

TOGETHER WITH **TOSHA** newsletter

June 2023



Trench Safety STAND-DOWN

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Trench Safety: Protecting Lives Below Ground

Trenches, vital for construction and infrastructure projects, can quickly become death traps if safety measures are ignored. Trench collapses, falling objects, and hazardous atmospheres pose grave risks. Hence, ensuring trench safety is paramount. Precautions like shoring, sloping, and trench boxes are essential to prevent cave-ins. Adequate training and supervision are vital to equipping workers with knowledge to identify hazards and respond swiftly. Regular inspections, especially after rainfall, can detect unstable conditions. Protective measures such as barricades, helmets, and harnesses further reduce risks. By prioritizing trench safety, lives are safeguarded, accidents are minimized, and productivity flourishes. Remember, when it comes to trenches, safety must always be at the forefront.

Site Assessment Questions from OSHA's Technical Manual:

During first and subsequent visits to a construction or facility maintenance location, the site's safety officer or other competent person may find the following questions useful.

Is the cut, cavity, or depression a trench or an excavation?

Is the cut, cavity, or depression more than 4 ft (1.2 m) in depth?

Is there water in the cut, cavity, or depression?

Are there adequate means of access and egress?

Are there any surface encumbrances?

Is there exposure to vehicular traffic?

Are adjacent structures stabilized?

Does the mobile equipment have a warning system?

Is a competent person in charge of the operation?

Is equipment operating in or around the cut, cavity, or depression?

Are procedures required to monitor, test, and control hazardous atmospheres?

Does a competent person determine soil type?

Was a soil testing device used to determine soil type?

Is the soil placed 2 ft (0.6 m) or more from the edge of the cut, cavity, or depression?

Is the depth 20 ft (6.1 m) or more for the cut, cavity, or depression?

Has a registered professional engineer approved the procedure if the depth is more than 20 ft (6.1 m)?

Does the procedure require benching or multiple benching? Shoring? Shielding?

If provided, do shields extend at least 18 in (0.5 m) above the surrounding area if it is sloped toward the excavation?

If shields are used, is the depth of the cut more than 2 ft (0.6 m) below the bottom of the shield?

Are any required surface crossings of the cut, cavity, or depression the proper width and fitted with hand rails?

Are means of egress from the cut, cavity, or depression no more than 25 ft (7.6 m) from the work?

Is emergency rescue equipment required?

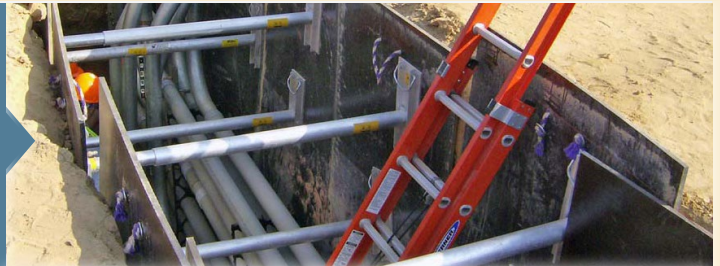
Is there documentation of the minimum daily excavation inspection? ☉

TRENCH 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)



WWW.OSHA.GOV/TRENCHING • 800-321-OSHA (6742) • TTY 877-889-5627

OSHA-3974-06-2019

TN Agencies Raise Awareness About the Importance of Flood Preparedness



National meteorologists are [forecasting](#) above average rainfall across a large portion of the U.S. this spring including most of the Mississippi and Cumberland river basins, which could include significant portions of Tennessee.

In an effort to help Tennessee homeowners prepare for potential flood risks, the Tennessee Department of Commerce & Insurance (TDCI) is joining the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) to raise awareness about the importance of having flood insurance as a part of every homeowner's disaster preparedness toolkit.

"Flooding occurs every year in Tennessee, often damaging homes and displacing Tennesseans for

months or even years," said TDCI Commissioner Carter Lawrence. "Damages due to flooding are not covered by standard homeowners or renters insurance policies. Unfortunately, there is often a disconnect between the risks facing homeowners and the steps they are willing to take to mitigate those risks. While flood insurance does come with a cost, a flood insurance policy can mean the difference between having a fully or partially covered recovery and having to make out-of-pocket repairs that could spell a financial catastrophe."

TEMA encourages Tennesseans to prepare for all types of weather hazards, including flooding.

"Preparedness is critical to

helping Tennesseans be resilient when faced with a disaster or in its aftermath," said TEMA Director Patrick Sheehan. "Resiliency means understanding hazards and threats, like flooding, having multiple ways to receive disaster warnings, having an emergency plan and supplies, and ensuring you are financially prepared so you can keep yourself and your loved ones safe before and after an emergency."

Before a flooding event, Tennesseans should review their [flood risk](#) and emergency plan. Individuals should have multiple ways to receive weather alerts and stock an emergency kit with supplies for several days. Remember, never cross a flooded road. Turn Around, Don't Drown.

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Why consider flood insurance?

- Flooding is the most common natural disaster in the U.S. and has occurred in every region of Tennessee.
- One inch of water in a home can cause an estimated \$25,000 in damage, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- You do not have to be in a high-risk flood zone to purchase flood insurance. According to FEMA, between 2014 and 2018 more than 40 percent of flood claims came from properties outside high-risk flood zones.
- You can see your home or property's flood risk on [FEMA's flood map](#).
- With the implementation of [Risk Rating 2.0](#), FEMA delivers rates that more accurately reflect flood risk.

What does flood insurance cover?

- Flood insurance covers the structure of the building, such as electrical and plumbing systems, furnaces, water heaters, and built-in appliances.
- Flood insurance can cover properties on hillsides damaged by mudflow as a result

of flooding, as well as sewage backup caused by flooding.

How much is flood insurance?

- Each policy cost depends on a number of factors, such as the location and age of the home, what type of coverage you want and the design of your home.
- Visit [floodsmart.gov](https://www.floodsmart.gov) for more details.


How can I buy flood insurance?

- Talk to an insurance producer about purchasing flood insurance. Before purchasing, make sure the agent is licensed to sell in Tennessee by visiting [TDCI's website](#).

What do I do if my home is flooded?

- Contact your insurance company as soon as it is safe to do so.

Need more information?

Visit [TDCI's Weather Disasters 101](#) page for more information about flood insurance. For flood resources and preparedness, visit [TEMA's Flood Preparedness page](#). For more questions, call TDCI at (615) 741-2218 or (800) 342-4029. 

About the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency: TEMA's mission is to coordinate preparedness, response and recovery from man-made, natural and technological hazards in a professional and efficient manner in concert with our stakeholders.

Follow TEMA on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#) and at www.tn.gov/tema.



Electrocution

Fatality Inspection 7/11/2022

A 36 year old male employee/owner was electrocuted when he lost control of a LadderVator while moving it and made contact with a 14.4 Kv overhead powerline. Two other employees who tried to help were severely injured as well.

This contractor was subcontracted to replace a residential roof. It was determined that the job was approximately 95% complete so the victim and two other employees were starting to clean up the area. There were 3 roofers still on the roof. It was determined that the victim was assisting his employees take down the LadderVator apparatus which is used to hoist shingles to the roof ridge.

The employees were holding the LadderVator at the base and leaning it away from the house toward the power lines in an attempt to pull it sideways to a safe spot and disassemble it; the LadderVator was bolted together. The LadderVator was approximately 40' tall with a 5' extension. The victim and two ground employees lost control of the LadderVator which allowed it to contact the unprotected 14.4kV power line. The power line ran parallel to the street on the utility poles and was 38 feet 5 inches from the ground. The electricity traveled down the metal ladder and created a severe electrical fire that resulted in the victim's death and hospitalization of the two other employees.

It was determined that the employer had not adequately evaluated the work area to determine if employees could make contact with overhead power lines and had not provided any means to protect employees from making contact with the energized overhead power lines.

continues on page 7

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

Citation 1 Item 1

Type of Violation: Serious \$1050

29 CFR 1926.50(c): A person who has a valid certificate in first-aid training was not available at the worksite to render first-aid:

In that the employer did not ensure that persons with valid certificates in first-aid training were available at the job site where a clinic, hospital, or physician was not available within 3-4 minutes of the job site for treatment of injured employees.

Citation 1 Item 2

Type of Violation: Serious \$4000

29 CFR 1926.416(a)(1): Employees were permitted to work in proximity to electric power circuits and were not protected against electric shock by de-energizing and grounding the circuits or effectively guarding the circuits by insulation or other means:

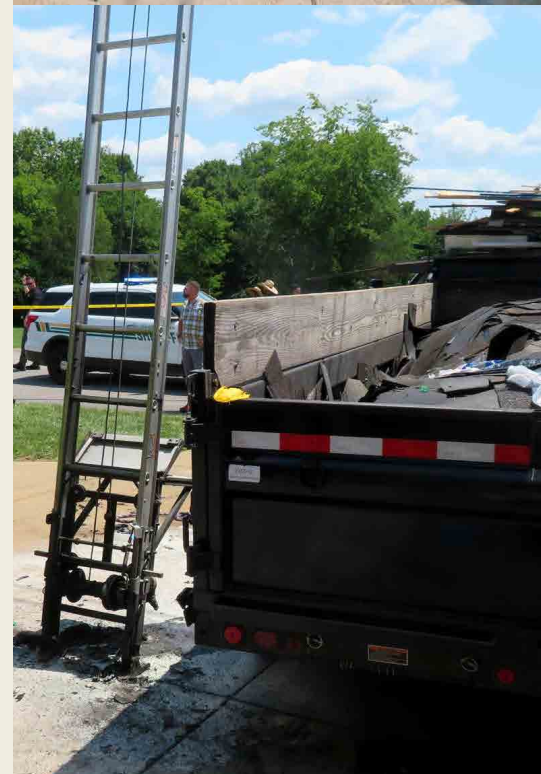
In that the employer did not ensure means were in place to protect employees from electric shock while working in close proximity to the 14.4kV overhead powerline while disassembling a LadderVator.

Citation 1 Item 3

Type of Violation: Serious \$4000

29 CFR 1926.416(a)(3): Before work began, the employer did not ascertain by inquiry, direct observation, or by instruments whether any part of an energized electric power circuit, exposed or concealed, was so located that the performance of the work could bring any person, tool, or machine into physical or electrical contact with the electric power circuit.

In that the employer did not adequately assess the work area to ensure that equipment used by employees, such as the LadderVator, could not make contact with 14.4kV overhead powerlines during the course of work. ☉





Tree Care

Summer has arrived.

*Did you know that OSHA has resources to keep **tree care and landscaping workers safe from falls, electrocution, struck-by, caught-in, and other hazards?***

Tree care work can be dangerous. Many workers get hurt or killed from:

- Falls
- Electrocutions
- Being struck by trees

Your employer is responsible for your safety! Employers must provide free protective equipment (hard hat, climbing spurs, and harness) and train you to:

- Identify fall and electrical hazards.
- Know proper climbing techniques.
- Use protective equipment — climbing lines can save your life during a fall!
- Stand clear of the drop zone.

Supervisors must:

- Check the worksite for workplace hazards.
- Make sure the climbing gear provided is right for the tree size.
- Assume that all power lines are energized and can electrocute a person at any time.
- Know if workers will need to climb or use lifts. Provide equipment that is in good working condition.
- Ensure that ground and elevated workers can see and hear each other.
- Provide protections to prevent injuries.

Supervisors also need to:

- Have a trained professional check falling tree hazards before starting work.
- Keep work at least 10 feet away from electric power lines — or call the power company to de-energize and ground the line.
- Secure a drop zone with cones that is at least two times the height of the tree.
- Determine if rigging is necessary.

As a worker, you have the right to:

- A safe and healthy workplace. Your employer is required to provide a workplace that does not put you at risk of injury, illness, or death.
- Say something about safety concerns without being punished. If you see hazards or an injury, speak up!
- Receive information and training in a language and vocabulary you understand. This includes information on workplace hazards, how to prevent them, and the OSHA standards that apply to your workplace. By law, your employer cannot retaliate against you for exercising your rights under the law. ☺

OSHA ALERT

Protect Workers Operating & Working Near Forklifts



Forklifts are an essential piece of equipment in many workplaces, especially in warehousing and manufacturing. Although these vehicles make work more efficient, they can pose serious hazards to those operating or working near them. OSHA reminds employers and workers that these hazards can be prevented by following safe practices and ensuring that workers are properly trained.

Taking the following steps can protect workers from forklift hazards.

- **Always** wear seat belts when operating a forklift.
- **Never** exceed the rated load, and ensure **loads are balanced**.
- **Make** sure you have enough clearance when raising and loading materials.
- **Watch** for **pedestrians** and observe speed limits.
- **Keep** a safe distance from platform and ramp edges.

For more information on ways to keep workers safe while working with or around forklifts, visit OSHA's **[Powered Industrial Trucks – Forklifts](#)** page.

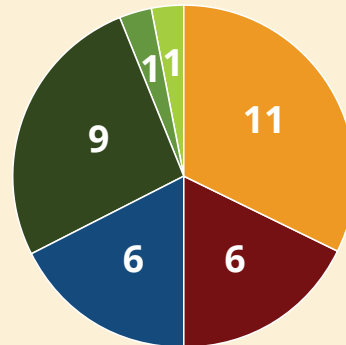
OSHA's **[On-Site Consultation Program](#)** offers no-cost and confidential occupational safety and health compliance assistance to small- and medium-sized businesses. Consultation services are separate from enforcement and do not result in penalties or citations.

The **[OSHA Training Institute Education Centers](#)** offer courses for workers, employers, and managers on hazard recognition and abatement at convenient locations nationwide. 📍

TOSHA Investigated Fatality Statistics (yr 2022)

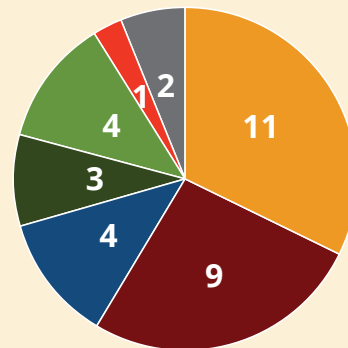
Industry; Number of Inspections (34)

Construction	11
Manufacturing	6
Public Sector	6
Service	9
Transportation	1
Farming	1

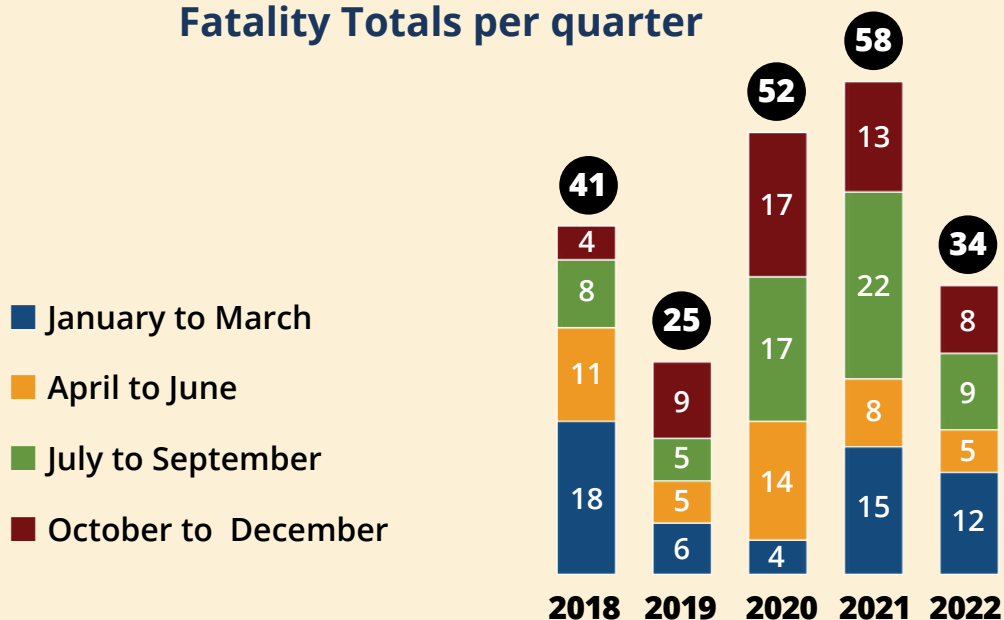


Fatality Type; Number of Victims (34)

Fall	11
Struck by	9
Thrown from/ Overturned vehicle	4
Crushed by/Caught in	3
Electrocution	4
Fire	1
Workplace Violence	2



Fatality Totals per quarter



* Statistics may change due to findings during the TOSHA investigations.

SYEP TENNESSEE

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Tennessee's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) connects young people ages 14 through 24 years old with career exploration opportunities and paid work experiences during the summer. By participating in SYEP, young people can earn, learn, and thrive while they are out of school. A summer job teaches valuable life skills that can set a young person down a path to a lifetime of success. Funded entirely by the state of Tennessee, SYEP allows youth the opportunity to explore their interests while earning competitive wages.

FAST FACTS

- All youths between 14 and 24 years old
- Low-income and foster care participants are a priority
- SYEP runs July 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024
- Work up to 25 hours per week for up to 8 weeks
- SYEP aims to employ 3,750 Tennessee youth in 2023 and 2024

SCAN
HERE >>



SYEP also benefits Tennessee employers. All public, private, and nonprofit employers can become potential work sites for the SYEP program. During the eight-week summer program, all youth wages are covered by the state of Tennessee. There is no cost to the employer to hire SYEP participants.

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.

Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development; Authorization No. 377604; This public document was promulgated for electronic use.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO

TNWORKREADY.COM

Volunteer STAR News

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 2022 the Tennessee Volunteer STAR sites experience three-year Total Case Incident Rates (TCIR) 66% below their industry average and three-year Days Away, Restricted or Transferred Case Rates (DART) 69% below their industry average. In 2022 there were twelve (12) sites that experienced a TCIR of 0.0 and there were fifteen (15) sites

that experienced a DART of 0.0. There are 33 Volunteer STAR sites, covering approximately 25,700 employees in Tennessee.

For more information on Volunteer STAR, contact the VPP Manager at (615) 741-2793.

The **Governor's and Commissioner's Awards of Excellence** are designed to promote interest in accident prevention and to promote safety. The program recognizes manufacturing and construction firms in Tennessee that achieve and maintain a safe and healthful workplace.

To qualify for the **Governor's Award of Excellence** an establishment must compile the required number of employee-hours without a Lost Workday or Restricted Duty Incident.

To qualify for the **Commissioner's Award of Excellence** an establishment must compile the required number of employee-hours (listed in the Volunteer Star table on the next page) without a Lost Workday Incident.

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On January 18th, TOSHA Assistant Commissioner Wendy Fisher presented the employees of Firestone Industrial Products in Dyersburg with their Volunteer STAR Award as part of the site's fourth certification effort.



On January 19th, TOSHA Assistant Commissioner Wendy Fisher presented the employees of Sherwin Williams in Memphis with their Volunteer STAR Award as part of the site's fourth certification effort.



Number of Employees	Employee Hours
1 - 25 employees	50,000
26 - 50 employees	100,000
51 - 100 employees	200,000
101 - 150 employees	300,000
151 - 250 employees	500,000
250 - 400 employees	800,000
> 400 employees	1 million

In addition, to qualify for either award, the site's average total injury and incident rate (for the most recent three years) must be 10% or more below the most current national average injury and illness incident rate for the industry specific NAICS Classification as published by Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). ☉

**For more information on Volunteer STAR,
contact the VPP Manager at
(615) 741-2793 or (800) 325-9901**

Hydrate for Your Safety

Drinking enough fluids is one of the most important things you can do to prevent heat illness.

Hydrate before, during, and after work.

Drink 1 cup of cool water every 20 minutes – even if you aren't thirsty! Water is generally sufficient for short jobs. For longer jobs, drink an electrolyte-containing beverage.

Avoid energy drinks and alcohol.

Your work performance may suffer when you are dehydrated, even if you don't notice.

For more information visit [osha.gov/heat](https://www.osha.gov/heat). ☉



SHARP update



TOSHA SHARP participant 2022 injury and illness review – Tennessee SHARP sites see significantly lower injury rates compared to industry averages.

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 implement effective workplace safety and health programs. Such efforts require both management commitment and employee involvement in the safety program. The resulting effective programs have been proven to reduce the site’s injuries. The measurable result? Lower incident rates benefit the site with lower direct and indirect operational costs. It benefits the site’s workforce with fewer injuries and illnesses.


For 2022, TOSHA’s 11 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 11 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 2022 and the three years of 2020-2022 for the 11 sites:

- The 11 sites have a total of 1,170 employees, or an average of 106 employees per site. The smallest site has seven employees and the largest (grandfathered under previous policies which allowed larger sites to participate in SHARP) has 520 employees.

- For the 11 sites, the 2022 TRCR rates were 92.5% below the national averages - three-year rates (2020-2022) were 81.9% below national averages.
- For the 11 sites, the 2022 DART rates were 89.3% below the national averages – three-year rates (2020-2022) were 88.8% below national averages.
- Of the 11 sites, eight experienced zero recordable incidents in 2022.
- Of the 11 sites, five experienced zero recordable incidents in the three-year period of 2020-2022.

Another consideration with these numbers is the number of employees who were not injured at the SHARP sites. If we were to assume all 11 sites experienced the number of injuries and illnesses equaling their industries’ DART and TRCR rates, the following number of worker injuries and illnesses were hypothetically prevented:

- For 2022, 31 employees avoided being injured at the 11 sites.
- For the three-year period of 2020-2022, 84 employees avoided injury at the 11 sites.

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 at TOSHA.Consultation@tn.gov



SAVE THE DATE

**Tennessee Safety &
Health Conference**

August 14-16, 2023

Gaylord Opryland
Resort & Convention Center

Nashville, TN

Click any image to visit website



Tennessee
Safety & Health Conference

Aug 14 - 16, 2023

TOSHA SEMINAR SCHEDULE



- Basic Safety & Health
- Basic Safety for Utilities
- Forklift & Warehouse Safety
- Recordkeeping
- Maintenance Related Standards
- OSHA 30-Hour for General Industry
- Walking, Working Surfaces

TN Department of
Labor & Workforce
Development | TOSHA

988

SUICIDE
& CRISIS
LIFELINE

Top 20 most
frequently
cited standards

**Small Business Safety
and Health Handbook**



**National Forklift
Safety Day:
June 13, 2023**

SAVE THE DATE

**SAFE +
SOUND**
Week



August 7-13, 2023

SAFE WORKPLACES ARE SOUND BUSINESSES

Agency Links

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[Tennessee's Government Website](#)

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

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

Useful Links

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[Video Library](#)

[TOSHA Publications](#)

[Safety & Health Conference](#)

Recognition Links

[TOSHA Safety Awards](#)

[VPP](#)

[SHARP](#)

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