

## TOSHA TRAINING SEMINARS

TOSHA has dozens of upcoming safety and health training seminars at several locations throughout the state. The courses will be offered through the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry, University of Tennessee, OSHA Training Institute Education Centers, Vol State Community College, Walters State Community College, Northeast State Community College, Columbia State Community College, and Tennessee Association of Utility Districts.

The seminars are open to anyone who is interested in attending. Courses range from half a day to four days. Course fees range from \$75 to \$725. Classes offered include Basic Health Hazards and Regulations, 30-Hour General Industry, Combustible Dust, and OSHA for Small Business. The courses will be taught by TOSHA safety and health professionals who will help train employers/employees to avoid potential workplace hazards and to learn more about the TOSHA targeting initiatives.

In 2013, TOSHA conducted 334 training sessions with more than 8,500 attendees. Since the year 2003, TOSHA has had more than 4,200 training sessions with approximately 105,500 attendees.

For a complete list of the scheduled seminars and registration numbers, please go to [http://www.tn.gov/labor-wfd/tosha/tosha\\_training.pdf](http://www.tn.gov/labor-wfd/tosha/tosha_training.pdf). For additional information on TOSHA training seminars please contact TOSHA's training division at (800) 249-8510.

### In this Issue

**TOSHA Training Seminars**

**Work-Related Fatalities See Double Digit Drop**

**Hazard Communication Training Video**

**Chemical Hazards in the Workplace**

**OSHA Tips: Carbon Monoxide**

# NUMBER OF WORK-RELATED FATALITIES IN STATE SEES DOUBLE DIGIT DROP FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Total fatalities and days away from work as a result of injuries and illnesses were both improved, according to a workplace safety report just released by the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

The 100 fatal work-related injuries recorded in Tennessee during 2012 represented a 17 percent decrease from the 120 recorded during 2011, according to the 2012 Tennessee Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries and The Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Survey collected by the Tennessee Department of Labor and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The 120 total for 2011 was a decline from 138 in 2010.

The 2012 total of 100 fatalities was the lowest total for the state during the previous 10 years and was significantly below the 10-year average. Fatal occupational injuries from 2003 to 2012 averaged 133. The fatality total of 100 recorded during 2012 is a 25 percent decrease over that number.

Of the 100 fatalities counted, 82 occurred to wage and salary workers and 18 to self-employed persons. Men sustained 92 fatalities and women eight.

Other key findings of the 2012 Tennessee Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries:

- Fatal injuries due to contact with objects and equipment decreased 33 percent from 24 in 2011 to 16 in 2012.
- Fatal injuries due to fire and explosions decreased 70 percent from 10 in 2011 to three in 2012.
- Transportation incidents led the category of kind of event resulting in death at 34 percent of fatal injuries in Tennessee. The second leading cause of worker fatalities was due to violence and other injuries by persons or animals.
- Fifteen percent of fatal injuries occurred during the month of October, the most for any month, and five percent were in June, the fewest number for any month.
- Twenty-four percent of fatal injuries happened on a Monday, and five percent were on a Sunday.

The 2012 Tennessee Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries and The Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Survey, including charts and tables, is available on the Tennessee Department of Labor Website at <http://www.tn.gov/laborwfd/Publications/EmploymentSecurity/2012CensusBooklet.pdf>.

Additional information can also be obtained by calling (615) 741-1749, (800) 778-3966, or e-mailing the Division Supervisor at [Kenneth.Wolentarski@tn.gov](mailto:Kenneth.Wolentarski@tn.gov).

# HAZARD COMMUNICATION TRAINING VIDEO

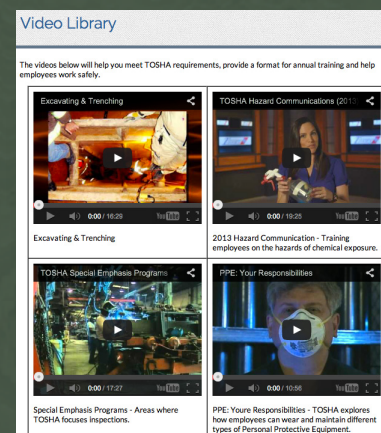
TOSHA now has an online video library available at <http://www.tn.gov/labor-wfd/tosha/videolibrary.shtml>. The library contains videos on trenching and excavation, special emphasis programs, personal protective equipment, and bloodborne pathogens.

Most recently, TOSHA has added a video on hazard communication. There was a deadline of December 1, 2013, for all employers in Tennessee and the nation who work with hazardous chemicals to train employees on the changes to the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) as it relates to the Globally Harmonized System (GHS). The video will help employers

become more familiar with the HCS and will also provide assistance to meet the new training requirements.

This update to the HCS will provide a common and coherent approach to classifying chemicals and communicating hazard information on labels and safety data sheets. The major changes to the HCS are as follows:

- **Hazard classification:** Provides specific criteria for classification of health and physical hazards, as well as classification of mixtures.



- **Labels:** Chemical manufacturers and importers will be required to provide a label that includes a harmonized signal word, pictogram, and hazard statement for each hazard class and category. Precautionary statements must also be provided.
- **Safety Data Sheets:** Will now have a specified 16-section format.
- **Information and training:** Employers are required to train workers by December 1, 2013, on the new labels elements and safety data sheets format to facilitate recognition and understanding.

Once implemented, the revised standard will improve the quality and consistency of hazard information in the workplace, making it safer for workers by providing easily understandable information on appropriate handling and safe use of hazardous chemicals.

To assist employers and employees with meeting this deadline, TOSHA, in conjunction with the University of Tennessee, has developed a video presentation designed to help train employees on the new GHS of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals and the HCS. The video will help employers become more familiar with the HCS and will also provide assistance to meet the new training requirements.

The videos can be found on our website at <http://www.tn.gov/labor-wfd/tosha/videolibrary.shtml> or in DVD format from TOSHA for \$20.00 per copy. Contact TOSHA at 1-800-249-8510 for DVD.

---

# CHEMICAL HAZARDS IN THE WORKPLACE

American workers use tens of thousands of chemicals every day. While many of these chemicals are suspected of being harmful, only a small number are regulated in the workplace.

As a result, workers suffer more than 190,000 illnesses and 50,000 deaths annually related to chemical exposures. Workplace chemical exposures have been linked to cancers and other lung, kidney, skin, heart, stomach, brain, nerve, and reproductive diseases.

Establishing a chemical management system that goes beyond simply complying with

OSHA standards and strives to reduce or eliminate chemical hazards at the source through informed substitution best protects workers. Transitioning to safer alternatives can be a complex undertaking, but a variety of existing resources make it easier. OSHA has developed this step-by-step toolkit to provide employers and workers with information, methods, tools, and guidance on using informed substitution in the workplace.

[https://www.osha.gov/dsg/safer\\_chemicals/index.html](https://www.osha.gov/dsg/safer_chemicals/index.html)

OSHA wants to help businesses thrive safely by asking them to look at their chemical use and adopt ways to reduce the use of hazardous chemicals. Together, OSHA, employers, and workers can protect America's workforce and strengthen America's businesses.

---

## OSHA TIPS: CARBON MONOXIDE

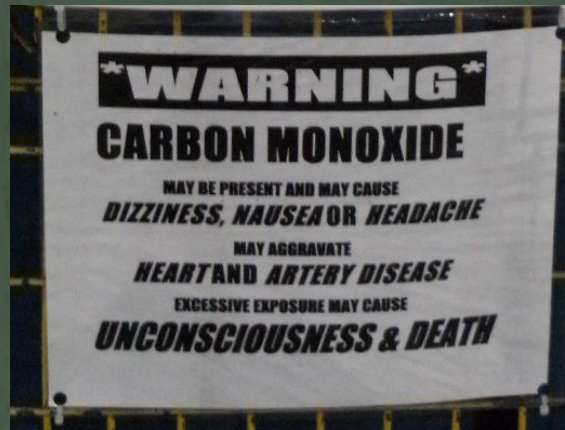
Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas and is one of the most common industrial hazards. Severe poisoning can result in brain damage, heart damage, or even death.

The incomplete burning of any material containing carbon such as gasoline, kerosene, oil, propane, coal, or wood produces the poisonous gas. Forges, portable heaters, blast furnaces, and coke ovens produce carbon monoxide, but one of the most

common sources of exposure in the workplace is the internal combustion engine such as small gasoline-powered engines and tools, gasoline, or propane-powered forklifts.

Employers can lower the risk of exposure to employees by following a few simple safety rules:

- Install an effective ventilation system to remove carbon monoxide.
- Maintain appliances and equipment in good order (preventive maintenance).



- Consider switching from fossil fuel-powered to battery-powered equipment.
- Ensure compressors used to supply breathing air are equipped with a high temperature alarm or carbon monoxide alarm, or use compressors that are not oil lubricated.
- Install carbon monoxide monitors or regularly test the air in areas where carbon monoxide is generated.
- Evaluate the use of several different types of material handling lifts.

Only use gasoline, propane, or diesel-powered engines in a well-ventilated area.

Instruct workers in the hazards, signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide exposure. For more information on carbon monoxide poisoning and workplace safety please call TOSHA consultative services at 800-249-8510. It's free and confidential. The TOSHA video library also has information on carbon monoxide <http://www.tn.gov/labor-wfd/tosha/videolibrary.shtml> and the CDC/NIOSH site <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/co-comp/>

---