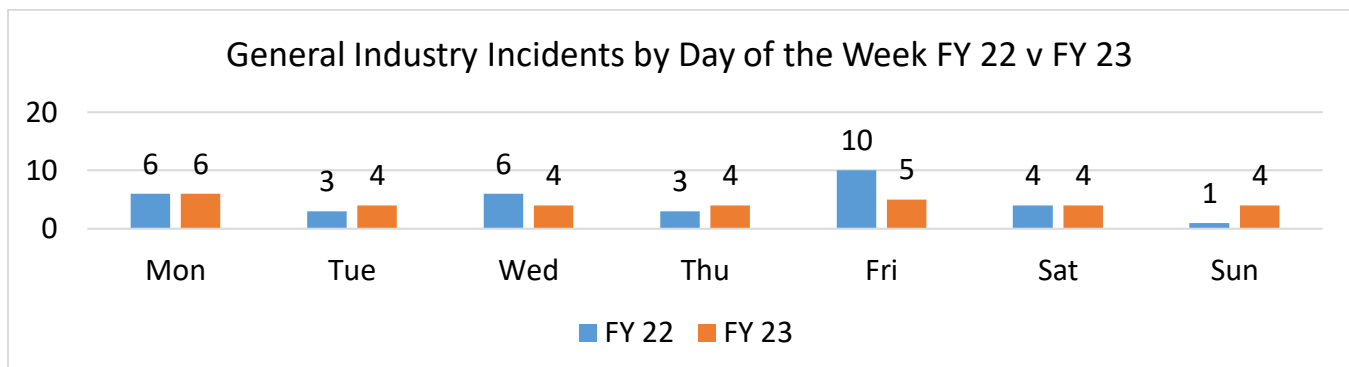
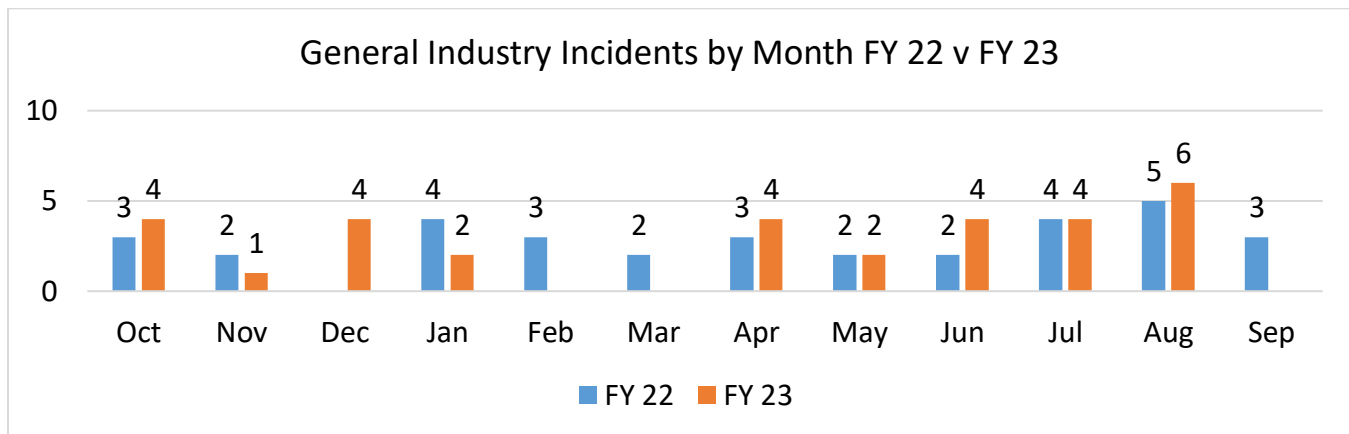
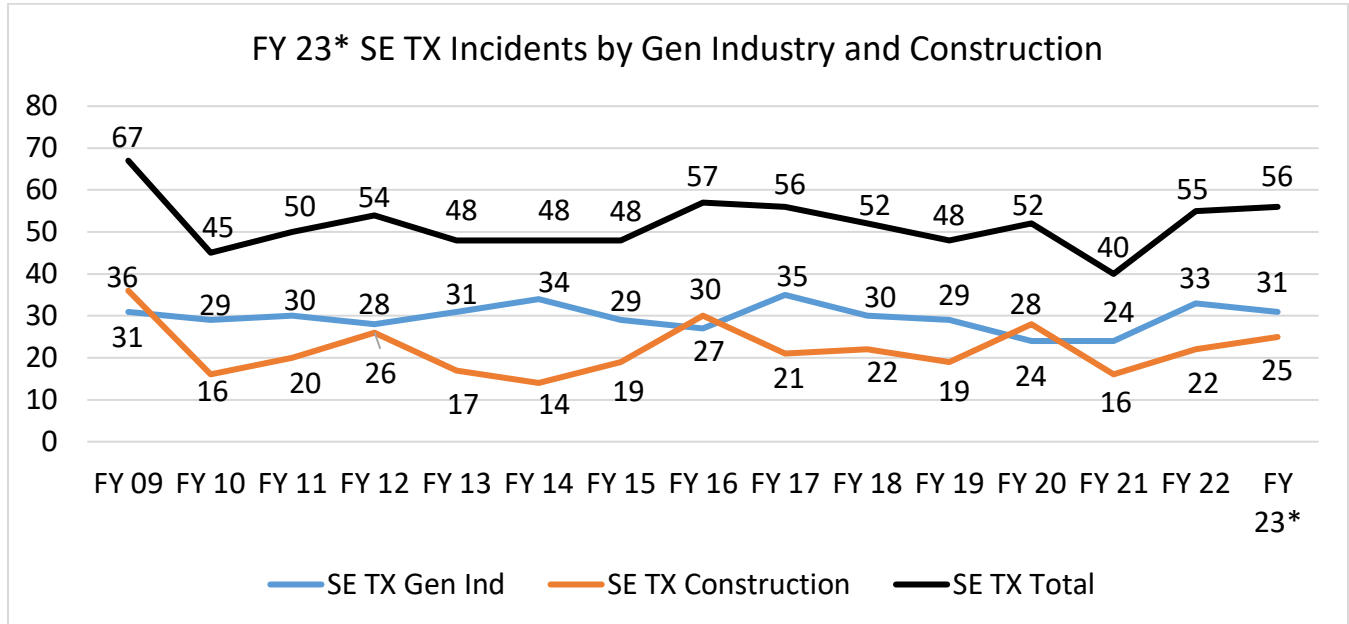
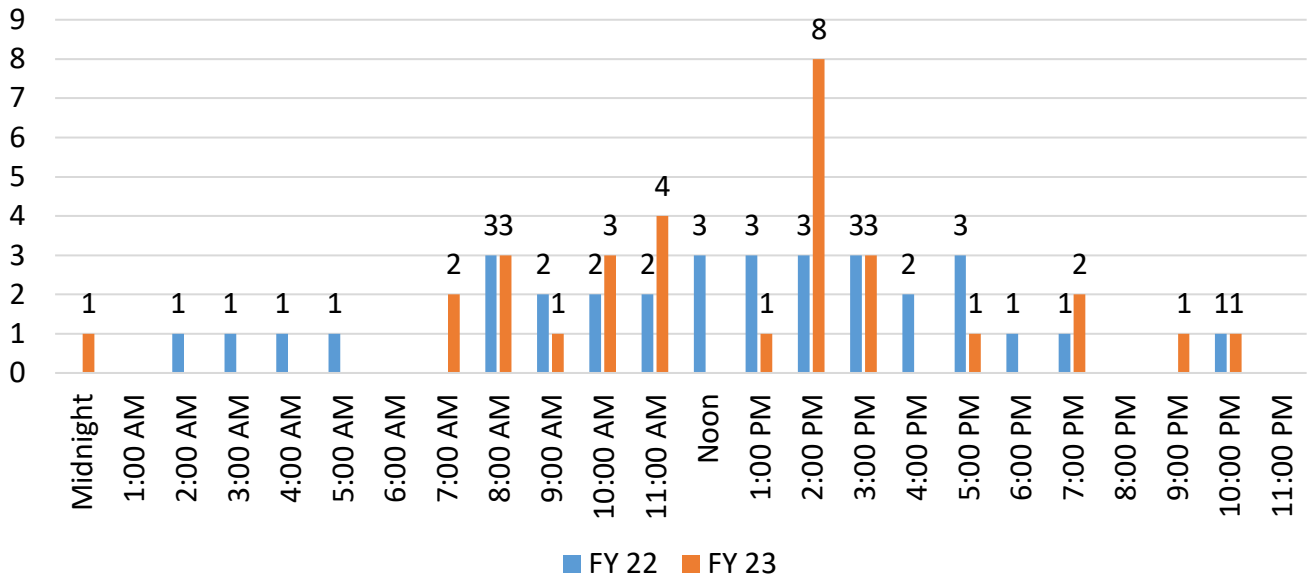


## FY 2023 Southeast Texas General Industry Fatality/Catastrophe\* Incidents\*\* (v1 Oct 2023)

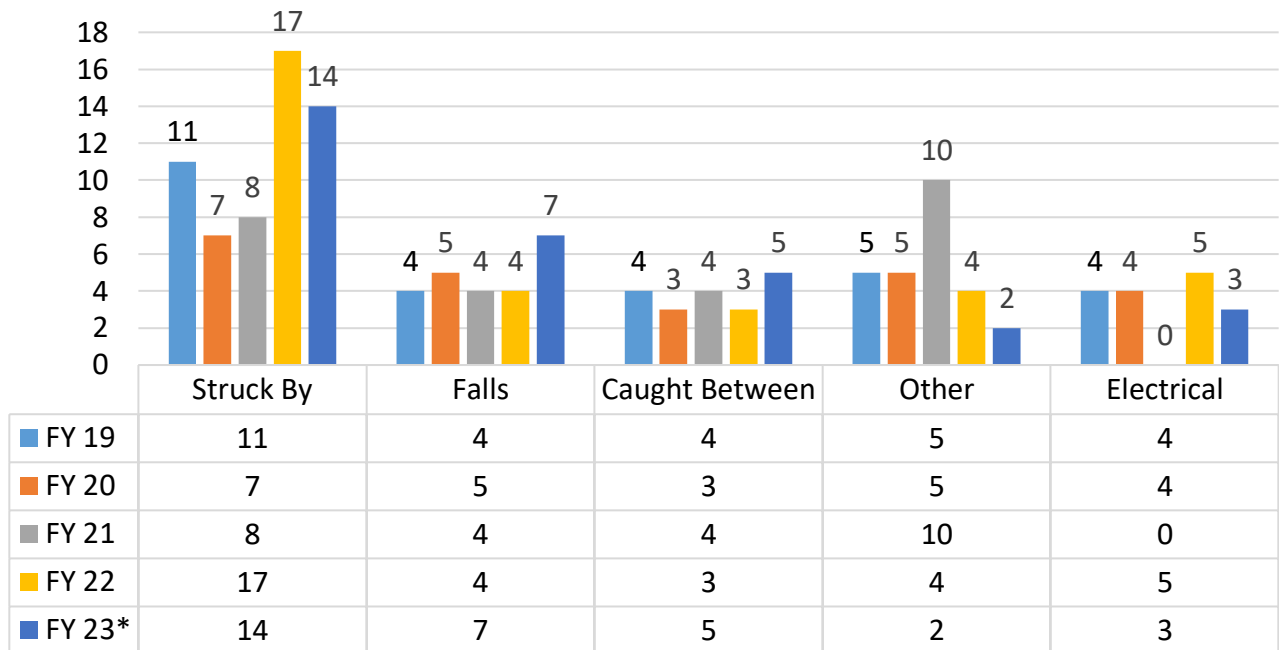
Based on records as of October 2, 2023, there were 56 fatality/catastrophe incidents in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 compared to 55 the previous year. These incidents don't include any reported natural causes, sole proprietor, roadway vehicle, drug, Covid-19, volunteers, suicides, non-OSHA covered entities, or workplace violence related deaths. Overall incidents increased by one, with a decrease in general industry and an increase in construction.



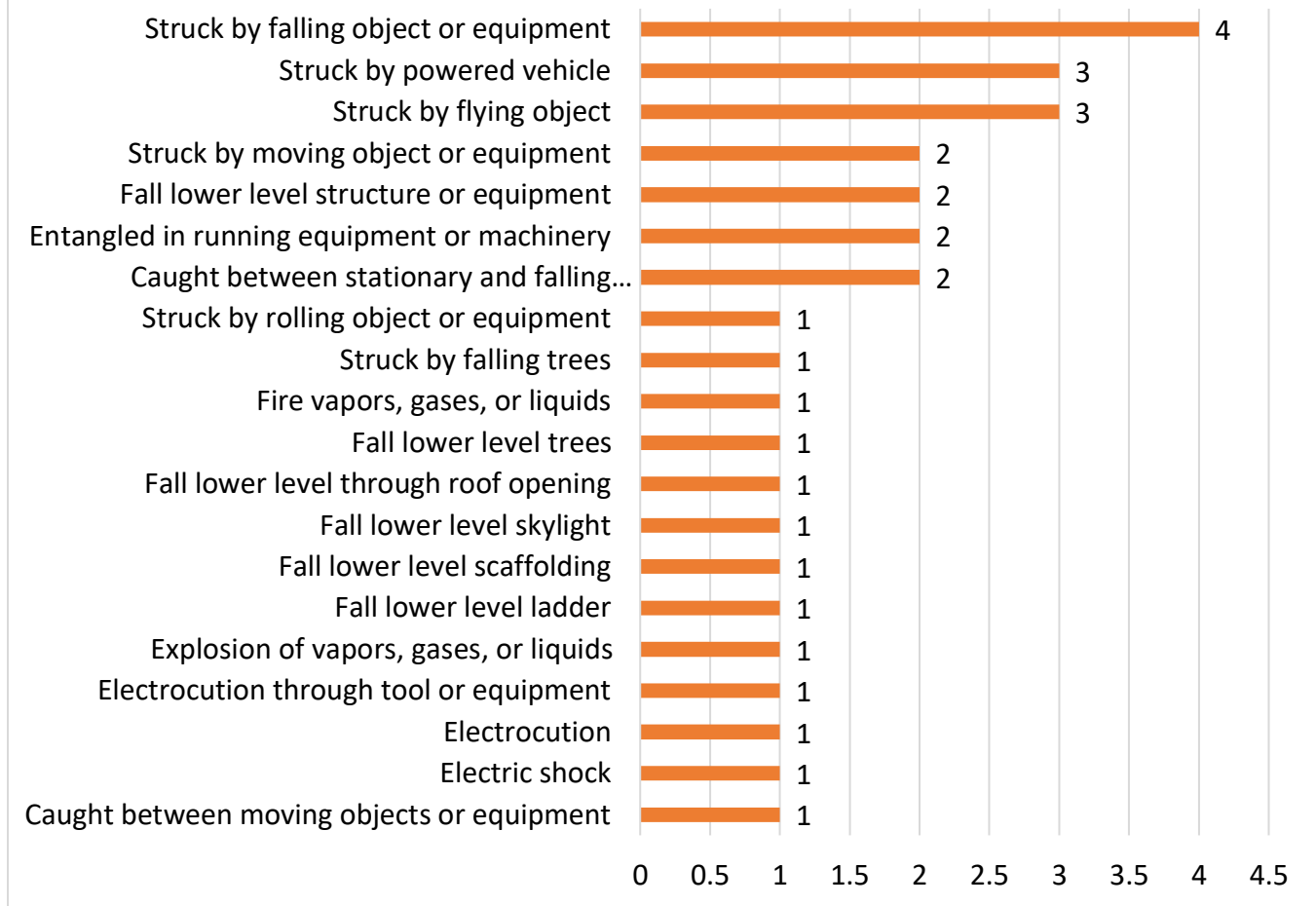
General Industry Incidents by Hour FY 22 v FY 23



FY 23 SE TX General Industry Incidents by Focus Four



### FY 23 General Industry Incidents by Event



### FY 23\* \*\* SE TX General Industry Fatality/Catastrophe Incident Narratives

#### Caught between moving objects or equipment

- Employee was pinned between cab and body of cab-over front-end loader

#### Caught between stationary and falling equipment or objects

- The employee was traveling up a ramp and lost control of the forklift which overturned, and he was crushed. He was not wearing his seatbelt.
- Employee was operating a forklift on an unimproved gravel road headed South. The employee turned right and went around a dumpster onto an intersecting gravel road to the West that had a parallel running drop off within about a foot of the gravel road. While making the turn they drove the forklift off the gravel road onto the drop off causing the forklift to overturn crushing them.

#### Electric shock

- An employee was working on the 2nd story of an apartment complex conducting maintenance work on a HVAC. He was shocked from the HVAC and fell to the ground and pronounced dead at the scene.

## Electrocution

- An employee was installing an electrical motor when he was electrocuted.

## Electrocution through tool or equipment

- Employee was working on a steel tubing induction line and as he was receiving the tubing on the conveyor he was electrocuted. It seems somehow the handrail he was touching became energized, the induction line had been installed approximately 10 days prior.

## Entangled in running equipment or machinery

- Employee was operating a drill press/nut tapper when their hair got caught in the machine causing multiple injuries to the face and head.
- Employee was operating a ribbon blender, used in mixing dry components and raw materials. He was cleaning the inside of a ribbon mixer, when the rotation of the machine started. He was killed inside the machine from multiple injuries.

## Explosion of vapors, gases, or liquids

- Employee had just finished emptying a 5-gallon cylinder which previously contained LPG in a fume hood. When the cylinder was set on the ground there was a spark, it exploded, and a fire followed. Two inspectors and a lab technician experienced 2nd degree burns on their face and hands.

## Fall lower-level ladder

- Employee was on a ladder taking down a banner sign off a building and fell off approximately 15' to the ground below.

## Fall lower-level scaffolding

- Employee fell from a scaffold located at a construction site. He was admitted to the hospital where he later passed away.

## Fall lower-level skylight

- Employee was part of a crew tasked with pressure washing the roof a metal industrial building. He was helping extend the hose of the pressure washer when he stepped onto a skylight. The skylight gave way and he fell approximately 34' to the ground, contacting an overhead crane on the way down. He received blunt trauma of the head and torso and multiple fractures and visceral injuries.

## Fall lower-level structure or equipment

- Employee was standing on the top of a powder coating booth installing the filters that had been removed for cleaning. He fell 20' from the top of the powder coating booth and landed on the concrete surface below and was pronounced deceased onsite.
- Employee got on top of a 20 yard dumpster that is approximately 5' tall to remove boxes so the dumpster could be taken away. He jumped down and felt pain in his neck that caused a headache. After they went home the pain got worse and his family called 911. The doctor stated he had a brain bleed and they passed away approximately 20 hours later.

#### Fall lower level through roof opening

- Building owner went on the roof to tell a construction worker to move his car. While on the roof, he fell 25' through the roof to the concrete ground.

#### Fall lower-level trees

- An individual was working in a tree approximately 20' up, trimming a tree branch. At one point the branch fell off the tree and collided with another branch that was still attached to the tree, causing the tree to break and fall with the individual still attached to the tree via a harness. They suffered multiple injuries from being struck by branches and died from his injuries two minutes after arriving at the hospital.

#### Fire vapors, gases, or liquids

- Two maintenance employees were performing a visual inspection and changing oil on elevated surface fin fan cooler when one of the naphtha pumps on the ground caught fire and it spread to other pipes and equipment. One maintenance employee already headed back to the ground and evacuated the unit, the other employee was trapped on the elevated structure and pronounced deceased on scene. Two other contract employees were preparing to perform vessel inspection and also had burn injuries and smoke inhalation.

#### Struck by falling object or equipment

- Employees were unloading and stacking bundles of steel tubing. The employee stepped in between two stacks of bundled tubing. One of the bundled tubing stacks got off balanced and fell over pinning them to the other stacked bundled tubing crushing him.
- Truck driver sustained head injuries after being struck by a cylindrical filter press while he was unchaining the load.
- Employee was part of a crew removing boxes from a crate and taking the boxes inside. He was strapping the boxes together when approximately 11 boxes of glass shower doors weighing about 100 pounds each fell on him.
- A forklift operator struck a stack of clothing bundles set three high causing a domino effect and an employee was hit by a falling bundle of clothes.

#### Struck by falling trees

- Employee who was operating a new tractor was found with serious head injuries when a tree that was on the land adjacent to the road to the landfill fell on top of them.

#### Struck by flying object

- Employee was working with a high-pressure hydraulic tank when the tank blew open. The end cap at the end of the tank hit them in the head and he died on site.
- Contractors had been working at the site for about a month and a half. They were going to remove the Christmas tree and install a blowout preventer on a gas well. They had a mobile pumping station that was hooked up to the Christmas tree to relieve the pressure in the well. They had connected approximately 50' of 2" pipe from the pumping station to the Christmas tree. When they

opened the valve on the Christmas tree, the pipe ruptured at the pumping station causing the pipe to swing wildly back and forth. The pipe was rated for 5000 lbs. and the estimated well pressure was 2500 lbs. An independent contractor and a contractor employee were killed. Three other contractor employees were struck by the pipe and hospitalized.

- Employee was putting air in a large multi-piece rim tire and when the tire was at 85 psi it exploded causing the rim to fly out and strike him and another employee walking nearby.

#### Struck by moving object or equipment

- Employee stepped out of their truck to close the dumpster doors when he was struck by an articulated wheeled front end loader that was backing up. He suffered a broken spine and multiple internal injuries and subsequently died.
- An employee was standing on the driver's side at the end of a dump truck trailer when it tilted and crushed him.

#### Struck by powered vehicle

- A security officer was working in the parking lot assisting school bus drivers exiting the parking lot and he was struck-by a bus that was backing up and died on the scene.
- An employee was struck by a car while crossing the street to get from the parking area to her work location.
- While conducting switch operations an employee was struck by a moving rail car causing fatal body trauma.

#### Struck by rolling object or equipment

- Employees were in the process of loading an estimated 35,000 lb. metal coil into a trailer mounted ISO container connected to a yard truck. The driver positioned the truck with container, opened the container doors for loading of the metal coil, and walked away to wait for container to be loaded. While the forklift operator was attempting to load the coil into container, the forklift tines caught on the underside of the container lifting the end of trailer. The container slipped off the tines and the coil slid hitting the container/trailer falling to ground abruptly pushing the entire truck and 20-foot container forward several feet. The forklift operator had thought the driver had gone into the office, but he was found under the truck's left rear wheels.

In FY 23, the following fatality/catastrophe incidents were reported in SE TX



\*Fatality and Catastrophe (3 or more workers injured in the same event) 'incidents' counted each fiscal year are compared using a core number. Many incidents are reported the SE TX OSHA offices that may be natural causes or 'recordable' because they are a work-related incident but may not be 'reportable' such as traffic accidents that are not in a construction workzone. Sole proprietors and non-federal government entities (in Texas) aren't covered by Federal OSHA. Covid-19, suspected drug related deaths and suicides were not included. Exceptions to recording of a work-related incident includes 'injury or illness solely the result of personal grooming, self-medication for a non-work-related condition, or is intentionally self-inflicted' and unpaid volunteers are not employees for recordkeeping purposes. Workplace violence is not included. The goal since 2009 has been to track the same types of incidents to get a rough comparison on whether core incidents increased or decreased.

\*\*Disclaimer: Preliminary information – The OSHA Fiscal Year (FY) runs from Oct 1 through September 30. Fatalities and Catastrophes are logged or recorded in various mediums and reports generated using various criteria. Late reporting, natural causes which may have generated an initial report, fatalities transferred to other jurisdictions and other factors may affect the overall numbers over time. SE TX data is edited to determine a count of fatalities/catastrophes under OSHA jurisdiction and may change over time as records are updated. **Narratives are based on the first report of injury and are edited for readability and may not reflect the final results of an investigation.** Some incidents may end up not being work related. Once medical determination is made the information will be updated. The information in this flyer is for accident prevention purposes and trending and is not intended to be a statistical study or evaluation. For questions contact the Houston North OSHA Office, Jim Shelton, CAS, at [shelton.james@dol.gov](mailto:shelton.james@dol.gov)