

Safety Update

Ohio BWC Library



April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month

The National Safety Council recognizes April as Distracted Driving Month. It has [free materials on its website](#), including a cell phone policy kit to assist employers with getting the message out to their employees of the dangers of distracted driving.

Distraction.gov also [has materials for employers](#) to use to educate their employees about the dangers of distracted driving. It provides videos, pledge forms, sample policies and posters

NIOSH/CDC News

We Are Not Getting Enough Sleep!

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) on a 2014 study of the Prevalence of Healthy Sleep Duration among Adults. More than 444,000 adults participated from all 50 states. The report shows difference by age, sex, and state. See how your state compares.

NIOSH releases new information about Occupational Exposure to Heat and Hot Environments

The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) released the updated [Criteria for a Recommended Standard: Occupational Exposure to Heat and Hot Environments](#). The revision includes additional information about the physiological changes that result from heat stress; updated information from relevant studies, such as those on caffeine use; evidence to redefine heat stroke and associated symptoms; and updated information on physiological monitoring and personal protective equipment and clothing to use to control heat stress.

Preventing Falls from Aerial Lifts

If you use aerial lifts in your facility, you will want to look at this [recent website](#) from NIOSH. The site lists Where and Why are Aerial Lifts Used and provides information on risks, standards and resources regarding the use of aerial lifts as well as a link to NIOSH educational tools, including videos and an aerial lift simulator program.

Make Sure Older Drivers in the Workplace Stay Safe

Motor vehicle crashes account for 32 percent of all work-related deaths among workers age 55 or older. Learn how to stay safe on the road! This [fact sheet](#) gives employers and workers information on age-related physical and mental changes that may affect older workers' driving. It is important to accommodate these changes so older workers may continue to contribute their expertise to the workplace under the safest conditions possible.

Traumatic Brain Injuries in Construction

A recent blog post from the [NIOSH Science Blog](#) discusses the risk of traumatic brain injury (TBI) in the construction industry. From 2003 to 2010, 2,210 construction workers died because of a TBI (a rate of 2.6 per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers). These deaths represented 25 percent of all construction fatalities and 24 percent of all occupational TBI fatalities during the same period. The post links to the fall protection campaign.

OSHA News

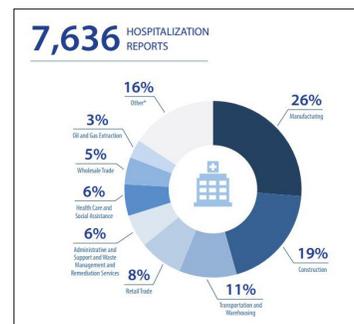
New Hazard Alert for the Oil and Gas Industry

A new joint NIOSH and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) hazard alert identifies health and safety risks to oil and gas industry workers who manually gauge or sample fluids on production and flow-back tanks. [Health and Safety Risks for Workers Involved in Manual Tank Gauging and Sampling at Oil and Gas Extraction Sites](#) makes 10 recommendations that employers can take to ensure workers are properly aware of the hazards and protected from exposure to hydrocarbon gases and vapors.

New OSHA Injury Reporting Requirements – One Year Later

The [U.S. Department of Labor blog](#) reported on the first year of the new OSHA reporting regulations requiring employers to report any work-related severe injury. Since that time, OSHA has received more than 10,000 reports of which more than 7,000 involved hospitalization. Most reports came from the manufacturing, construction, transportation and warehousing sectors.

OSHA produced a [report of its evaluation](#) of the first year of the program with details about the injury numbers, stories from field offices and analysis.



Other News

Night Shift Driving and Near Miss Collision Risk

The journal [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America](#) published an article on the risks of drowsy driving after working a night shift. The researchers found that for the drivers they tested on a closed driving track, night-shift work increased driver drowsiness, degraded driving performance and increased the risk of near-crash drive events.

State Reports on Health and Workplace Safety

Underwriters Laboratories reported on the [health and workplace safety](#) of all 50 states in the U.S. The report captured 2012 data from reports such as United Health Foundation's America's Health Rankings®; the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries and National Compensation Survey; and the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine's Blueprint for Health. Ohio ranked above average on the safety side but below average on the health side. See page 37 in the report for Ohio results.

52 Construction Talks in Spanish

The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) and The Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR) recently released a collection of [Spanish-language Safety Toolbox Talks](#). They cover topics relevant to the construction industry including: biohazard safety; carbon monoxide poisoning; confined spaces; fall protection; eye protection; silica; trench safety; and workplace stress among others. The Safety Toolbox Talks provide content for a year of weekly on-site discussions.

Disaster Video Simulation

The Chemical Safety Hazard and Investigation Board released a safety [video](#) Jan. 29 on the 2013 fatal explosion and fire at West Fertilizer Co. in West Texas. The video includes a simulation of what happened and shows how lack of zoning created a danger zone around the plant that housed hazardous materials.

Leading Indicators

This [one-hour presentation video](#) describes the NSC Campbell Institute's previous two years of leading indicators research. The video explained their importance and shared specific examples of indicators. It then delves into the results of the latest white paper that provides case studies and advice for getting started with leading indicators at your organization.

Please contact the library@bwc.state.oh.us or 614-466-7388 for more information on any of these items.