



Municipal Technical Advisory Service  
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## Total Number of Days Away from Work

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The following document was created from the Municipal Technical Advisory Services website ([mtas.tennessee.edu](https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu)). This website shares information relative to Tennessee municipal government. We hope this information will be useful to you and that it will assist you with questions that arise in your tenure in municipal government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

The Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) was created in 1949 to provide technical assistance to elected and appointed municipal officials in Tennessee. We are a resource for Tennessee municipal officials in areas of municipal government, human resources, finance, fire, legal, police, public works, water, and wastewater. We provide personal and professional knowledge growth opportunities on current issues within municipal government.

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# Table of Contents

<b>Total Number of Days Away from Work .....</b>	<b>3</b>
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# Total Number of Days Away from Work

Reference Number: MTAS-1983

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The total number of days away from work may be capped at 180 calendar days. Employers are not required to keep track of the number of days away from work if the injury or illness lasts more than 180 days. In such a case, entering 180 in the total days away column will be considered adequate. 29 C.F.R. § 1904.7(b)(3)(vii). Additionally, if an employee who is away from work because of a work-related injury or illness retires or leaves the company, you may stop counting days if the reason for leaving is unrelated to the injury or illness. If, however, the employee leaves the company because of the injury or illness, you must estimate the total number of days away or days of restricted/job transfer and enter the day count on the 300 Log. 29 C.F.R. § 1904.7(b)(3)(viii).

In situations where a case occurs in one year but results in days away during the next calendar year, you must record the injury or illness only once. You must enter the number of calendar days away for the injury or illness on the OSHA 300 Log for the year in which the injury or illness occurred. If the employee is still away from work when you prepare the annual summary, you must estimate the total number of calendar days the employee is expected to be away, use that number to calculate the total for the annual summary, and then update the initial log entry later when the day count is known or reaches the 180-day cap. 29 C.F.R. § 1904.7(b)(3)(ix).

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**Source URL:** <https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/reference/total-number-days-away-work>