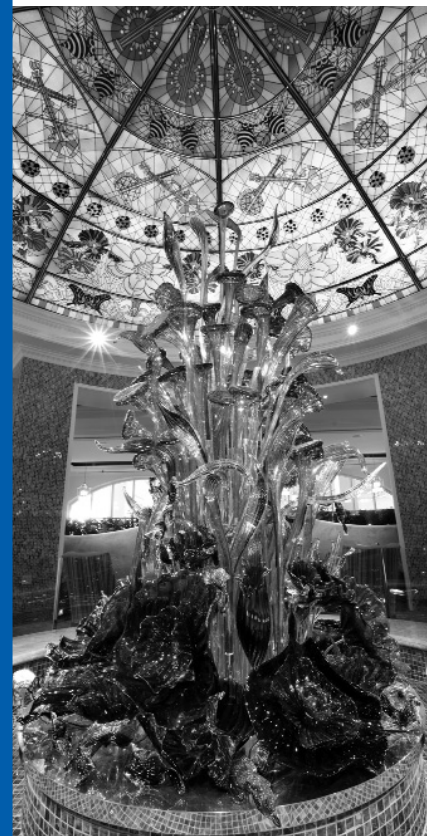
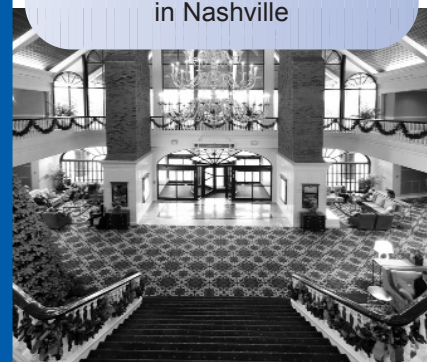
Co-sponsored by Tennessee OSHA and American Society for Safety Engineers.

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The Safety Congress will once again convene at the **NEWLY RENOVATED** and **REFURBISHED**

**Gaylord Opryland
Hotel and Convention
Center**
in Nashville



A 31-year old utility worker died when the wooden utility pole he was climbing broke and fell to the ground. The area around the base of the pole was overgrown with weeds and brush. A tree had fallen across the utility lines and torn down the wires. Two employees of the utility company were dispatched to conduct repairs; they were unable to do so from the bucket truck because the truck was too small to reach the top of the pole. One employee climbed the pole to make the repairs. The downed wires were rigged with a rope connected to the truck so that when the truck was backed up, the wires could be raised to the employee on the pole. After backing up about six feet, the employee in the truck heard the man on the pole yell "Stop" and looked back to see the pole leaning. The pole broke at the base and then again approximately eight feet from the top when it hit the pavement of the nearby road. The victim was still secured to the pole with his safety belt. He was transported by ambulance to a local hospital and later to a regional trauma center where he was pronounced dead.



To Prevent such an incident from happening while working on utility installations:

1. Determine, through regular supervision and through inspections conducted on at least an annual basis, that each employee is complying with safety-related work practices.
2. Before working on or near electric lines or equipment, determine existing conditions related to the safety of the work to be performed..
3. Ensure that elevated structures such as poles or towers are capable of sustaining additional or unbalanced stresses that may be imposed from climbing on the installation or removal of equipment.
4. Ensure that the employee in charge conducts a job briefing with the employees involved before they start each job.