

SE TX OSHA Five Things to Know (June 2021)

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



1 – June 2021 Preliminary Fatalities/Catastrophes (No Reports)

No confirmed work related fatalities reported for June!

2 – OSHA Publications Spotlight

OSHA published new pamphlets on heat illness prevention and PPE for Emergency Response and Recovery Workers:

- <https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/OSHA4135.pdf>
- <https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/OSHA4135SP.pdf>
- <https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/OSHA4117.pdf>

4 – June 2021 Preliminary Serious Incident Reports (42 Reports)

- **Construction (13 Reports)** – Six falls including three off of a ladder (job made, while accessing roof, off an A-frame ladder), a 51' fall off a bridge, two workers off of a 26' scaffold being dismantled, and a fall off a drilling rig when the chair broke. Three struck by hazards involving paint in a sprayer, a garbage chute being moved that broke free of the crane, and an excavator bucket. Two electrical incidents involving an arc flash while using a multi-meter and a shock while installing fiber optic cable on a utility pole. There were two other incidents including a heat related illness and a hernia.
- **General Industry (29 Reports)** – There were 14 struck by incidents involving a table slipping out of the cranes rigging, high pressure process fluid, a closing window, a planer cutting head, moving machinery, a cart being pushed, falling machinery, two involving meat cutting blades, falling materials, a chop saw, box falling off a forklift, piece of paper lacerating an eye, a vehicle. Six falls involving an open hatch and five slip, trip, and falls on the same level. There was one electrical involving an arc flash. There were four caught between cases involving a load being lowered with a crane, a finger in a pinch point, a belt on an air handling unit, and a closing rotary valve. There were four other cases involving two heat related illnesses, a shooting, and a flash fire while performing a line leak test.

5 – Enforcement

- OSHA Issues Covid-19 Emergency Temporary Standard for Healthcare
<https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/ets>
- Compliance Directive for COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard
https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/enforcement/directives/DIR_2021-02_CPL_02.pdf
- Updated Compliance Directive for the Excavation Standard, 29 CFR 1926, Subpart P
https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/enforcement/directives/CPL_02-00-165.pdf
- Department of Labor Spring 2021 Regulatory Agenda
https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaMain?operation=OPERATION_GET_AGENCY_RULE_LIST¤tPub=tr ue&agencyCode=&showStage=active&agencyCd=1200&Image58_x=38&Image58_y=14&Image58=Submit

3 – Useful Tip

NIOSH has a survey tool available to assess worker well-being

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/twh/wellbq/default.html>

There are also resources that can be used for improving worker well-being

Numerous non-work related incidents get reported to OSHA in SE TX that resulted from health related issues that manifested themselves at work

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. Covid-19 and some other types of incidents are not included. For questions contact Jim Shelton at Shelton.james@dol.gov