

# Together With



Commissioner Burns Phillips • 220 French Landing Drive, Nashville, TN • 800-249-8510



The 2013 BLS workplace fatality statistics have been released; there were 93 fatal work-related injuries in Tennessee. While this is 93 too many, it does represent an eight percent decrease from the 101 fatal work-related injuries recorded in 2012. The impact to families who lose a loved one in a workplace incident is tremendous. We welcome the continual downward trend of the workplace fatalities, but it is also a reminder that there is still work to be done. Falls and contact with objects and equipment continue to be the leading causes of Tennessee workplace deaths. These incidents are preventable.

NIOSH recently published two documents that provide real prevention solutions to workplace hazards. The first, "Preventing Falls from Heights through the Design of Embedded Safety Features," details an approach that would incorporate safety features into structure design, address fall hazards in construction plans, establish safety criteria for buying equipment, and communicate risks to building owners and facilities personnel rather than rely on other forms of protection such as personal protective equipment (PPE) or administrative controls. The second, "Preventing Worker Injuries and Deaths from Backing Construction Vehicles and Equipment at Roadway Construction Worksites," describes specific procedures and controls that need to be in place at roadway construction worksites to help prevent injuries and deaths from backing construction vehicles and equipment.

The 37th Annual Tennessee Safety & Health Congress was held July 20th-23rd, 2014. 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. Approximately 750 people attended the event and 128 exhibitors were present in the exhibit hall. Mark your calendars for the 38<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Safety & Health Congress, July 25-29<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel.

TOSHA recently partnered with the Oak Ridge Business Safety Partnership for their presentation of Safety Fest TN 2014, September 8-12<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Approximately 1,200 employers and employees were signed up for the free safety and health training that included Interpreting Air Sampling Results for Mold, Fall Awareness, Arc Flash Hazards, Power Tool Safety, Lock Out Tag Out, First Aid/CPR Refresher, OSHA Recordkeeping, Hazards Waste Worker, Basic Scaffolding Safety, Confined Space, and the OSHA 10 and 30 Hour classes.

- Steve Hawkins, TOSHA Administrator

# VPP UPDATE

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On August 15<sup>th</sup>, Steve Hawkins presented the employees of ITW Dynatec in Hendersonville with their Volunteer STAR Award as part of the site's fourth certification effort. Team members conducting the site evaluation were Ashley Harris and Tina Kline-Douglas.



On August 27<sup>th</sup>, Commissioner Burns Phillips presented the employees of Owens Corning in Springfield with their Volunteer STAR Award as part of the site's second certification effort. Team members conducting the site evaluation were Ashley Harris and Don Hall.

During the week of September 8<sup>th</sup>, an on-site evaluation was conducted at Gerdau Ameristeel in Collierville. Team members on the evaluation included Brad Wilson and Mitchell Cothran.

# SHARP UPDATE

## Mueller Employees Achieve SHARP Status



On March 25, 2014, Labor and Workforce Development **Commissioner Burns Phillips**, accompanied by **Deputy Commissioner Dustin Swayne** and Tennessee OSHA Administrator **Steve Hawkins** presented the first year SHARP award to Mueller Refrigeration, LLC in Hartsville, TN.

Mueller Refrigeration has 181 employees at the Hartsville site who make valves and fittings for the HVAC and refrigeration industry. This site was established in 1974.

Commissioner Phillips presented the plaque to the site's management team, then he presented the flag to the safety committee. Following lunch, there was a tour of the facility by Mueller's staff to see their operation and safety culture at work.

Congratulations to all at Mueller for reaching SHARP status!

As of April 2014, there are 18 sites in Tennessee that have achieved SHARP status and two pre-SHARP sites.



Omni Tech Manufacturing of Dyersburg was re-evaluated and approved on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

# TOSHA conducts on-farm safety and health training

Adams, TN // July 23, 2014



Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health, in partnership with N.C. Department of Labor/NCOSHA, U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division, Farm Bureau, RJ Reynolds, American Snuff, and Santa Fe Natural held an on-farm training session in Adams, Tennessee, on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014.

Approximately 160 farmworkers and 40 growers attended training on field sanitation and health hazards related to chemical exposures during pesticide/herbicide/fungicide applications, Child Labor Laws, USDOL regulations, housing standards, farm equipment safety, heat stress, and green tobacco sickness. Growers and workers rotated through training sessions on each topic.

TOSHA welcomed the opportunity to partner with the other agencies. The growers and workers provided several positive comments, and the department looks forward to continuing this effort.



The Oak Ridge Business Safety Partnership presents  
**Safety Fest TN**  
September 8-11, 2014

Safety Fest TN 2014 presented by the Oak Ridge Business Safety partnership, September 8-11<sup>th</sup>, 2014, was a hit. TOSHA was honored to be a vendor and to co-sponsor the event.

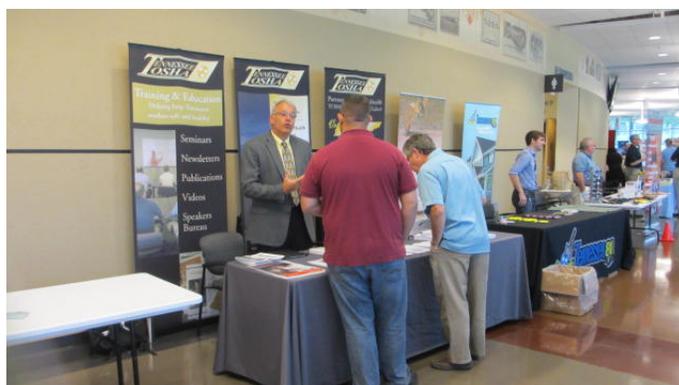
Bruce Wilkinson, CSP was the motivational keynote speaker and kicked off the event. Bruce's mission is to help organizations translate their culture into a workplace climate that inspires leadership excellence, service, and personal accountability.

**Steve Hawkins**, Administrator of TOSHA, provided a review of the 2013 TOSHA investigated workplace fatalities. Most all of these could have been prevented. The presentation reviewed each of the events including causes and measures that should have been taken for prevention.

**Jim Flanagan**, Assistant Administrator of TOSHA, led a team of world-class VPP companies in a special session to discuss their programs, operating experience, lessons learned, and special projects to keep them safe and competitive both at home and around the world.

Approximately 1,200 employers and employees were signed up for the free safety and health training sessions that included Interpreting Air Sampling Results for Mold, Fall Awareness, Arc Flash Hazards, Power Tool Safety, Lock Out Tag Out, First Aid/CPR Refresher, OSHA Recordkeeping, Hazards Waste Worker, Basic Scaffolding Safety, Confined Space, and the OSHA 10/30 Hour.

Fore more information please visit <http://safetyfesttn.org>.



## TOSHA AND CONSULATE GENERAL OF MEXICO

Tennessee Occupational Safety & Health attended the “Workers’ Rights Week” and dual citizenship sponsored by the Consulate General of Mexico in Nashville, TN, on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014. TOSHA representatives handed out material as it relates to identification and protection against common safety and health hazards found in the workplace. TOSHA representatives provided a presentation on TOSHA and workers’ rights to approximately 50 workers, family members of workers, and several employers.



## TOSHA PARTICIPATED IN “TARGET ZERO,” GOODWILL’S EMPLOYEE FAIR

TOSHA participated along with Goodwill Industries International, Inc., in the “Target Zero” employee safety Fair on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014. TOSHA trained approximately 500 Goodwill employees on basic warehouse safety and health hazard identification during the fair. The training included visual identification of basic electrical, machine guarding, housekeeping, racking system, and chemical hazards. Employees participated in a game and won a prize if they could name five safety and health hazards from the photos displayed on the board. Almost all Goodwill employees were able to name at least five or more safety and health hazards.



## Tennessee Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries 2013

There were 93 fatal work-related injuries in Tennessee during 2013, a decrease of eight percent from the 101 recorded during 2012. The numbers reported in this release are preliminary and will be updated in April 2015.

Key findings of the 2013 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries:

- Fatal work-related injuries in Tennessee fell for the third consecutive year.
- There were 70 fatal work injuries to wage and salary employees and 23 to self-employed persons.
- There were 85 fatal work injuries to men and eight fatal work injuries to women.
- There were 90 fatal work-related injuries to private sector workers and three that occurred to public sector workers.
- Fatal work-related injuries due to violence and other injuries by persons or animals fell from 24 in 2012 to 15 in 2013, or a decrease of 38 percent.
- There were 18 fatalities in both the construction industry and in transportation and warehousing.
- There were 22 fatalities to driver/sales workers and truck drivers and seven to grounds maintenance workers.

### Fatal Work-Related Injuries by Event or Exposure Tennessee, 2010 - 2013

Event or Exposure	2010	2011	2012	2013
Transportation incidents	51	39	35	39
Violence and other injuries by persons or animals	15	26	24	15
Contact with objects and equipment	31	24	16	18
Falls, slips, trips	21	15	18	12
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	13	5	5	8
Fires and explosions	5	10	3	--
<b>Yearly Totals</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>93</b>

NOTE: Totals for major categories may not total to yearly totals. Dashes indicate no data or data that do not meet publication criteria.



**Burns Phillips**

*Commissioner of Tennessee Department  
of Labor and Workforce Development*

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## Helpful Links

[Tennessee's Official Government Website](#)

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

[Tennessee Occupational Safety & Health Administration](#)

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