

SE TX OSHA Four Things to Know (Feb 2021)

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



1 – February 2021 Preliminary Fatalities (2 Reports)

- **Construction NAICS 237110** - An employee suffered asphyxiation and crushing injury due to trench collapse.
- **Construction NAICS 238910** - Employees were preparing to remove the backup breakout wrench that was attached to a drill stem. The drill stem began to spin causing the backup breakout wrench to strike the employee. The backup breakout wrench rotated a second time and struck him again throwing him underneath the drill stem.

General Industry – None

2 – OSHA Publications Spotlight

March is Ladder Safety Month. There were three fatalities and thirty serious injuries related to ladders reported last fiscal year in SE TX. OSHA has a number of fact sheets and information on ladder safety which can be found on the publications page:

https://www.osha.gov/publications/publication-products?publication_title=ladder

3 – Useful Tip

If you, or a small employer you know, are looking for help with your safety and health program, the OSHA Consultation (OSHCN) Service can help. They are 90% funded by Federal OSHA to provide no cost safety assistance to small employers. Their website also has tool box talks, sample programs, and DVDs you can borrow. They even offer periodic no-cost OSHA Construction 10 Hour classes.



<https://www.tdi.texas.gov/oshcon/>

4 – February 2021 Preliminary Serious Incident Reports (35 Reports)

- **Construction (10 Reports)** – There were four struck by incidents involving a vehicle striking an occupied port-a-potty, 7” grinder striking a knee, paint injected in finger from paint sprayer, metal in eye after hitting object with sledgehammer. Three caught between incidents where a hand was caught in a truck tailgate, a machine tipped over catching hand between street light and the machine, and thumb caught between shifting pipe and forklift bracket. Two falls, one from an attic ladder and one from a roof. One electrical shock while changing a 120 volt residential breaker.
- **General Industry (25 Reports)** – Eight caught between incidents involving a pallet jack and safety bollard, a pallet and a stacking machine, a forklift and a box truck, shifting materials and container wall; entanglement in belt and pulley, a palletizer, and a batch mixer; and finger caught in a closing ball valve. Seven falls involving fall from an elevated platform, suspected fall on the same level, slip and fall on ice, trip over a box, fall off platform ladder, trip over a curb, and a slip descending stairs. Five struck by incidents related to table and meat saw blades, nail from nail gun, a falling hoist, and a forklift. Five other incidents occurred related to a dog bite, a splash from sulfuric acid during unloading, splashed with cold liquid propane, sprayed with hot oil from pressure backflow and on the same day on the other side of town another worker was splashed with hot oil during transfer from a truck to a tank due to back pressure in the hose.

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