



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, trenching and excavation work are hazardous construction operations performed by many Tennesseans every day; and

WHEREAS, construction employers and employees who work in trenching and excavating need continuous access to education and training in identifying hazards associated with these activities; and

WHEREAS, trench collapse deaths are easily preventable with proper shielding, shoring, sloping, and training; and

WHEREAS, despite increased training and hazard identification, recent national statistics on trench injuries and deaths show an alarming increase, and in 2016, the United States Occupation Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) reported that trench injuries and deaths were nearly double the average of the previous five years; and

WHEREAS, the National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA), a national construction trade association with a newly chartered Middle Tennessee chapter, representing underground utility and excavation contractors, has created an annual week to focus on education and training in trenching and excavating hazard awareness known as the "Trench Safety Stand Down" that is approved by OSHA and sponsored by the North American Excavation and Shoring Association;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim June 17-21, 2019 as

Trench Safety Stand Down Week

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this seventeenth day of May, 2019.

Bill Lee

Governor

John H. Kuyatt

Secretary of State

