Workers’ Memorial Day will be observed on April 28th, 2015, as a day to remember those who died on the job and recognize the toll of human suffering families and communities experience when a person’s life is lost while earning a living. In 2014, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported 93 work-related fatalities in Tennessee from all causes. Tennessee OSHA investigated 28 of these and in most every case the death could have been prevented. BLS also issued the 2013 injury and illness rates for Tennessee. The Days Away Restricted and/or Transfer rate (DART) fell to 1.7 and is slightly below the national average of 1.8. The Total Case Incident Rate (TCIR) fell to 3.4 and is also slightly below the national average of 3.5. We must all work together to make Tennessee the safest and most healthful state to work in and drive these numbers even lower.

OSHA recently announced the 2015 Fall Protection Safety Stand-Down. This year it will take place on May 4-15th. The purpose of the Stand-Down is to raise awareness of the hazards that falls present and the methods that must be used to prevent fall hazard exposures. This year the focus continues to be on “Fall Hazards” and the importance of “Fall Prevention.” In 2014, more than 15,000 employees in Tennessee participated within the Stand-Down.

The Construction Industry Research and Policy Center (CIRPC) at the University of Tennessee recently introduced a smartphone/tablet application for residential roofing workers. This app, Roofing Safely Is NO ACCIDENT, is available in English and Spanish. It guides the user through the applicable fall protection standards to determine acceptable fall protection systems with a special emphasis on the employer’s duty to provide training and fall protection. The app has a tool to allow measurement of roof slope (from the ground), and a calculator to determine roof area and roofing material required. To downloaded for no charge please visit the following sites:

The Apple App Store

Google Play

- Steve Hawkins, Administrator
The 38th Annual Tennessee Safety & Health Congress will be held July 26th-29th, 2015, at Gaylord Opryland Hotel. Since 1977, the Congress has been a joint venture between the Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Administration (TOSHA) and the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), offering a program of knowledge and expertise that can be used for the promotion, increased awareness, and implementation of safety and health practices in the workplace. Registration is now open https://www.tnsafetycongress.org.

Please make sure you follow us on social media for all the latest updates about the TSHC and for information on vendors, safety tips, etc. (Click on the images below to go to our various pages.)

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SHARP UPDATE

TOSHA Consultation recently worked with two SHARP sites to review them for re-certification. These include Tindell’s Truss Plant in Knoxville and Mueller Refrigeration in Hartsville. Tindell’s has been a SHARP site since October of 2000 and Mueller recently became a SHARP site in February of 2014. A new Pre-SHARP site, JD Metals in Chucky recently went through their first SHARP visit and is working toward being Tennessee’s next SHARP site. Currently, there are sixteen SHARP sites in Tennessee. For additional information on SHARP and how small businesses can participate in this program, please contact the TOSHA Consultative Services program at (800) 325-9901.
VPP UPDATE

During the week of January 12th, an on-site Volunteer STAR evaluation was conducted at Manufacturing Sciences Corporation in Oak Ridge.

On February 10th, Commissioner Burns Phillips presented Mr. Youichi Yamashita of DENSO Manufacturing in Athens with the Volunteer STAR plaque and the employees of the site with a flag in recognition of the facility’s third certification. The presentation was made in conjunction with Governor Bill Haslam’s announcement of a major job and plant expansion at DENSO.

On January 28th, Steve Hawkins presented the employees of Monsanto in Union City with their Volunteer STAR Award as part of the site’s second certification effort.
The Kingsport Area Safety Council, in partnership with TOSHA and the American Society of Safety Engineers, will be hosting their 30th Annual Safety Seminar on Wednesday, May 13, 2015.

This one-day seminar will be held at the Eastman Chemical Company’s Employee center on Wilcox Drive in Kingsport, Tennessee. The opening ceremony will begin at 7:15 a.m. in the building auditorium and the one-hour workshops will begin at 8:15 a.m. and run through 3:00 p.m. Steve Hawkins, Tennessee OSHA administrator will be the keynote speaker for the opening session. There will be nine classes for each workshop session, which will be conducted by a wide variety of topic experts.

Cost for this one-day seminar is $50.00 for advance registration or $80.00 for on-site registration the day of the event. Breakfast, lunch, snacks, and drinks are included in the admission fee. Participants will receive a certificate of attendance. There will be numerous safety equipment vendors on-site, as well as safety demonstrations by area organizations. Door prizes will be awarded during the opening ceremony and throughout the day.

East Tennessee State University will be offering .7 Continuing Education Units for this event at a cost of $25.00 for those interested.

Register online at http://etsuaw.etsu.edu/CourseStatus.awp?Course=151-9100D-5.

Please join in for this informative and fun day! For more information and to view the full brochure please visit the Kingsport Area Safety Council website at www.kptasc.org.
Over the last 10 years, more than 3,500 workers have died from falls. In fact, falls remain the leading cause of death in construction, accounting for more than a third of deaths in the industry. If you’re involved in construction or any other high-risk industry, you may be familiar with these numbers. But what you might not know is that there’s a growing safety movement that focuses on saving the lives of workers through fall prevention education.

Last year marked the first National Safety Stand-Down for fall prevention in construction, a combined effort from OSHA, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and CPWR - The Center for Construction Research and Training. During the stand-down, employers and workers paused their workday to focus on preventing falls through talks, demonstrations, and trainings.

The Stand-Down was a tremendous success, reaching more than 1 million workers and thousands of employers. Almost 5,000 Stand-Downs were reported in all 50 states and internationally. OSHA’s Harwood grantees also trained more than 105,000 workers and employers on fall hazards during the event. Small businesses, large corporations, and some of the country’s biggest construction companies stopped their work to dedicate time to fall safety. Because falls can happen anywhere and anytime, costing workers and employers their livelihood, participation was not limited to the construction industry. Nearly 15% of Stand-Down certificates were given to non-construction employers. In fact, the largest single participant was the United States Air Force, reaching approximately 650,000 active duty, civilian and reserve service men and women.

NASCAR driver Greg Biffle joined officials from OSHA, the Department of Labor, and more than 400 construction workers to talk about fall safety at a $400 million renovation project at the Daytona International Speedway.

Due to the success of the 2014 program, this year’s Stand-Down has been extended to two weeks. Our goal is to have more than three million workers participate in more than 20,000 stand-downs from May 4 to 15, 2015. As the economy continues to grow and the full construction season begins, we hope the Stand-Down will remind employers and workers that fall prevention is an important part of every workplace safety plan.
Fatal falls and injuries touch workers in all kinds of jobs across the country; it’s a broad problem that has a terrible impact on workers and their families,” said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels. “Given the tremendous response we’ve received, it’s clear that this is an important issue to a great number of people across this nation. I know it is to me and all my colleagues here at the Department of Labor, which is why we are so pleased to work towards preventing these tragedies through innovative and collaborative efforts like the Safety Stand-Down.”

Employers and workers all over the nation are encouraged to pause in their workday to talk about fall prevention in construction, and dedicate themselves yet again to the safety of this nation’s most valuable resource: workers.

To learn how to partner with OSHA during the Stand-Down, get information on how to conduct a successful event, resources for employees and workers, receive a certificate of participation, and the latest news, visit: www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown.
Tennessee OSHA’s new employer reporting requirements went into effect on February 24th, 2015.


Workers’ Memorial Day
April 28th, 2015:
https://www.osha.gov/as/opa/workersmemorialday.html

Fall Safety Stand-down
May 4-15, 2015:
https://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/

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Make sure you follow us on social media!

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Fore more information please visit:
Helpful Links

Tennessee’s Official Government Website

Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development

Tennessee Occupational Safety & Health Administration

Occupational Safety & Health

File a Complaint

Video Library

TOSHA Publications

VPP

SHARP

TOSHA Safety Awards

Consultation Services

OSHA Small Business Guide

To follow us on twitter, click the graphic below.

http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/tosha/TOSHANEWS.shtml