



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, trenching and excavation work are construction operations performed by many citizens every day; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA), in partnership with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) share a belief that safe trenching and excavating are critical functions; and

**WHEREAS**, it is vital that construction employers and employees who work in trenching and excavation have access to education and training in identifying hazards associated with these activities; and

**WHEREAS**, companies around the state should acknowledge and draw attention to specific hazards related to working in and around trenches and excavations; and

**WHEREAS**, trench collapse deaths are 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, with OSHA reported 39 trench collapse deaths in 2022, up from 15 fatalities in 2021;

**THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim June 19-23, 2023, 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 fifth day of June 2023.



Handwritten signature of Bill Lee in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of the Secretary of State in blue ink.

Secretary of State