

SE TX OSHA Five Things to Know (May 2021)

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



1 – May 2021 Preliminary Fatalities/Catastrophes (4 Reports)

Construction – None

General Industry NAICS 445110 – Employee was operating a forklift when he struck a high pressure pipe carrying water at a temperature of 200F approximately. The pipe burst and the water showered over him and he died.

General Industry NAICS 339950 - Crew were installing a vinyl advertisement sign on an existing billboard structure. An employee climbing the access ladder fell to the ground.

General Industry NAICS 561612 - Employee working as a security guard at an apartment complex was shot.

General Industry NAICS 325320 - A temporary worker on a lunch break was shot by his wife in the facility parking lot.

2 – OSHA Publications Spotlight

OSHA published new heat illness prevention posters:

- https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/3431_wksiteposter_en.pdf
- https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/3432_wksiteposter_sp.pdf

4 – May 2021 Preliminary Serious Incident Reports (28 Reports)

- **Construction (5 Reports)** – There was a fall from a roof while removing an anchor point and a fall from the 3rd rung while descending an 8' ladder. There were three caught between incidents including a worker who reached into a concrete sorting machine, a welder struck in the hand by a descending elevator, and a worker caught in the rotating roller of a concrete mixer truck.
- **General Industry (23 Reports)** – Five falls involving a fall from a second floor house, off a concrete mixer, through an attic floor, while climbing a fence, and a container being lifted. Seven caught between incidents including a slide gate chain and sprocket, a lifting mechanism on a truck, a leg in a conveyor when they went inside a barricade to pick up a fallen box, a product silo when they reached inside, an electric pallet jack and a wall, a rotating paddle, and moving parts in a cookie machine. Seven struck-by incidents involving a wrench that fell 23', a circular saw, a hot knife, a launch tube on an inflatable line stop, a copper pipe when the line was over pressured, a hydro-blaster, and a vehicle fan belt. There were four other incidents related to exposure to formic acid, hydrogen fluoride, bee stings, and dehydration.

5 – Enforcement

- OSHA Proposal to Clarify Handrail, Stair Rail System Requirements in General Industry Walking-Working Surfaces standard – Comments Accepted until July 19th
- <https://www.osha.gov/news/newsreleases/national/05202021>

3 – Useful Tips

The Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) has information on planning for severe weather

<http://disastersafety.org/ibhs-business-protection/ofb-ez-business-continuity/>

OSHA Hurricane Safety Webpage
<https://www.osha.gov/hurricane>

Each summer fatalities in SE TX tend to rise, even when you don't include heat related incidents. Be extra vigilant. The CPWR has an interesting flyer touching on heat and falls.

<https://www.cpwr.com/wp-content/uploads/Extreme-Heat-and-Construction-Falls-infographic.pdf>

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