Get Involved in Safety and Health

OSHA's 2020 outreach initiatives are a great way to get involved! The national initiatives include: Ladder Safety Month in March, Work Zone Awareness Week on April 20-24 and the Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction in May 4-8. The Stand-Down campaign raises awareness of the danger of falls and encourages employers to set aside time during the week to focus on fall prevention efforts and training. More initiatives include National Safety Month in June, Forklift Safety Day on June 9 and Trench Safety Stand-Down on June 15-19. The Trench Safety Stand-down abating trenching hazards continues to be a priority goal in 2020. Another initiative is the Safe + Sound Campaign with the signature event being Safe + Sound Week in August 10-16, the goal of the campaign is to encourage employers to implement safety and health programs.

In addition, check out these local events including Safety Fest TN 2020 on April 27 – May 1 in Oak Ridge and the Kingsport Annual Safety Seminar hosted by the Kingsport Safety Council on May 13. Plus, mark your calendar and plan to attend the Tennessee Safety & Health Conference on August 17-19 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville. Please check out these helpful events as we continue to work together to support OSHA's outreach initiatives.

A Message from the Assistant Commissioner

Happy New Year! Not only are we ringing in 2020 but also the beginning of a new decade. Now is a perfect time for everyone to reflect on the past and look forward to what the future may bring.

When I look back on my years working at TOSHA, I remember an organization that has always been fluid, yet stable in keeping its mission and purpose at the forefront. Even as people left to pursue other opportunities, TOSHA maintained a staff dedicated to ensuring safety and health in the workplace. Over the last year, we have seen personnel changes within our agency. These changes will prepare TOSHA to perform at a high level for years to come. I know our staff is now prepared to take on the challenge of promoting, teaching, and enforcing worker safety and health.

I want to congratulate the following people on their recent promotions: David Thomas and Sherry Roland were promoted to Safety Managers. Michael Johnson, Jon Morris, Brad Wilson, and Rusty Dugan were promoted to Safety Supervisors. Kala Grooms was promoted to Industrial Hygiene Supervisor, and Ashley Harris was promoted to Public Sector Manager. Also, John Pietuszka is now the Manager of Discrimination. I would also like to welcome the new personnel hired over the last year.

With these changes and additions to our staff, I know TOSHA will have its best year ever and begin this decade with a positive outlook.
The Bureau of Labor Statistics recently released its National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries in 2018. There were 5,250 fatal work injuries recorded in the United States in 2018, a 2 percent increase from the 5,147 in 2017. The fatal work injury rate remained unchanged at 3.5 per 100,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers. These data are from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI).

Transportation incidents remained the most frequent type of fatal event at 2,080, accounting for 40 percent of all work-related fatalities. Incidents involving contact with objects and equipment increased 13 percent (from 695 to 786), driven by a 39 percent increase in workers caught in running equipment or machinery and a 17 percent increase in workers struck by falling objects or equipment. Unintentional overdoses due to nonmedical use of drugs or alcohol while at work increased 12 percent from 272 to 305. This is the sixth consecutive annual increase. Violence and other injuries by persons or animals increased 3 percent in 2018, due to an 11 percent increase in work-related suicides from 275 to 304. Fatal falls, slips, and trips decreased 11 percent to 791, after reaching a series high of 887 in 2017. This decline was due to a 14 percent drop in falls to a lower level (713 to 615), the lowest total since 2013.

2019 TOSHA Fatality Investigation Statistics
January 1 – December 31, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry Sectors pe NAICS Codes #</th>
<th>Fatality Cause #</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing (31, 32, 33) - 5</td>
<td>Struck by - 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction (23) – 9</td>
<td>Crushed by/Caught in - 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Logging (1133) - 1</td>
<td>Falls - 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service - 7</td>
<td>Trench Cave-In - 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Sector - 3</td>
<td>Chemical Exposure -1</td>
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<p>|</p>
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<tr>
<th>Fatalities per Quarter</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan-Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SAVE THE DATE

43rd Annual
Tennessee Safety & Health Conference

August 17-19, 2020

Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center
Nashville, TN

Registration opens soon! Visit www.tshc.org for more information.
**Working in Cold Weather**

Winter weather presents hazards including slippery roads/surfaces, strong winds and environmental cold. Employers must prevent illnesses, injuries, or fatalities, by controlling these hazards in workplaces impacted by winter weather. Employers should, therefore, train workers on the hazards of the job and safety measures to use, such as engineering controls and safe work practices, that will protect workers’ safety and health.

OSHA and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are working together on a public education effort aimed at improving the way people prepare for and respond to severe weather. This page is designed to help businesses and their workers prepare for winter weather, and to provide information about hazards that workers may face during and after winter storms.

**OSHA Safety Tip**

Ensure workers know their roles in a safety and health program.

**Worker Flu Safety**

Flu season in Tennessee begins around the end of fall and typically lasts until spring. The infection is a respiratory illness caused by a virus that is spread through coughing, sneezing, or talking thereby releasing droplets into the air that contact the mucus membranes of those nearby. In most workplaces, employees work in relatively close proximity to one another, making “the office” one of the places ripe for disease transmission.

Once infected, the average adult will experience fever and chills, runny nose, coughing, aching body, headaches and general fatigue. As would be expected, a sick employee is likely to be a less productive employee. A sick employee is also likely to infect others leading to absenteeism a drop in morale as the flu moves through the workplace.

While there is no 100% effective way to prevent the flu from coming into your establishment, there are steps you can take to minimize risks. One method is to encourage your staff to obtain flu vaccines. According to the CDC this has been shown to reduce the risk of having to seek medical attention by 40 to 60 percent. In addition to flu shots, you can combine a number of options to prevent the spread of illness. Remind your employees to cover their mouths when coughing and sneezing. Encourage hand washing and make hand sanitizing gels available throughout the workplace. And if the flu still makes its way into your building, encourage the infected employees to stay home if possible.

Old sayings are old sayings for a reason, hence, “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

More information about preventing the transmission of flu is available at the CDC’s web site.
Volunteer STAR Update

In the month of September 2019, TOSHA VPP Manager David Blessman presented the employees of SRK in Midway and New Tazewell with the Volunteer STAR Award. This was the third time the company has received the award. SRK manufactures rubber vibration isolation products for the automotive industry and employs 1,903 people between the two locations.

On September 17, 2019, Deputy Commissioner, Steve Hawkins, presented the employees of Honeywell in Memphis with the Volunteer STAR Award. This was the first time the company has received the award. Honeywell repairs and overhauls the wheels and brakes of large aircraft used by the airline industry and package shipping industry. They employ 50 people.

On October 16, 2019, TOSHA VPP Manager, David Blessman presented the employees of Performance Pipe in Knoxville with the Volunteer STAR Award. This was the third time the company has received the award. Performance Pipe manufactures plastic pipe for natural gas distribution and employs 87 people.

On November 26, 2019, TOSHA Administrator, Wendy Fisher, presented the employees of ITW Dynatec in Hendersonville with the Volunteer STAR Award. This was the fourth time that the company has received the award. ITW Dynatec manufactures and assembles cold and hot-melt adhesive application equipment.

SHARP Update

Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Administration (TOSHA) Assistant Commissioner Wendy Fisher recognized Wagner-Meinert LLC of Nashville, Tennessee, for its initial certification as a TOSHA Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) site, a designation the location earned in 2019. Wagner-Meinert LLC established its Nashville facility in 2013 and is engaged in the construction, retrofit and maintenance of ammonia refrigeration systems. They are one of 15 SHARP sites currently in Tennessee.

Wagner-Meinert, partnered with TOSHA’s consultative services program to assist in improving its safety and health program with the goal of attaining SHARP award status. The consultative services unit does not issue fines, penalties or citations, but it does require an employer correct any hazards identified. The confidential service is offered at no direct cost to employers. For more information on the SHARP award and TOSHA’s consultative services program, contact TOSHA’s Nashville office at (800) 325-9901.
Reminder:
Post the OSHA 300A Form from Feb 1 – April 30.

Reminder:
The Electronic Reporting deadline is March 2.

Congratulations Wade Gowan on your retirement after 39 years with TOSHA!