

State of Tennessee
Department of Labor and Workforce Development
State Office Annual Report
October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015

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The Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Administration (TOSHA) was created by legislation in 1972 and became operational in July 1973. The program operated as a dual-designee with the health functions housed in the Tennessee Department of Health and the safety functions in the Department of Labor (now the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development) until July 1977. At that time the General Assembly enacted legislation to transfer the health function to the Department of Labor. The Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Administration program was certified in May 1978 and final determination (18-E) was achieved in July 1985.

The General Assembly enacted legislation giving Tennessee OSHA the mission of ensuring that employers furnish a place of employment which is free of recognized hazards and provide a safe and healthful workplace. Tennessee OSHA's primary objective is to improve occupational safety and health in workplaces throughout the state. The worker population in Tennessee is approximately 2,653,392. There are approximately 140,890 employers in the state.

Tennessee OSHA achieves this objective through:

- Enforcement of the general industry, construction, and agricultural occupational safety and health standards, as well as the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development rules for private and public sector employees.
- Delivering training programs designed to target the most prominent injuries and illnesses affecting Tennessee workers.
- Providing Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development rules and OSHA general industry, construction and agriculture standards at cost.
- Providing interpretations of Tennessee OSHA standards and rules.
- Providing assistance to employers, employees and the general public on controlling hazards in the workplace by answering technical questions on a daily basis.
- Administering the consultation program to advise and assist employers in the improvement of occupational safety and health in the workplace.
- Maintaining employer recognition programs to promote safe and healthful workplace safety and health.

Tennessee OSHA's program services are delivered through a central office in Nashville and field offices located in six strategic geographical areas with 20 IMIS Reporting IDs. Those areas are as follows:

- Nashville - 0454700, 0454712, 0454722 and 0454732
- Memphis - 0454711, 0454721 and 0454731
- Knoxville - 0454714, 0454724 and 0454734
- Chattanooga - 0454713, 0454723 and 0454733
- Jackson - 0454715, 0454725 and 0454735
- Kingsport - 0454716, 0454726 and 0454736
- Consultation – 0494701

The Tennessee OSHA website (Compliance and Consultation) is <http://tn.gov/workforce/section/tosha>. All current directives, the Tennessee OSHA Act, and Tennessee OSHA state rules are accessible from the site.

As of November 30, 2015, there were six industrial hygienist and six occupational safety specialist positions vacant.

Enforcement

During FY 2015, Tennessee OSHA performed 1,501 workplace inspections. During these inspections 5,103 hazards were identified and penalties of \$1,623,315 were assessed. Unpaid penalties are assessed a late fee of 10% at 30, 60, and 90 days and statutory interest is assessed until the penalty is paid. Unpaid penalties are forwarded to the state attorney general's office for collection. During this period Tennessee OSHA collected 87% of penalties assessed.

Complaints

During FY 2015, complaint inspections were initiated in an average of 2.94 days following receipt of the complaint, as indicated in the State Activity Mandated Measures (SAMM). Complaint investigations were initiated in an average of 0.6 days. Both were within the goal of fifteen (15) days for inspections and five (5) days for investigations.

Fatalities

During FY 2015, TOSHA received 36 reports of accident or fatal injury. TOSHA conducted 34 accident and fatality investigations. Of these, 31 were work related fatalities. It is agency policy to conduct accident and fatality investigations as soon as possible and generally within one day of receiving notice of the incident. A letter is sent by the TOSHA Administrator notifying each victim's family that an investigation is underway and providing the family with contact information for the area supervisor overseeing the investigation. Follow-up letters are sent to the victim's family as the investigation, citation, and contest processes progress.

Targeting and Special Emphasis Programs

Tennessee OSHA participated in the following national emphasis programs: Amputations, Hexavalent Chromium, Petroleum Refinery Process Safety Management, Combustible Dust, Isocyanates, Nursing and Residential Care facilities (this program expired April 5, 2015), and Lead.

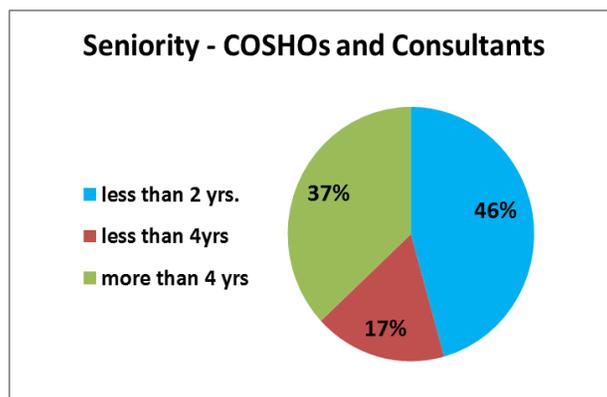
In addition, Tennessee OSHA also maintained the following local emphasis programs: trenching and excavation, carbon monoxide, fall protection, and noise.

Evaluation of Mandated Activities

Tennessee OSHA management reviews the State Activity Mandated Measures (SAMM) as well as other management reports periodically to assure the mandated activities are carried out effectively and efficiently. A review of the SAMM FY 2015, Violation Detail Data Report, and Inspection One-Liner indicated Tennessee OSHA performed at a high

level of professionalism and productivity. Highlights include the following: serious, willful or repeat hazards were identified during 58.6% of programmed safety inspections and during 64.3% of programmed health inspections where citations were issued. Tennessee OSHA reclassified 0.8% of violations and 90% of penalties assessed were retained. The average time to initiate a complaint inspection was 2.94 days. The average time to initiate a complaint investigation was 0.6 days. The average lapse time in days to issue citations for safety and health violations was 24.83 days and 33.83 days respectively.

Areas of concern include a lower number of private sector safety inspections compared to the previous year (608 versus 725) and a lower number of serious hazards identified as compared to the previous year (6,133 versus 6,466). These reductions are the result of the attrition of senior staff resulting in several promotions in the organization and the introduction of a large number of entry level personnel. Currently 63% of compliance officers and consultants have less than four years' experience and 46% of compliance officers and consultants have less than two years' experience. Vacancies have been aggressively filled and the new personnel are in training.



Public Sector Activity

During FY 2015, Tennessee OSHA performed 35.5% of all inspections in the public sector. Public sector employers were given the opportunity to participate in the public sector program during the first two years following the formation of Tennessee OSHA and again, by statute, between July 1, 2004, and July 1, 2006. State law mandates that Tennessee OSHA inspect these entities biannually. Participants in the program must designate a safety and health director and establish a safety and health program. Participants are not issued monetary penalties for violations; however the governor can remove a participant from the program for failure to comply with the TOSH Act. All public employers not currently participating in the program are treated as private employers as mandated by state law. The 2014 total case incident rate (TCIR) for state and local government in Tennessee is 4.1 and is considerably lower than the national average of 5.0.

Citation and Inspection Review

All inspection reports and citations are reviewed by the industrial hygiene or safety area supervisor and the section manager. All citations are reviewed and issued by the TOSHA Administrator or Assistant Administrator. Informal conferences are held by the appropriate area supervisor and reviewed by the section manager. All changes to the penalty or citation are reviewed and issued by the TOSHA Administrator or Assistant Administrator.

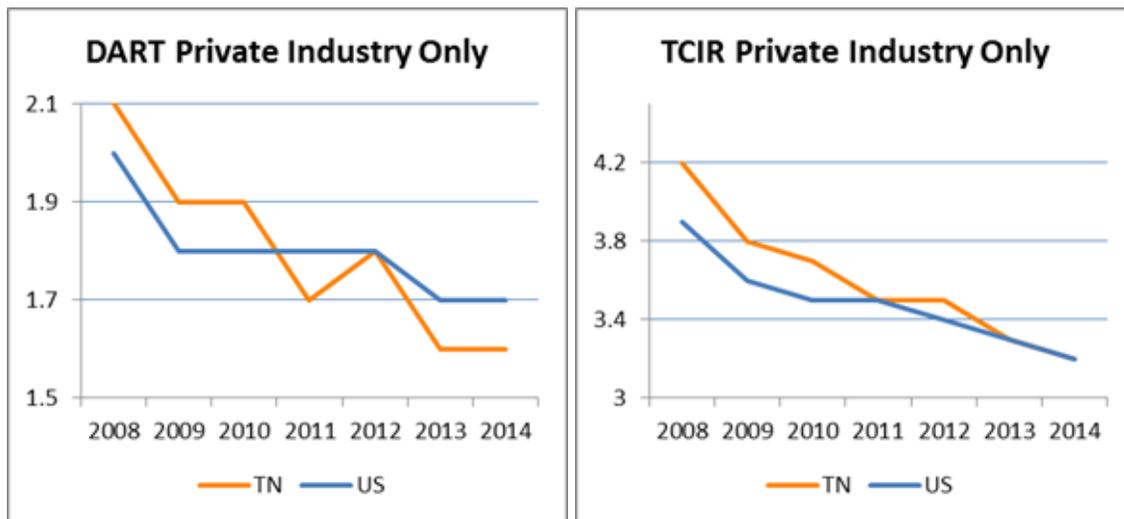
During FY 2015, 25 citations were contested and 29 were resolved before the Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission. As of September 30, 2015, of the 10 contested cases remaining, 2 settlements were scheduled to be resolved pending approval. The remaining 8 were pending resolution by settlement or hearing.

Review of Bureau of Labor Statistic Data

A review of the Bureau of Labor Statistic (BLS) data, over the last five years, reveals a decline in the Days Away, Restricted, Transferred (DART) and the Total Case Incident Rate (TCIR).

Private Sector Only

	DART		TCIR	
Year	TN Private	US Private	TN Private	US Private
2014	1.6	1.7	3.2	3.2
2013	1.6	1.7	3.3	3.3
2012	1.8	1.8	3.5	3.4
2011	1.7	1.8	3.5	3.5
2010	1.9	1.8	3.8	3.5



The 2014 total case incident rate (TCIR) for all industries (private and public) in Tennessee is 3.3 and is slightly lower than the national average of 3.4. The 2014 total case incident rate (TCIR) for private industries in Tennessee is 3.2 and is identical to the national average of 3.2.

Training of TOSHA Compliance Personnel

Newly-hired TOSHA compliance officers are trained as outlined in the instruction “Initial Training Program for TOSHA Compliance Personnel” (TED-TN 001-00-019). The OSHA Training Institute (OTI) is used as the primary source for most of the training courses. As soon as OTI course enrollments will allow, a new compliance officer is enrolled in the “Initial Compliance” course. Additional courses are scheduled as detailed in the instruction. Basic training is completed when the nine courses outlined in Phase 1 are completed within the three year period. After the three year period, the training needs of all TOSHA compliance personnel are evaluated annually by the supervisors in each area office in conjunction with the section manager, and follow Phase 2 & 3 of the training plan. OTI Education Centers and specialized resources such as those offering Hazardous Waste and Emergency Response, and Asbestos Inspector/Refresher training are utilized as needed.

In FY 2015, TOSHA employees attended classes at the OSHA Training Institute (OTI) and forklift training brought to this state by the OSHA and Industrial Truck Association (ITA) Alliance in August 2015.

Thirteen trainers were re-authorized as OSHA authorized general industry trainers by attending the #503 Update for General Industry Trainers.

TOSHA staff members attended OTI webinars on #0092 CSHO Unique Cases, #0088 Retaliation for Injury Reporting, #0093 Developing a Novel Chemical Exposure 5(a)(1), #0095 Electrical Hazards Overview, #0097 Confined Spaces in Construction, #0098 Hazard Communication 2012 Compliance Directive, and #0101 Recent Revision to Whistleblower Investigations.

By virtue of these training opportunities, as well as attendance at the annual Tennessee Safety and Health Congress, and the Tennessee Valley Section of AIHA, 100% of the TOSHA staff received professional development training in FY 2015.

Standards

The Tennessee Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development has the statutory authority to promulgate occupational safety and health standards. Tennessee has generally adopted all federal standards that are applicable in Tennessee. Standards promulgated by federal OSHA are adopted by reference in Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development rules. There were two rule proposals submitted during this period that adopted all federal OSHA promulgated standards during FY 2015 in a timely manner. Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development rule 0800-01-03 was updated to incorporate changes to occupational injury and illness recording and reporting requirements. No state standards were adopted during this period. The following compliance directives were adopted: CPL 02-01-057 Compliance Directive for the Cranes and Derricks in Construction Standard; CPL 03-00-018 National Emphasis Program - Primary Metal Industries; CPL 02-02-079 Inspection Procedures for the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS 2012); CPL 02-02-078 Enforcement

Procedures and Scheduling for Occupational Exposure to Tuberculosis; CPL 03-00-019 National Emphasis Program on Amputations.

The Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Act was amended to return jurisdiction of construction projects over navigable waterways to Tennessee OSHA.

All directives are listed on the division's web page.

TOSHA responded to 272 Public Records Act requests during this period. All Freedom of Information requests forwarded to the division by federal OSHA were satisfied in a timely manner.

TOSHA received no requests for a variance during FY 2015.

Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) and Safety and Health Awards Programs

The TOSHA Volunteer STAR VPP Program is administered according to the TOSHA VPP Policy and Procedures Manual (CSP-TN 03-01-003). Tennessee OSHA recognizes only the STAR level of achievement.

Tennessee OSHA currently has 37 sites and 22,690 employees, participating in the Volunteer STAR program. Two new applications were evaluated and returned for additional information. One has been resubmitted. A review of the 2015 annual self-evaluation data for Volunteer STAR sites reveal Total Case Incident Rates 69% below their respective national averages and Days Away, Restricted, and Transfer Rates 76% below their respective national averages.

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Safety Award Program is designed to stimulate interest in accident prevention and to promote safety and health programs. These awards recognize manufacturing and construction employers across the state that, together with their employees, achieve and maintain safe and healthful work sites based on worker-hours worked without a lost time (Commissioner's Award) or without a lost or restricted duty incident (Governor's Award).

During FY 2015, TOSHA presented 12 Governor's Awards and 9 Commissioner's Awards. No exemption or other benefit, with the exception of recognition, is granted to the recipients.

Training and Education Outreach Program

Training seminars are offered to the public in the spring and fall of each year. Seminar topics include: new regulations, basic requirements related to occupational safety and health, and current topics of interest. TOSHA works with co-sponsors to offer seminars, including the University of Tennessee, the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and several state community colleges. The seminars are offered at various locations across the state.

The TOSHA training staff is currently comprised of nine industrial hygienists, and six occupational safety specialists who are approved as trainers in addition to their

compliance or consultative duties. In FY 2015, TOSHA trainers conducted 349 training sessions on several topics including “Basic Safety Requirements,” “Maintenance-Related TOSHA Standards,” “OSHA 10-and-30-Hour Courses,” “TOSHA Recordkeeping”, “Combustible Dust”, “Permit Required Confined Spaces for Construction”, “GHS & Hazard Communication”, and “Dock and Warehouse Safety and Health”. Safety and health training was provided to 11,880 attendees across the state

TOSHA publishes a free quarterly newsletter, “*Together with TOSHA*” distributed through TOSHA’s web site and listserv containing 914 registered users maintained by the training and education office. In addition, many employer and employee associations and other groups forward the newsletter to their members. The electronic publication of the newsletter as a “pdf” allows the reader to follow embedded web links to additional information or print the document for employees without electronic access. The newsletter offers information, interpretations, best practices, and compliance recommendations on occupational safety and health topics. Topics covered in the newsletters in FY 2015 include:

- Reports on the Tennessee fatality rates and review of “What Kills In Tennessee” along with prevention and hazard control;
- OSHA published documents for Crane Operator Certification, Silica, Recordkeeping, Permit Required Confined Spaces for Construction, and Heat Stress;
- State VPP and SHARP participant updates, awards, and best practices;
- Recent TOSHA outreach efforts including Permit Required Confined Spaces in Construction and Reporting of Fatalities, Amputations, In-patient Hospitalizations, and Loss of Eye;
- TOSHA regulatory updates including changes to the Tennessee Right to Know Law and the establishment and maintenance of the workplace chemical list;
- Local safety and health educational efforts in surrounding communities, including Safety Fest TN in Oak Ridge and the Tennessee Safety and Health Congress in Nashville, TN.

Complaints About State Program Administration

During FY 2015, one complaint about state plan administration was received; however this "complaint" was presented in the form of a request for information about agricultural inspections conducted by Tennessee OSHA. There was no allegation that TOSHA failed to comply with any standard or procedure.

Discrimination

All allegations of discrimination were investigated by Tennessee OSHA in accordance with established policies and procedures. Allegations found to be of merit were settled or forwarded to the Attorney General’s office for consideration for prosecution. During FY 2015, 86 complaints alleging discrimination in violation of T.C.A. 50-3-409 were filed. Of these, 9 were settled, 8 were withdrawn by the complainant, 19 were found to lack

merit, and 24 were closed because the complainant failed to cooperate, 7 were untimely filed, 7 were screened and closed, and 2 were outside the jurisdiction of the statute. The remaining complaints are still under investigation.

Inspection Quality Assurance

Tennessee OSHA compliance officers are trained to perform the essential job functions in a professional and competent manner. Each compliance officer has a job plan and an annual evaluation with at least two interim evaluations during the year. Supervisors performing the annual evaluation accompany compliance officers on an inspection to assure inspection policies and procedures are followed. Newly hired compliance officers are trained as discussed in the training section.

Each inspection report and proposed citations are reviewed by the industrial hygiene or safety supervisor in the area office where the inspection was conducted. The inspection report and proposed citations are forwarded to the industrial hygiene or safety section manager in the central office for additional review. All citations are issued by signature of the TOSHA Administrator, or in his absence, by the Assistant Administrator, as required by state law.

The review of each inspection file and citations by each management level provides continuous assurance of quality work and consistency across all area offices.

A procedure (ADM-TN 03-00-011) has been developed and implemented to audit each area office to assure policies and procedures are being followed. The Nashville North and Nashville South area offices were evaluated during FY 2015. The intent of the procedure is to evaluate two area offices each FY on an ongoing basis.

Annual Performance Goals

Performance Goal 1.1

Eliminate 6,000 serious violations/hazards in workplaces where interventions take place.

Summary - Tennessee OSHA exceeded this goal.

	Compliance	Consultation	Total
Inspections/Visits	1,501	463	1,964
Serious Violations/Hazards	3,222	2,946	6,168
Non-Serious Violations/Hazards	1,827	255	2,082
Repeated Violations	48	n/a	48
Willful Violations	0	n/a	0
Regulatory Hazards	n/a	393	393
Total Violations/Hazards	6,535	4,057	10,655

Performance Goal 1.2 - Carbon Monoxide

Reduce carbon monoxide exposures for 300 employees.

Summary – Tennessee OSHA exceeded this goal

CO levels have been documented as reduced through elimination and engineering controls as follows:

FY	COMPANIES	EMPLOYEES
2004	35	1,977
2005	31	960
2006	37	1,935
2007	29	1,846
2008	35	689
2009	19	721
2010	17	542
2011	8	1102
2012	13	345
2013	10	405
2014	22	975
2015	11	1,072

Performance Goal 1.3 – Noise

Reduce noise exposures for 400 employees.

Summary - Tennessee OSHA exceeded this goal.

Noise levels have been documented as reduced through improvements in hearing conservation programs as follows:

FY	COMPANIES	EMPLOYEES
2014	20	542
2015	13	673

Performance Goal 1.4

Reduce the number of fatalities due to falls each year by 1.7% from a baseline of the average number of yearly fatalities (8.2) due to falls from 2003 – 2007. Tennessee OSHA continues to maintain a local emphasis program addressing fall hazards.

Summary – Tennessee OSHA did not achieve this goal.

FY	FALL FATALITIES
2008	11
2009	10
2010	7
2011	5
2012	5
2013	6
2014	4
2015	10

Compliance and consultation documented the elimination of fall hazards and reduced employees' exposure to falls by issuing citations and identifying hazards as outlined in the chart below.

FY	COMPANIES	HAZARDS
2004	445	880
2005	378	879
2006	422	875
2007	469	1,049
2008	521	1,606
2009	544	1,458
2010	418	805
2011	411	811
2012	495	1,506
2013	378	800
2014	301	707
2015	241	541

TOSHA informs employers and employees about the fall hazard special emphasis program during each inspection and visit. The goal is to increase employers and

employees ability to identify fall hazards and reduce employee exposure to falls.

Performance Goal 1.5

Reduce amputations by 1% each year using Tennessee Workers' Compensation data.

Summary – Tennessee OSHA met this goal.

185 Amputations were reported in FY2015 as compared to 352 in the baseline year of FY2007.

Tennessee OSHA continues to follow the national emphasis program on amputations.

Amputation violations issued

	Companies	Violations/Hazards
2010	284	547
2011	281	690
2012	303	652
2013	292	618
2014	228	455
2015	288	608

Amputation information is obtained from CPL 2-1.33. Violations in standards General Machine Guarding - 1910.212, Woodworking Machinery - 1910.213, and Power Presses - 1910.217 are counted. The SIC codes in the CPL include: 2421, 2431, 2434, 2448, 2451, 2499, 2511, 2541, 2542, 3089, 3429, 3441, 3442, 3443, 3444, 3469, 3496, 3499, 3599, 3714, and 3732.

Performance Goal 1.6 – Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Reduction

Reduce the number of bloodborne pathogen exposures for 1000 employees. Bloodborne pathogen exposures have been documented as reduced through engineering/work practice controls and participation on employees in a formal training program.

Summary – Tennessee OSHA exceeded this goal.

Bloodborne Pathogen Data

	Inspections/Visits	Violations/Hazards	Employees
Compliance	73	364	4,084
Consultation	105	321	384
TOTAL	178	685	4,468

Performance Goal 2.1

Train 9,500 people in occupational safety and health training classes.

Summary – Tennessee OSHA exceeded this goal.

	Programs	Personnel
Formal Training	349	11,880
Consultation On-site	377	3,049
TOTAL	726	14,929

Performance Goal 2.2.1

Implement significant improvements in employer occupational safety and health programs in 850 workplaces where Tennessee OSHA compliance had an intervention.

Summary – Tennessee OSHA exceeded this goal.

Inspection Results

	Program Violations	Workplaces
Compliance	1,754	596
Consultation	1,579	292
TOTAL	3,333	888

Performance Goal 2.2.2

Increase employer/employee awareness of safety and health management systems through onsite outreach during 1,150 private sector compliance inspections, 550 public sector compliance inspections, and 300 consultation visits.

Summary – Tennessee OSHA exceeded this goal in 2 of 3 sections.

	Goal	Workplaces
Private Sector Compliance	1,150	956
Public Sector Compliance	550	521
Consultative Services	300	462
TOTAL	2,000	1,939

Performance Goal 2.3

Evaluate two applications for participation in the Voluntary Protection Program (Volunteer STAR).

Summary – Tennessee OSHA met this goal.

Tennessee OSHA evaluated two applications for participation in the Volunteer STAR program. Both were returned to the applicant for revision. One has been resubmitted and is currently being evaluated.

Performance Goal 2.4

Evaluate two new employers for the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP).

Summary – Tennessee OSHA met this goal.

Tennessee OSHA consultation services evaluated two new employers during FY 2015.

The following companies were evaluated and awarded initial SHARP certification:

1. Braddock Holdings LLC, DBA JD Metals
2. TCT Stainless Steel of Tennessee, Inc.

Performance Goal 3.1

Ensure effective service by maintaining average report turnaround time within the following targets: less than 35 days (safety compliance), less than 55 days (health compliance), less than 20 days (consultation), less than 25 days (public sector compliance):

Summary – Tennessee OSHA exceeded this goal in 3 of 4 sections.

	Goal (days)	Average Turnaround (days)
Safety Compliance	35	37.8
Health Compliance	55	45.6
Public Sector Compliance	20	19.8
Consultation	25	13.5

Performance Goal 3.2

Ensure effective service by responding to complaints within the negotiated time frames, less than 15 days (inspections), less than 5 days (inquiries):

Summary – Tennessee OSHA exceeded this goal.

	Goal (days)	Average Days to Open
Inspections	15	2.94
Inquiries	5	0.6

Performance Goal 3.3

Ensure effective service by meeting discrimination case file turnaround time of 90 days for at least 75% of cases.

Summary – Tennessee OSHA did not meet this goal.

Number of Discrimination Inspections	Number Closed Within 90 Days
98	57

Performance Goal 3.4

Ensure effective service by requiring at least 90% of staff to attend professional development training.

Summary – Tennessee OSHA exceeded this goal.

Number of Professional Staff	Number that Attended Training
63	63

Significant Inspections

Chattanooga Tank Wash, LLC (\$36,050)

On 4/21/15, an occupational health inspection was conducted of Chattanooga Tank Wash, LLC, a facility that cleaned residual chemicals from the interiors of tanker trailers. The inspection was conducted to investigate media reports of a chemical release occurring at the facility. Through the TOSHA inspection, several hazards relating to the removal and cleaning of flammable and corrosive chemicals from tank trailers were identified. Citations were issued relating to failure to control ignition sources, deficiencies in the respiratory protection program, failure to implement a permit required confined space program, deficiencies in the hazard communication program, and failure to provide adequate emergency eyewash facilities.

Unipres USA Inc. (\$24,500)

A complaint inspection involving an amputation was conducted at Unipres USA Inc., a metal stamping company, located in Portland, TN. Two (2) serious and one (1) repeat-serious violation were documented during the inspection. The serious violations included: Lockout not being utilized when performing service and maintenance on equipment and inadequate training for employees utilizing resistance welding equipment. The repeat-serious violation involved inadequate lockout training for authorized employees.

Southeast Recycling Technologies, Inc. (\$17,250)

On 3/12/15, an occupational health inspection was conducted of Southeast Recycling Technologies, Inc., a recycler of florescent light bulbs. The inspection was scheduled to evaluate hazards alleged in a referral submitted by an employee's physician. The referral alleged biological monitoring showed employee exposure to hazardous quantities of mercury. The inspection identified employee exposure to mercury by inhalation and skin contact, and potentially by ingestion. Citations and penalties were issued for improper work practices, inadequate personal protective equipment use, inadequate housekeeping practices, inadequate training, and failing ventilation which increased the potential for mercury exposure.

Lee Masonry Products dba Southland Brick & Block (\$16,875)

A fatality inspection was conducted at this company's facility in Antioch, TN as a result of a crushing injury received on a masonry block cuber machine. Ten (10) serious and five (5) non-serious violations were documented as a result of the inspection. Serious violations included: seat belts not worn when operating forklifts, unguarded pit opening, exit door padlocked, permit required confined spaces not labeled appropriately, lockout

procedures not developed, parking brake not applied on forklift when unattended, inadequate guarding on the cuber machine, unguarded sprocket/pulley, unguarded belt, and unguarded chain and sprockets.

Metro Nashville Public Works (No Monetary Penalty Assessed – Public Sector Employer)

A fatal accident investigation was conducted with Metro Nashville Public Works in Nashville, TN, after an employee was crushed to death when he was pinned between a building and the sanitation truck on which he had been riding as the vehicle was being backed into an alleyway. A General Duty Clause citation (serious) was issued for a lack of training of employees working on sanitation trucks. The employer failed to provide instruction and training to employees in safe methods of work (per the owner's manual and ANSI Standards) before assigning them to operate or work around a sanitation truck and failed to ensure that employees not ride on the truck steps when the vehicle is backing up.

City of Humboldt Public Works (No Monetary Penalty Assessed – Public Sector Employer)

A fatal accident investigation was conducted with the Public Works Department in Humboldt, TN, when an employee was killed after being struck by a tree which fell on the worker as employees were clearing overgrown vegetation from a wooded area next to a local school. A General Duty Clause citation (serious) was issued for a failure by the employer to provide employees with the necessary safety training required to protect the workers from the recognized hazards associated with tree trimming and the removal of overgrown vegetation during grounds maintenance.

Bradley County Public Works (No Monetary Penalty Assessed – Public Sector Employer)

An amputation investigation was conducted with the Bradley County Public Works Department in McDonald, TN, when two employees were struck by an unmanned truck that rolled backwards into them as they were working in a raised-bed garden at the entrance of the facility. One of the employees suffered amputations to both legs above the knees when struck from behind by the vehicle and pinned between the truck and the raised-bed wood frame. A General Duty Clause citation (serious) was issued for a failure by the employer to provide employees with the necessary safety training required before operating a motor vehicle and failure to protect employees from the recognized hazards associated with light duty dump trucks.

Special Accomplishments

- Tennessee OSHA co-sponsored the 38th annual Tennessee Safety and Health Congress with the American Society of Safety Engineers. The Congress was attended by approximately 877 delegates and exhibitors.
- TOSHA co-sponsored the Safety Fest TN 2015, presented by the Oak Ridge Business Safety Partnership, on September 12th – 16th, 2015. Approximately 850 employers and employees attended the free safety and health event.
- Tennessee OSHA produced and distributed the quarterly newsletter, *Together with TOSHA*. Several training videos including the new 2013 Hazard Communication meeting the GHS requirements were developed and made available on the department's website.
- Tennessee OSHA partnered with the following safety organizations to conduct training:
 - Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry
 - University of Tennessee Center for Industrial Studies
 - Bristol Chamber of Commerce
 - Tennessee Safety and Health Congress
 - Associated General Contractors
 - Associated Builders and Contractors
 - American Society of Safety Engineers
 - American Industrial Hygiene Association
 - Oak Ridge Safety Fest TN
 - Tennessee Association of Utility Districts (TAUD)
 - Tennessee Valley Public Power Association (TVPPA)
 - Upper Cumberland Safety and Environmental Council (UCSEC)
 - Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg Hospitality Associations
 - Tennessee Health Care Association
 - Local Area Dental Associations
 - Steel Manufacturing Association
 - Tennessee Employment Relations Research
 - City of Johnson City
 - Oak Ridge Utility
- TOSHA also partnered with the following institutions of higher learning
 - Meharry Medical School
 - Meharry Dental School
 - Volunteer State Community College
 - Walters State Community College
 - Tennessee College of Applied Technology

- The Administrator served on the OSHA Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health.
- The Administrator has been elected to the board of directors of the Occupational Safety and Health State Plan Association.
- The VPP manager attended the Annual Region IV VPPPA Conference and serves as an ex-officio member of the Region IV chapter board of directors.
- The Consultative services manager serves as the Region IV National Association of Occupational Safety and Health Consultation Programs (OSCHON) Representative.
- As the only occupational medicine residency program in the state of Tennessee, Meharry Medical College has played an important role in ensuring an adequate supply of qualified professional occupational health practitioners in the state. The Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Administration (TOSHA) is proud to have supported the training of occupational medicine residents from Meharry Medical College for more than two decades by providing opportunities for practicum experience. As a result of the Meharry Medical School Residency Program Partnership, TOSHA trained five occupational medicine residents in FY2015.
- The Training and Education Manager serves as the Residency Advisory Committee at Meharry Medical College, the state's only occupational medicine residency program.
- Tennessee OSHA compliance officers and consultants answered approximately 1,000 technical assistance e-mail inquiries received from the public. In addition, consultants and compliance officers answered technical assistance calls daily.
- The Tennessee OSHA industrial hygiene laboratory is accredited by the American Industrial Hygiene Association in gas chromatography, flame ionization detection, nitrogen-phosphorus detection, UV-visible spectrometry, gravimetric analysis, inductively coupled plasma with mass spectrometry detection, and ion chromatography.
- The Administrator attended all OSHSPA meetings held during FY2015.
- In FY2015, TOSHA added five school systems and one utility company under the Public Sector Program: Oak Ridge Utility District, Millington Municipal School District, Germantown Municipal School District, Lakeland Municipal School District, Arlington Municipal School District, and Collierville Municipal School District.