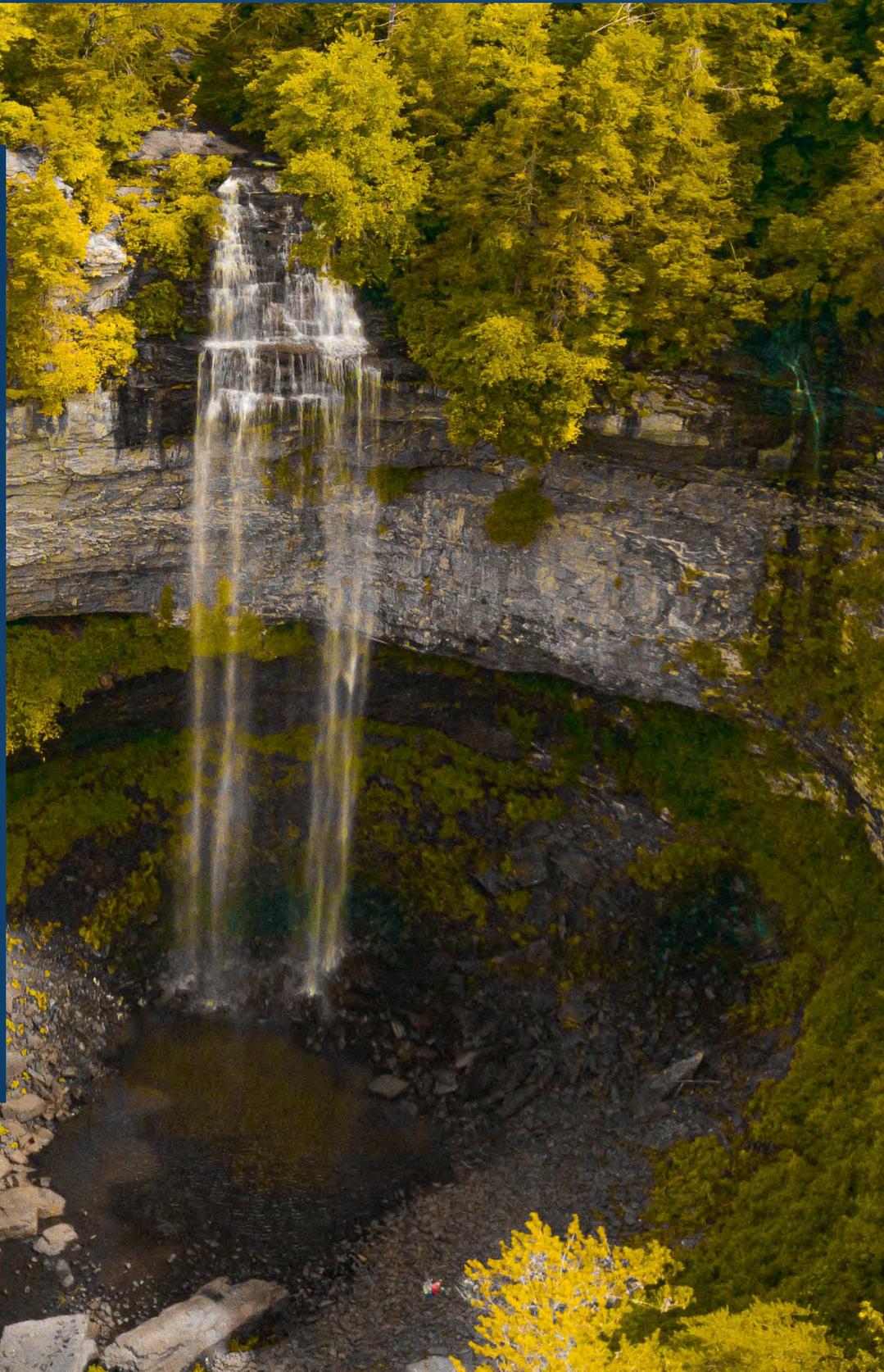


TOGETHER WITH **TOSHA** newsletter

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JUNE IS TRENCH SAFETY MONTH!

Safety Training and Protective Systems Save Lives



Trench Safety Stand Down Week | June 20–24, 2022

Make plans for your company to participate in the 2022 NUCA Trench Safety Stand Down (TSSD) Week. Being a part of our popular 6th annual TSSD Week will help educate your employees on trenching hazards at the jobsite.

OSHA's National Emphasis Program on Trenching and Excavation is a high agency priority. Sponsored this year by NUCA National Partner United Rentals, NUCA and OSHA have teamed up for our annual trench safety program. More than 22,000 employees on 2,200 jobsites from 340 companies participated in the 2021 TSSD.

Every company or organization that holds a TSSD will receive a certificate of participation, as well as hard-hat stickers for every employee who participated. Recognition will also be given in NUCA publications. Please plan for your company to be a part of this vital industry safety event this year.

2022 TSSD Sponsored By



Alex E. Paris Contracting
Atlas Excavating
Barber Utilities
Case Construction Equipment
Caterpillar, Inc.
Cemen Tech, Inc.
Core & Main
CNA
Ditch Witch
Efficiency Production
Ferguson Waterworks
Greg Strudwick & Associates
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John Deere
Johnson Bros.
Komatsu America Corp.
L.G. Roloff Construction
McLaughlin Boring Systems
National Trench Safety
Oxford Plastics USA
Petticoat-Schmitt Civil Contractors
Safety Management Services
Sunstate Equipment Co.
Team Fishel
United Rentals
Xylem
Wacker Neuson Corp.

Also Sponsored by NUCA's Safety Ambassadors Club

For more details and TSSD materials: nuca.com/tssd #TSSD22 #TrenchSafetyMonth

Trench Safety Stand Down

A **Safety Stand Down** presents the opportunity for employers to talk directly to employees and others about safety. These Stand Downs will focus on trench & excavation hazards and reinforce the importance of using trench protective systems and protecting workers from trenching hazards.



Trench Inspection conducted by TOSHA

Employee was working in an approximately 20' x 12' x 24' deep trench installing a concrete catch basin. At the time of the inspection, the employee was in the trench, inside the catch basin, putting cement around the two 54" diameter pipes. No proper cave-in protective system was in place. On the west side of the trench, it appeared that the employer had tried to bench the side but not the full length of the trench. On the east side of the trench, it also appeared that the employer had tried to bench the side, but dirt looked like it had fallen onto the first bench.

The employer stated that he had tried to bench it some to relieve weight off the sides of the trench. The north end of the trench showed some cracking in the face of the trench. It was explained to the employer that a trench greater than 20 feet deep was required to have a protective system designed by a registered professional engineer.

While standing at the trench discussing the hazards; the employer stated, *"This soil is strong. It's not going anywhere."* Just after the employer made that statement, the sound of soil falling into the trench could be heard. The inspection resulted in six serious and three other-than-serious citations, with a penalty total of \$14,850.

TRENCHING SAFETY

5 Things You Should Know to Stay Safe



1 Ensure there's a safe way to enter and exit.
See 1926.651(c)



2 Trenches must have cave-in protection.
See 1926.652(a)



3 Keep materials away from the edge of the trench.
See 1926.651(j)



4 Look for standing water or other hazards.
See 1926.651(h)



5 Never enter a trench unless it has been properly inspected.
See 1926.651(k)



Tornado Preparedness

**Don't be surprised
by a tornado,
PREPARE!**

Tornadoes can occur with little or no warning. Taking precautions in advance of the storms, such as developing an emergency plan, learning the warning signs, and monitoring tornado watches and warnings, can help you stay safe if a tornado occurs in your area.

Preparedness involves a continuous process of planning, equipping, training, and exercising. Planning for tornadoes requires identifying a place to take shelter, being familiar with and monitoring your community's warning system, and establishing procedures to account for individuals in the building. Employers may need to obtain additional equipment and/or resources (e.g., Emergency Supply Kits) identified in the plan. In addition, workers need to be trained and plans need to be practiced to ensure that personnel are familiar with what to do in the event of a tornado.

Each employer is responsible for the safety and health of its workers and for providing a safe and healthful workplace for its workers. Employers are required to protect workers from the anticipated hazards associated with the response and recovery operations that workers are likely to conduct. For additional information on Workers' Rights, Employer Responsibilities, and other services OSHA offers, visit OSHA's [Employers Page](#), [Workers Page](#), and [Publications](#).



**Click here for Tornado
Preparedness Resources
from OSHA**



**Click here for Tornado
Preparedness Resources
from the NWS**

Developing a Safety & Health Program

How can a business start a safety & health program?

Whether you are a small start-up, an established business, or just ready to start managing safety in a responsible way, there are some simple steps you can take to kick off your safety & health program. You can begin by reviewing the [10 Easy Things to Get Your Program Started](#). This is a list of very basic items to get your workplace on the path towards responsible safety & health management.

If you need help, consider contacting [TOSHA's On-Site Consultation Program](#). Consultants from the program provide free assistance to small businesses which includes establishing and improving safety and health program.

Consider participating in the Safe + Sound Campaign!

Safe + Sound Week is a nationwide event held each August recognizing the successes of workplace health & safety programs and offering information & ideas on keeping America's workers safe. This year's event will be August 15-21.

Why Participate?

Successful safety & health programs can proactively identify and manage workplace hazards before they cause injury or illness, improving sustainability and the bottom line. Participating in Safe + Sound Week can help get your program started, energize an existing one, or provide a chance to recognize your safety successes.



SAVE THE DATE

SAFE + SOUND
Week August 15-21, 2022

The graphic features a green border and two large, faint, stylized worker icons in the background. The text is centered and includes a plus sign between 'SAFE' and 'SOUND'. The word 'Week' is written in a cursive font, and the dates 'August 15-21, 2022' are in a bold, sans-serif font.



Heat exposure can be dangerous



Signs of a medical emergency!

- Abnormal thinking or behavior
- Slurred speech
- Seizures
- Loss of consciousness

Take these actions

- 1** >> CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY
- 2** >> COOL THE WORKER RIGHT AWAY WITH WATER OR ICE
- 3** >> STAY WITH THE WORKER UNTIL HELP ARRIVES



Federal OSHA's National Emphasis Program

On April 12th, 2022, Vice President Harris announced that Federal OSHA would be implementing a [National Emphasis Program](#) (NEP) to protect employees from heat-related hazards.

State plans, such as Tennessee, are not required to adopt this emphasis program. TOSHA has no plans to adopt the NEP.

Tennessee OSHA recognizes the dangers of heat injury during the hottest months of the year and reminds employers of their duty to protect employees from these hazards.

Methods that can be utilized to mitigate the effects of heat include (but are not limited to):

- Making water readily available, reminding employees to take fluids regularly
- Increasing rest frequency
- Making shade available
- Training employees to recognize heat stress and to monitor themselves and co-workers.
Federal OSHA has made [training materials](#) and [videos](#) available online

While TOSHA has not implemented an emphasis program, inspections to evaluate the hazard of heat stress injuries in the workplace may still be conducted.

COVID-19 Update

Tennessee OSHA's emergency temporary rule for COVID-19 specific to the Healthcare Industry expired February 20, 2022. Federal OSHA announced on December 27, 2021, that they would not be enforcing their similar emergency standard, 29 CFR 1910.502, except for certain recordkeeping and reporting items.

Tennessee OSHA has not yet made the determination as to whether it will adopt these paragraphs.

TOSHA encourages employers to observe the COVID-19 workplace prevention strategies recommended by the Centers for Disease Control to the extent feasible. Simple measures such as permitting employees to wear masks or N95 respirators, increasing fresh air ventilation, and establishing a cleaning and disinfection schedule are actions that most employers can take to minimize employee exposure to COVID-19.

For COVID-19 resources, visit [TOSHA's page](#) and [Federal OSHA's page](#).

Safe Work for Young Workers

Safe work is rewarding work

Your employer has the responsibility to provide a safe workplace. Employers must follow all OSHA safety and health standards to prevent you from being injured or becoming ill on the job.

If you are under age 18, there may be limits on the hours you work, the jobs you do, and the equipment you use. Learn about the [federal](#) and [State of TN](#) wage and hour child labor laws that apply to you.

During the summer break from compulsory school, the time restrictions on minors, in Tennessee are less stringent. For example, the workable hours for minors who are 16 or 17 years of age are unrestricted, and minors 14 or 15 years of age are permitted to work between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., up to eight hours per day, and up to 40 hours per week. However, 30-minute unpaid breaks are still required during shifts of six hours or longer, and the prohibited occupations outlined in [TCA 50-5-106](#) apply throughout the year.

TOSHA Fatality Statistics

15 Fatalities from January 1, 2022, through May 31, 2022

Industry: # of Inspections (15)

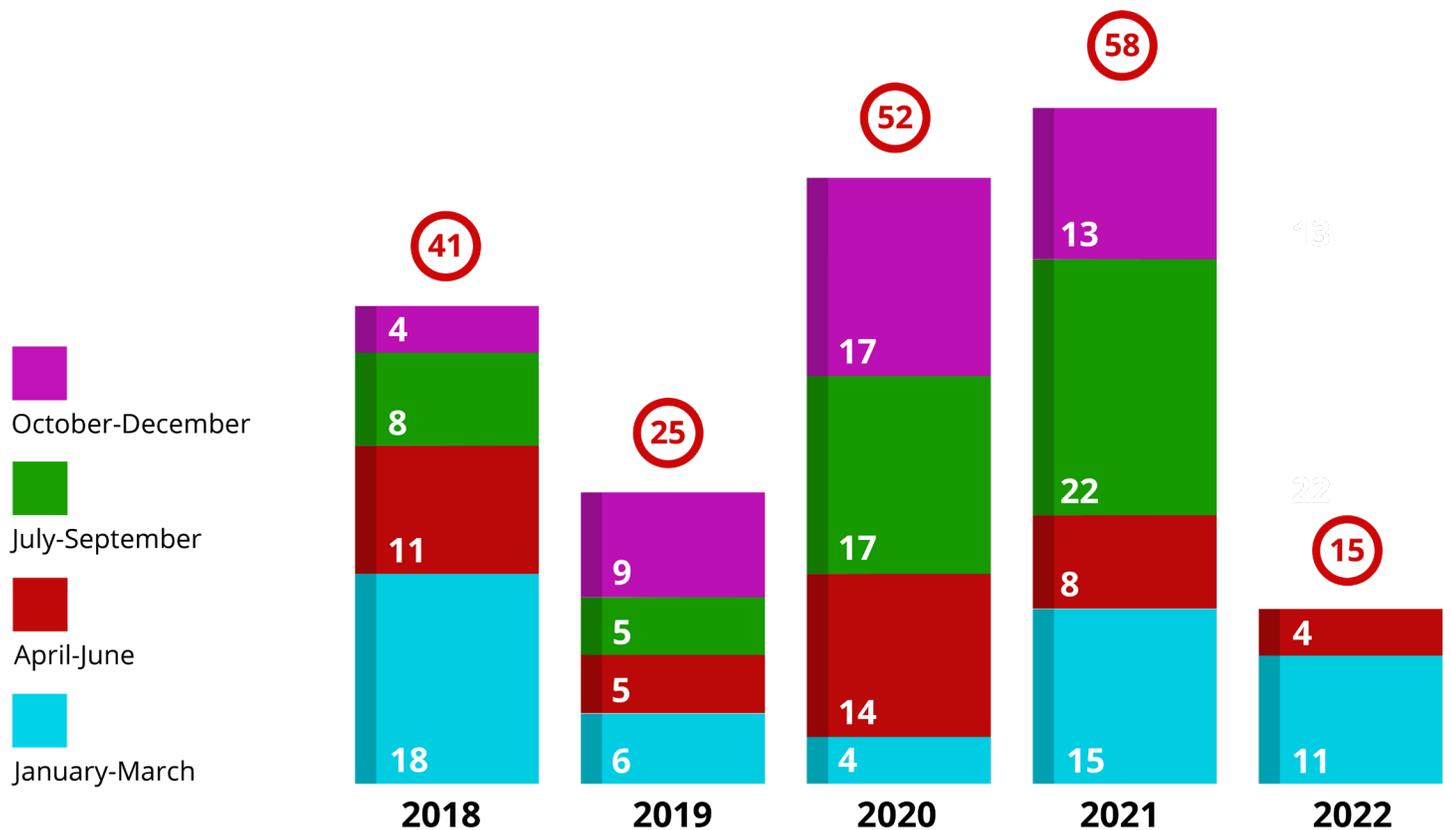
Construction - 6
 Manufacturing - 7
 Public Sector - 2

Fatality Type: # of Victims (15)

Struck by - 3
 Crushed by/Caught in - 2
 Falls - 6
 Cave in - 1
 Fire - 1
 Thrown from/Overturned vehicle - 2

Statistics may change due to findings during the TOSHA investigation

Fatality Totals per Quarter





On April 29th, **Deputy Commissioner Dewayne Scott** presented the employees of **Parker Filtration Innovation Center** in Columbia with their Volunteer STAR Award as part of the site's first certification effort.

The Volunteer STAR is patterned after the OSHA Voluntary Protection Program and recognizes the best of the best in safety and health programming and performance. Qualified candidates must demonstrate that they have performed in a manner that is below the national average for injury and illness rates in their industrial classification. They must also have all the critical safety and health management system components

in place and involve their employees in a manner that ensures total involvement in safety and health issues. Volunteer STAR is open to all manufacturers (NAICS codes 20 – 39). Programs must be in place for at least a year, prior to evaluation.

On average for 2021, the Tennessee Volunteer STAR sites experience three-year Total Case Incident Rates (TCIR) 60% below their industry average and three-year Days Away, Restricted or Transferred Case Rates (DART) 46% below their industry average. In 2021, there were 13 sites that experienced a TCIR of 0.0 and there were 15 sites that experienced a DART of 0.0.

For more information on the Volunteer STAR program, contact the VPP Manager at (800) 325-9901 or [visit the website](#).



TOSHA SHARP Review

TOSHA Consultation works primarily with smaller employers by assisting them in improving workplace safety and health. The Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) is Consultation's award program which recognizes sites working in partnership with TOSHA Consultation that reduce their injuries to below the national averages for their industry and have effective workplace safety and health programs. Having lower rates and effective programs benefits the site through the reduction of direct and indirect costs for workplace injuries and illnesses.

For 2021, TOSHA's 15 current SHARP participants' injury and illness rates were reviewed. We reviewed all recordable incidents (TRCR) and cases with days away or restriction (DART) rates to see how the sites compared to the national average injury rates for their specific industries by NAICS. The following conclusions can be made from the analysis for both 2021 and the three years of 2019-2021 for these sites:

- There are a total of 1,662 workers at these sites which is an average of 110 workers per site. The smallest site has eight employees and the largest (grandfathered under previous policies which allowed larger sites to participate) has 487 employees
- 2021 TRCR rates were 30.5% below the national averages - three-year rates (2021-2019) were 32.8% below national averages
- 2021 DART rates were 27.4% below the national averages – three-year rates (2021-2019) were 39.8% below national averages
- Of the 15 sites, eight experienced zero recordable injuries in 2021 and ten experienced zero DART cases

While these numbers are impressive, the true impact is the number of injuries these sites theoretically prevented. If we were to assume these 15 sites all had workplace injuries and illnesses equaling their industries' national average rates, these sites hypothetically prevented the following number of workplace incidents:

- Injury avoidance – 2021: 23 TRCR worker injuries avoided, 16 DART worker injuries avoided
- Injury avoidance - 2019-2021 for three years: 76 TRCR worker injuries avoided, 54 DART worker injuries avoided

The Consultative Services unit does not issue fines, penalties, or citations, but it does require that an employer correct any hazards identified. The service is offered at no direct cost to employers and information is kept confidential from TOSHA's compliance unit. For more information on the SHARP award and TOSHA's Consultative Services program, contact TOSHA's Nashville office at (800) 325-9901 or TOSHA.Consultation@tn.gov.

Tennessee Health & Safety Conference



Registration is OPEN

2022 Tennessee Safety & Health Conference

August 29-31, 2022

Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center
Nashville, TN

Register today at
TSHC.org



Tennessee
Safety & Health Conference

August 29-31, 2022

SAVE THE DATE

SAFE + SOUND 
Week August 15-21, 2022

NATIONAL
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
LIFELINE
1-800-273-TALK (8255)
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Click any
image to
visit
website

Click here
to see the
**MOST
CITED
STANDARDS**

Trench Safety Stand Down Week | June 20-24, 2022

**Safety Training and Protective
Systems Save Lives**



**Small Business Safety
and Health Handbook**



  
Occupational Safety
and Health Administration

**The Fall 2022 TOSHA Seminar
schedule will be released in July!**

Agency Links

[OSHA](#)

[Tennessee's Government Website](#)

[Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development](#)

[Tennessee Occupational Safety & Health Administration \(TOSHA\)](#)

Useful Links

[File a Complaint](#)

[Video Library](#)

[TOSHA Publications](#)

[Safety & Health Conference](#)

Recognition Links

[TOSHA Safety Awards](#)

[VPP](#)

[SHARP](#)

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is committed to principles of equal opportunity, equal access, and affirmative action. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.



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SUBSCRIBE

Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development
Commissioner Jeff McCord

TN Occupational Safety & Health Administration
Assistant Commissioner, Wendy Fisher
Wendy.Fisher@tn.gov

TN Occupational Safety & Health Administration
Assistant Administrator, Larry Hunt
Larry.Hunt@tn.gov

TOSHA Newsletter Editor
Calvin Wyatt
Calvin.Wyatt@tn.gov

Layout & Design
Scott Walls
Scott.Walls@tn.gov