

SE TX OSHA Five Things to Know (December 2021)

An overview of what is happening in regards to safety in SE Texas and OSHA



1 – December 2021 Preliminary Fatalities/Catastrophes* (1)

Construction - None

General Industry NAICS 811121 – Employee and friend were found deceased in the company bay garage. No signs of trauma or foul play. Under investigation to determine cause of death.

2 – OSHA Publications Spotlight

Covid-19 Vaccine and Testing ETS Fact Sheets

<https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/ets2>

CPL 02-01-169 OSHA's Use of Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems

https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/enforcement/directives/CPL_02-01-169.pdf

3 – Useful Tips

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has released the preliminary data on Employer Reported Workplace Fatalities in 2020

<https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/cfoi.pdf>

Charts and Data

<https://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm>

4 – December 2021 Preliminary Serious Incident Reports (26 Reports)

Construction (5 Reports) – There were two struck by incidents including an employee struck in the face by a spool of metal sheeting that slipped off a truck and bounced and a metal plate when the crow bar slipped. Two falls were reported involving a 2-3' sump pump hole in a dark room and another when a positioning belt on a SLR didn't properly latch and he fell 6' and hit another employee and his tool belt knocked off a rebar cap and he was impaled by the rebar in the armpit (the SLR did engage). There was one caught between incident where an employee reached under a machine and his finger was caught in a roller.

General Industry (21 Reports) – There were seven caught between incidents involving a shear, a hand between a saws guard and a piece of wood, finger pinched while removing a transformer, pulled into a machine axle by their coat, two joints of pipe, a hand between a cab and flatbed when the driver pulled away, and a hopper and closing lid. Six fall incidents related to an 8' retaining wall, a missed step walking down stairs, a porch, two falls from a ladder and a third from 2' off a ladder when a coworker tripped and grabbed it knocking them off. Five struck by incidents with a utility vehicle that struck a bollard (leg was positioned outside the vehicle), a tire rupture while airing it up, cutting meat, a pedestrian struck by a forklift backing up, and a spinning rod in a machine. Three other incidents involved being sprayed by sulfuric acid when the end cap was removed to check for a leak, a hernia from lifting, and two employees injured during an explosion.

5 – Enforcement

- OSHA extends comment period for Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) on Protecting Workers in Outdoors and Indoors Heat Hazards to January 26, 2022
<https://www.osha.gov/news/newsreleases/national/12022021>
- Fall 2021 DOL Regulatory Agenda which shows areas DOL agencies are looking to address through rulemaking
https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaMain?operation=OPERATION_GET_AGENCY_RULE_LIST¤tPub=true&agencyCode=&showStage=active&agencyCd=1200&Image58_x=38&Image58_y=14&Image58=Submit

This information has been developed by an OSHA Compliance Assistance Specialist and is intended to assist employers, workers, and others improve workplace health and safety. While we attempt to thoroughly address specific topics [or hazards], it is not possible to include discussion of everything necessary to ensure a healthy and safe working environment in this presentation. This information is a tool for addressing workplace hazards, and is not an exhaustive statement of an employer's legal obligations, which are defined by statute, regulations, and standards. This document does not have the force and effect of law and is not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. It does not create (or diminish) legal obligations under the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Finally, OSHA may modify rules and related interpretations in light of new technology, information, or circumstances; to keep apprised of such developments, or to review information on a wide range of occupational safety and health topics, you can visit OSHA's website at www.osha.gov. Incident information is based on first reports so information may change and is edited for length. *Every incident may not be included e.g., covid-19. For questions contact Jim Shelton at Shelton.james@dol.gov