

August 2023

## DOE Accident Investigation Board Initiated

Subcontractor Injury Resulting in a Fatality: August 11, 2023  
Oak Ridge Reservation, Tree Removal Activity

**Purpose:** The Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security is sharing information about a recent incident that resulted in a fatality while performing mission-related work within the Department of Energy (DOE) complex. A Federal Accident Investigation Board has been convened due to the severity of the event. The information in this notice is from the initial incident response and is subject to change based on the outcomes of the full investigation.

### Incident Information:

Site/Project: Oak Ridge Reservation, Oak Ridge, TN

Event Description: During a tree removal and trimming operation on August 11, 2023, a subcontractor employee was seriously injured when reportedly struck by falling debris. The worker subsequently died from the injuries.

Immediate actions taken: Local emergency responders transported the injured worker to the local Oak Ridge hospital for treatment and subsequently by Life Star helicopter to a medical center in Knoxville, Tennessee. The work area was secured, and the scene preserved, pending independent investigation.

**Accident Investigation Board Initiation:** On August 14, the Office of Science issued a charge letter to appoint an Accident Investigation Board in accordance with [DOE O 225.1B, Accident Investigations](#) with a team of Federal employees and a qualified accident investigator.

This event meets the criteria of DOE O 225.1B, Appendix A, item 2.a.(1): *any injury or chemical or biological exposure that results in, or is likely to result in, the fatality of an employee or member of the public. Fatal injury is defined as any injury that results in death within 30 calendar days of the accident.*

### Additional Information is available in the Occurrence Reporting and Processing System (ORPS):

SC-RsMg-ORNL-ETMC-99G-2023-0001, *Employee Injured by Fallen Tree Branch*, Reporting Level H (access to ORPS is limited to approved account holders).



For questions or to provide feedback related to the [DOE Accident Prevention and Investigation Program](#), contact Jason Brustad at (202) 384-5506 or [Jason.Brustad@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Jason.Brustad@hq.doe.gov). For questions and feedback about the [DOE Corporate Operating Experience Program](#) and its products, contact Maria Dikeakos at (631) 574-0220 or [Maria.Dikeakos@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Maria.Dikeakos@hq.doe.gov).