

# Safety Update

## Ohio BWC Library

### Updated Haz-Map

The National Library of Medicine updated its [Haz-Map](#) website. The database is a map of workplace hazards to help businesses prevent occupational diseases. Haz-Map links jobs and hazardous tasks with occupational diseases and their symptoms. It covers more than 9,170 agents and 241 occupational diseases.

This year, the National Library of Medicine added 481 chemical and biological agents to the database. This includes 23 that cause occupational asthma. It also added 15 hazardous job tasks linked to specific industries and diseases. For more information, see the [Haz-Map Fact Sheet](#).

### NIOSH News

#### CDC Mobile App

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) mobile application puts health information at your fingertips. It features important health articles, disease of the week, popular journals, timely updates, and access to social media. Wherever you go, have 24/7 access to important and timely health information. You can use this information to protect yourself and your loved ones. The app is available in several popular formats. Download from the [App store](#), [GooglePlay](#) or [Microsoft Windows 8](#)

#### Preventing Falls through the Design of Roof Parapets

Construction, operation, maintenance, and demolition of buildings expose workers to risks from falls. Parapets, which are the parts of the wall assembly that extend above the roof can prevent falls from low-sloped (flat) roofs. The National Institute of Safety and Health (NIOSH) [Prevention through Design](#) document outlines steps that you can take during the design phase of buildings to make them safer for workers during construction renovations.

## OSHA News

### The Next GHS Deadline

The deadline for training employees on the new Safety Data Sheets and Globally Harmonized System (GHS) labels was Dec. 1, 2013. Therefore, you should already have done that. If you haven't, you can get online training from the [BWC website](#).

The next deadline is June 1, 2015, when chemical manufacturers, importers, distributors must comply with all the requirements of the GHS rule (e.g., hazard classification, SDS format). This Occupational Safety and Health Administration ([OSHA](#)) [fact sheet](#) has the schedule and more information about GHS.

### Updated OSHA Asbestos Fact Sheet

OSHA has updated its [fact sheet for asbestos hazards](#). The updated publication contains revised information for employers and workers. It describes the hazards of asbestos on the job, protections that exist in OSHA standards and workers' rights.

### OSHA Accepts ANSI Z535-style Signs

OSHA revised the 29CFR 1910.145 specifications for signs and tags allowing for either OSHA or ANSI Z535 style signs to be used in workplaces. In June 2013, OSHA updated its incorporated references on signs in its regulations to allow companies to follow the updated ANSI standards. ANSI Z535.1-2006(R2011), Z535.2-2011 and Z535.5-2011. The [rule](#) went into effect on Sept 11, 2013.

### Communication Tower Dangers

Thirteen workers in the communication tower industry were killed at communication tower work sites in 2013. This is more worker deaths than in the previous two years combined. In the first weeks of 2014, four more workers died due to accidents at communication tower work sites. In response to this increase in fatalities and injuries, OSHA created a [website](#) for communication tower safety. Learn about how to stay safe at these dangerous construction sites.

## Other News

### Law Enforcement Fatalities at a Six Year Low

According to preliminary data compiled by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, 111 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty in 2013. This is an 8-percent decrease from 2012, when 121 officers were killed in the line of duty. This was the fewest number of fatalities for the law enforcement profession. Law enforcement deaths are at their lowest in six years. See the full report [here](#).

### Fatal Occupational Injuries Involving Contractors, 2011

Before 2011, the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries captured data only on the firm that directly employed the decedent. However, the firm directly employing the decedent is not always the firm at which the decedent was working at the time of the incident. A good example is when the person killed was a contractor. This [visual essay](#) looks at new data on contractors, highlighting interesting similarities and differences between these workers and those who are not contractors.

## Position for Safety and Comfort Poster

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Working in the same posture or sitting still for prolonged periods is not healthy. Although sitting requires less physical effort than standing or walking, it puts stress on the lumbar area. Over time, the effects of a sedentary lifestyle combined with a job that requires sitting can lead to various health problems, including musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). Learning and practicing how to sit properly can reduce stress and strain on your muscles, tendons and skeletal system.

The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety developed a poster to help guide you on how to position yourself for safety and comfort, and to reduce the risk of developing MSDs in the workplace. Download the poster for free [here](#).

## Report on Health Consequences of Smoking

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Fifty years after the release of the first Surgeon General's report on smoking and health, tobacco use has declined remarkably. Since 1964, smoking prevalence among U.S. adults has been reduced by half. Unfortunately, tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of disease, disability, and death in the United States. In 2014, the Surgeon General released the 50th Anniversary Surgeon General's Report, [The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress](#). The report highlights half a century of progress in tobacco control and prevention. In addition, it presents new data on the health consequences of tobacco use, and introduces initiatives that can potentially end the tobacco use epidemic in the United States.

## Online Guide to Safety Analysis for Accident Prevention

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This free [book](#) is available online from the Swedish Institute for Risk Management and Safety Analysis. It is about safety analysis being used as a tool for accident prevention. It presents more than 40 analytic methods, including techniques for risk evaluation, such as the Risk Matrix. The book emphasizes general methods that you can apply in a variety of areas. These include, industry, production, transport, medicine, and public events. You can use the methods to analyze systems and to investigate accidents, and thereby generate knowledge for systematic improvements.

Please contact the [library@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:library@bwc.state.oh.us) or 614-466-7388 for more information on any of these items.