



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**, despite increased training and hazard identification, national statistics on trench injuries and deaths show an alarming increase, and data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates there were 353 fatalities recorded in construction trenching between 2004 and 2017; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA), a national construction trade association with chapters in Middle and East Tennessee, 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 supported by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA);

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of June 14 – June 18, 2021 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 twenty-seventh day of May, 2021

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Stacy Dargatzis*

Secretary of State