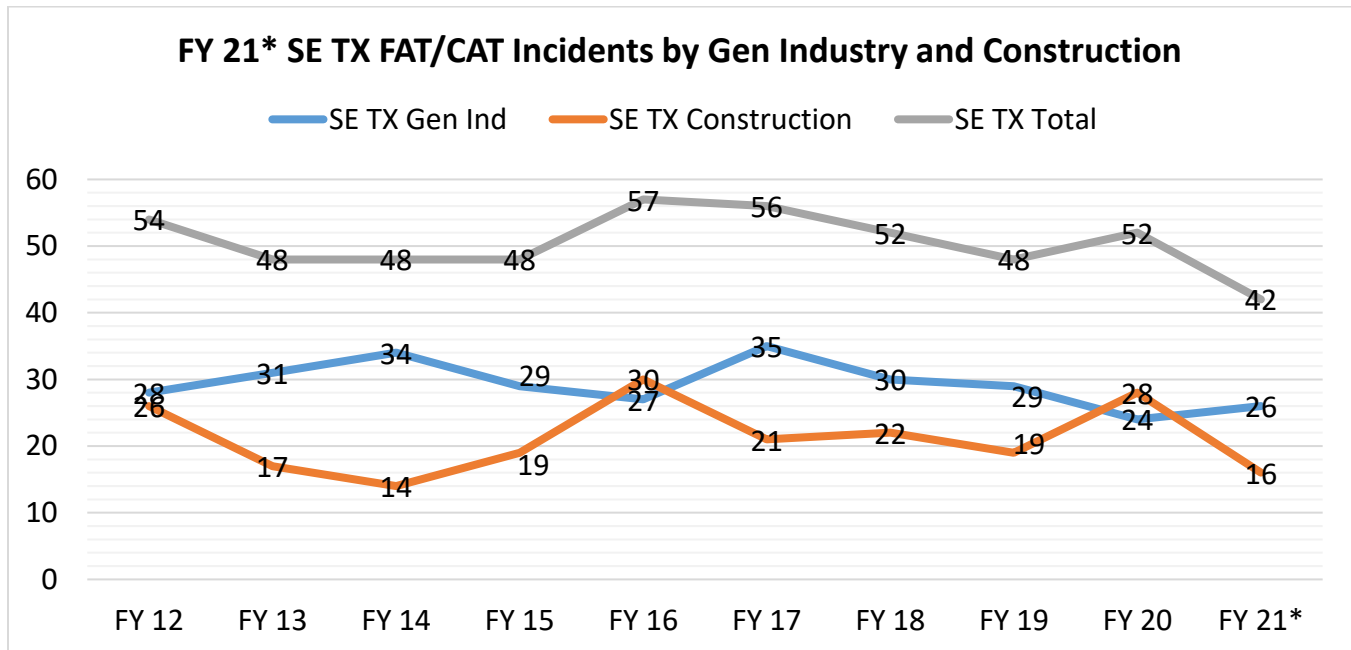


FY 2021 Southeast (SE) Texas Construction Fatality/Catastrophe (FAT/CAT) Incident Estimates* (v1 Oct 2021)

Based on records as of October 4, 2021, there were 42 total incidents in FY 2021 compared to 52 incidents the previous fiscal year. These incidents don't include any reported sole proprietor, vehicle related accidents, drug related, Covid-19, or workplace violence related deaths. Incidents in general industry increased** and construction decreased.

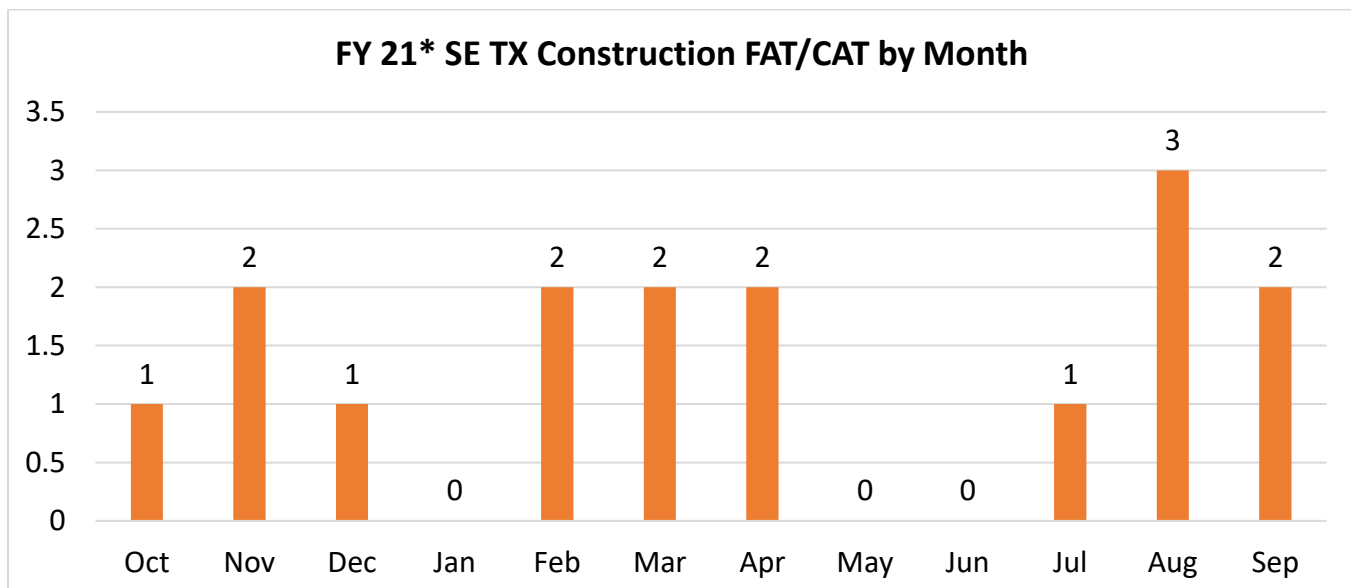


Average Age of Construction Worker

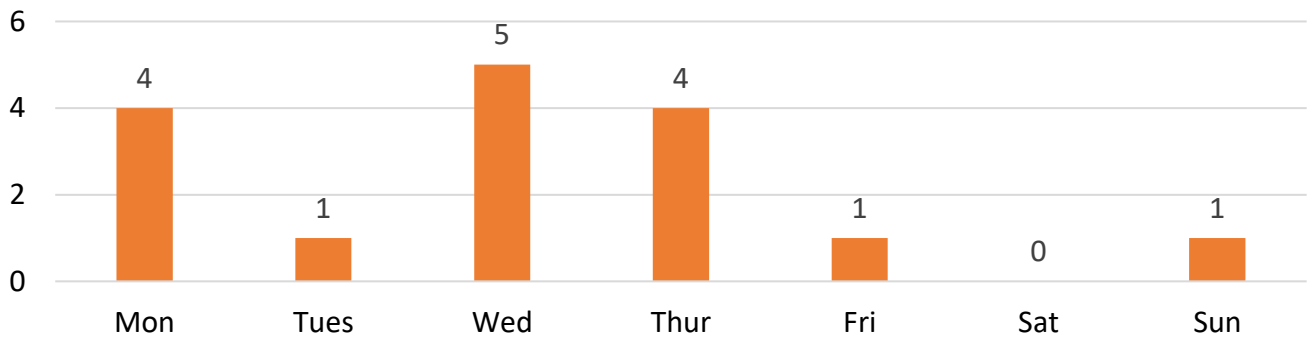
41.8 v 45.3 in FY 20

Median Age of Construction Worker

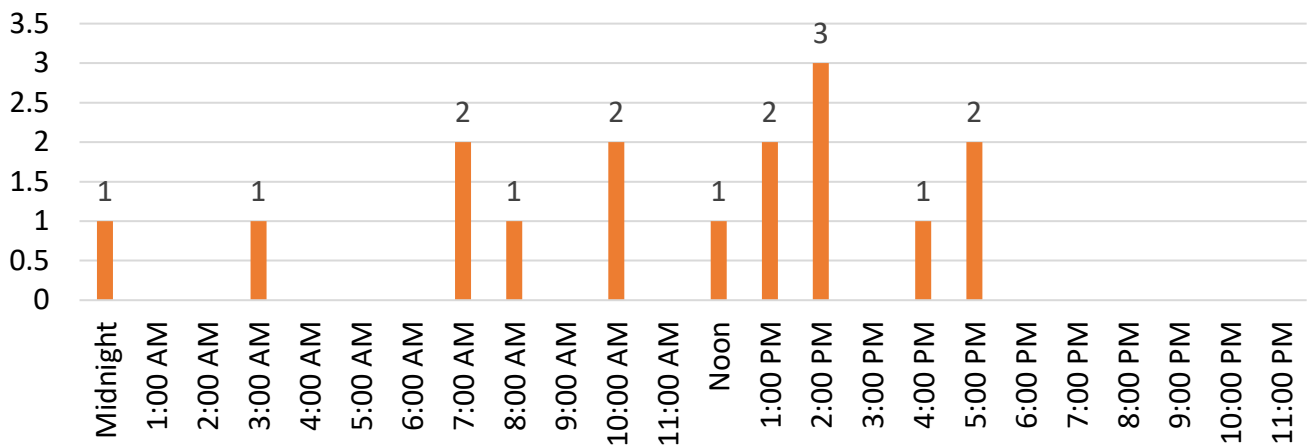
38.5 v 43.5 in FY 20



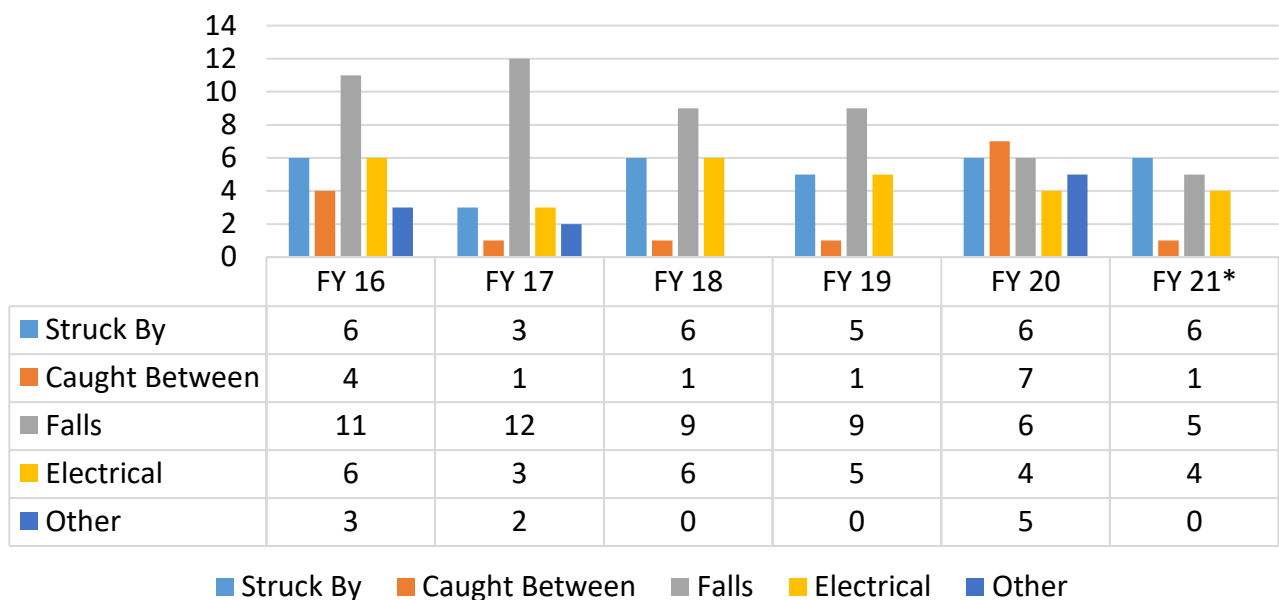
FY 21* SE TX Constuction FAT/CAT Incidents by Day of the Week



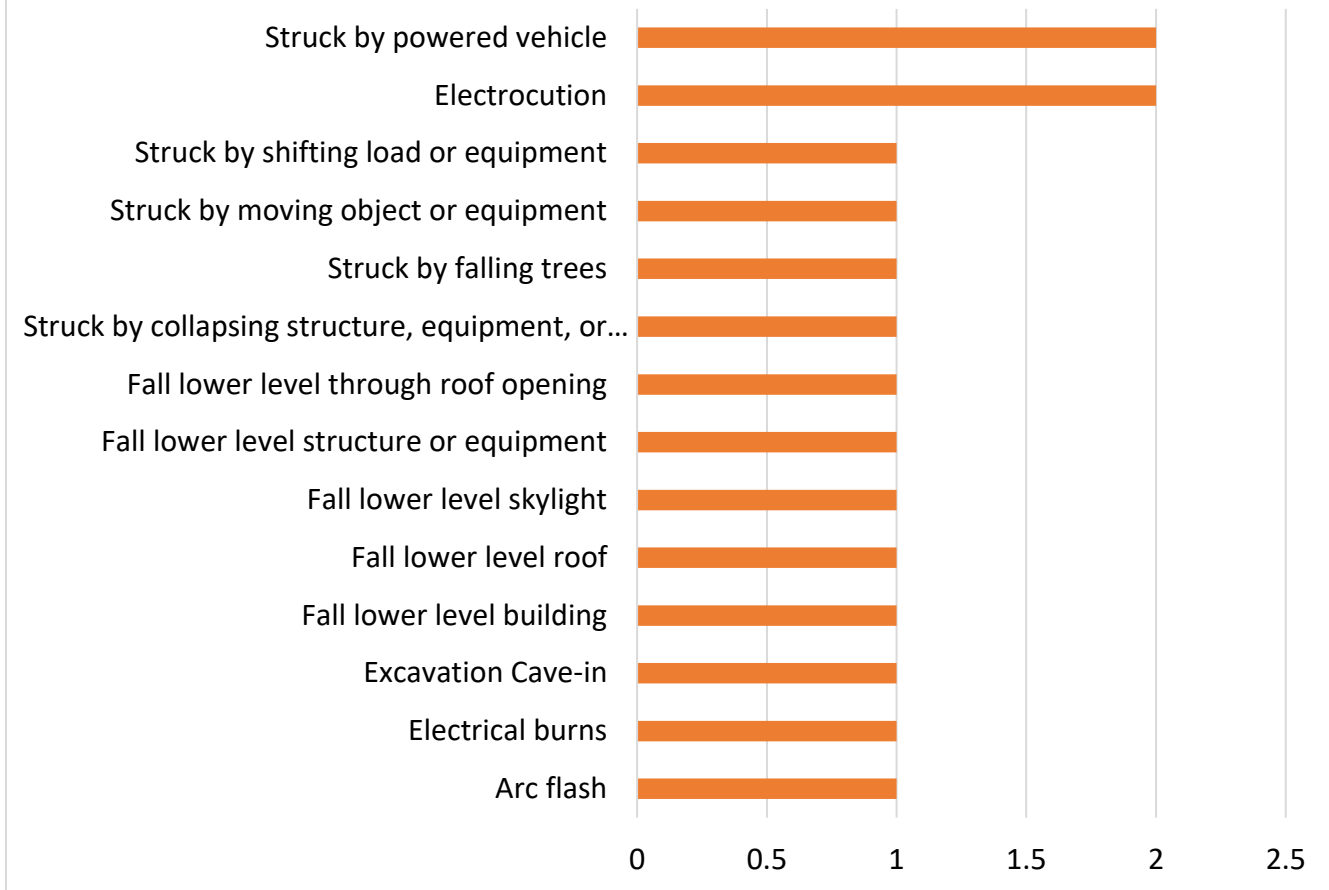
FY 21 * SE TX Construction FAT/CAT Incidents by Hour



FY 21* SE TX Construction FAT/CAT Incidents by Focus 4



FY 21* SE TX Construction FAT/CAT Incidents by Event



FY 21* SE TX Construction Fatality/Catastrophe Incidents

Arc flash

- Two employees and a foreman were going to change out a section of one circuit, three phase underground power lines. They de-energized the infeed transformer for the circuit they thought they were going to be working on. They changed out the wires from the transformer to two pull boxes located between the infeed transformer and the stepdown transformer next to the building. When the accident occurred, they were going to change out a section of the circuit from the last pull box to the step down transformer next to the building so they needed to cut the lines in the pull box. They did de-energize one of the circuits but there was a second circuit that was routed close to the one they de-energized. The circuit that was in the last pull box was the live circuit. The lines were 34,500 volts. One employee was holding the line as the foreman cut it. When the foreman cut the line is caused an arc flash injuring the employee and killing the foreman.

Electrical burns

- Employee came into contact with live electrical lines while performing electrical utility work from a bucket truck. He suffered electrical burns on both arms and later passed away from his injuries.

Electrocution

- Employee was working from a ladder moving electrical boxes and installing overhead lights. The 277 v wires were energized and when he touched an exposed wire he was electrocuted and fell from the ladder.
- Employee was in the process of leveling the house along with another employee and his back contacted a live electrical wire.

Excavation cave-in

- An employee entered an excavation to check for a leak in the sewer line and the trench collapsed causing asphyxiation and crushing injuries.

Fall lower level building

- A framing crew was installing a sub floor on the second story of a residential house under construction. Employees were making the final cuts to a piece of oriented strand board (OSB) that had extended over the edge of the building. They were cutting the board to make it flush with the wall beneath. The employee was conducting housekeeping activities while the rest of the crew finished up the cuts. One employee was standing on the right of the board while another employee was on the left side cutting. A third employee was standing in between the other two observing. At the time of the incident, two cuts had been made to the board with the last cut remaining to be completed. The three employees were all facing the street and did not observe the other employee coming up behind them. He stepped on the board being cut which snapped under his weight and he fell approximately 11' to the concrete ground below.

Fall lower level roof

- Employee was re-roofing a residential home when he fell to the ground and died at the hospital.

Fall lower level skylight

- Employee was doing roof repairs and fell through 19' through a skylight.

Fall lower level structure or equipment

- Two employees were in a personnel basket that was attached to the jib of a crane. The employees were assisting with the installation of arms for a power line tower/monopole. As the employees were adjusting a bracket on the arm of the monopole, the personnel basket fell 150' when it came off the crane boom. One employee died at the scene and the second employee was transported to the hospital and survived.

Fall lower level through roof opening

- Employee fell through a 30' roof opening while conducting roofing operations and died.

Struck by collapsing structure, equipment, or material

- Employees on the 13th and 14th floor were in the process of adjusting the stairs for proper elevation. Employees in between the 5th and 6th floors were in the process of making adjustments

to the handrails of the staircases. To complete the task of adjusting the stairs to the proper elevation, the employees were using a 20-foot webbed sling, and two 3-ton chain hoists were attached to the 20-foot eyelets of the sling as it was wrapped over the overhead stairs (14th floor). The chain hoist was attached to each side of the sling, while the other end of the hoist is attached to the anchor point of the stair below; therefore, creating what was believed to be a basket hitch. The crew went to cut the stairs at the landing that had been previously welded and lift it with the sling that was wrapped around the staircase above their heads by pulling on the chain fall hoist attached to each end of the sling. They would pull the chain hoist and lift each side of the stair approximately 5 inches. The crew went to lift the stairs approximately 5 inches and add a ¼" shim under the stair and reattached with a 5/16" weld to the landing. At the time they were making these corrections, the stairs on the 13th and 14th floor was not welded or bolted down. The employees were in the process of adjusting the stairs for proper elevation when the 14th staircase collapsed hitting the 13th floor, which caused all of the stairs directly below them to collapse as well. The three employees that were tied off to the staircases were taken down with the co

Struck by falling trees

- Employee was suspended in the air trimming a large tree with a chain saw. He was half way through a large branch when it dropped and struck him causing a severe blunt force injury.

Struck by moving object or equipment

- Employees were preparing to remove the backup breakout wrench that was attached to a drill stem when the drill stem begin to spin causing the backup breakout wrench to strike an employee. The wrench rotated a second time and struck him and threw him underneath the drill stem.

Struck by powered vehicle

- A foreman was talking on the phone and walking on the side of the road when he was struck-by a front-end loader that was backing up. The back-up alarms on the front-end loader were operational.
- Employee was a spotter on a road project issuing tickets to drivers pulling belly drop trailers. He provided a truck driver a ticket and the driver began to maneuver the truck into position. The employee was located on the side of a middle truck positioned on the eastbound lane. The lanes are blocked off for construction. He kneeled down to write up the next ticket and the other truck operator lost sight of his whereabouts and he was struck by the rear of the trailer dragging him approximately 6'- 7'. A co-workers shouted for the driver to stop the truck. They died at the site.

Struck by shifting load or equipment

- Employee was struck by the boom of a concrete pump truck while pouring concrete at commercial work site. The front driver's side of the pump truck penetrated the wooden cribbing and soil causing it to tilt. He suffered blunt force trauma to the upper body and was pronounced dead at the scene.

The FAT/CAT 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'. Workplace violence is not included. As a late reporting employer remarked, 'we didn't know murders needed to be reported' and its possible workplace violence deaths may potentially be under-reported even though they are both 'reportable' and 'recordable'. The goal since 2009 has been to track the same types of FAT/CAT incidents to get a rough comparison on whether core incidents increased or decreased.

In FY 21, the following estimated FAT/CAT incidents were reported in SETX



Whether a work place death is 'work-related' or not, there are too many workers who die while they are at work. In FY 22 OSHA will be doing outreach in the areas of mental health/suicide prevention along with opioids. Natural cause deaths show that workers suffer from a number of serious chronic diseases. A worker health initiative in your company may be beneficial.

*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 rewritten and edited and may not reflect the final results of an investigation. Motor vehicle incidents, workplace violence, sole proprietors, Covid-19, drug related, suicide etc. are not included. The numbers and information are 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

**Due to the nature of some reported incidents, several general industry incidents may end up not being work related. Once medical determination is made the information will be updated