



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**, with increased training and hazard identification, recent national statistics indicate that improvements are being realized, with OSHA reporting 15 trench collapse deaths in 2023, down from 39 in 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, this proclamation commemorates the annual week to focus on education and training in trenching and excavating hazard awareness known as the "Trench Safety Stand Down" in partnership with NUCA, its Chapters, and OSHA;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim June 17-23, 2024, 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 June, 2024.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*DeWitt*

Secretary of State