

# Using the Internet to find safety information

By Karen Jensen



## Introduction

As you use *BWC's Safety talks*, you may find you know some topics better than others. Before presenting a topic to your group, you may want to brush up on it with additional information. The Internet is a great source of information. But where do you start? Below are pointers to help you find what you're looking for.

## Three sites to get you started

These Web sites offer a variety of workplace safety and health information. They may be all you need.

### **www.osha.gov**

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Web site is an excellent place to check first, especially if OSHA has a standard or rule on a particular topic. If you want more information on hazard communication or bloodborne pathogens or lockout/tagout, OSHA is an authoritative source. The best way to navigate the site is to use the A to Z index at the top of the home page. Select the first letter of the topic, for example H for hazard communication, and you will gain access to a plethora of information on your selected topic.

### **www.cdc.gov/niosh**

Like OSHA, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is a federal government agency. However, instead of issuing standards, NIOSH conducts research. You can navigate the site by using the A to Z index on the home page. NIOSH is especially strong on information about workplace health issues.

### **www.ohiobwc.com**

From BWC's home page, select Safety services to access a variety of tools and resources, including publications, lifting guidelines, ergonomics information and training materials. There are also links to other Web sites on occupational safety and health, disaster planning and ergonomics.

## Where to find additional information

You can find more occupational safety and health information via lists or directories that organizations or individuals have compiled. On BWC's Web site, you'll find links to many safety-and health-related sites in the Safety services section under Online tools and resources. Below are other sources for workplace safety and health information.

**<http://www.croetweb.com>**

CROETweb.com is an occupational safety and health resource directory sponsored by the Center for Research on Occupational and Environmental Toxicology (CROET) at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, Ore.

**<http://www.osh.net>**

Osh.Net is an Internet gateway for occupational health and safety resources and information.

**Improving your Internet searches**

Here are suggestions on how to improve Internet searches.

**Search terms:** The search terms we use can help refine a search. If you're not getting what you're looking for, try thinking about other terms you can use. Instead of "forklift," for example, try "powered industrial truck," or "lift truck."

**Advanced search:** Most search functions have an advanced search option. If you use a particular search engine regularly, learn how to use its advanced search. It will help you narrow your searches by giving you the ability to use phrases and limit by format and domain. A search for the phrase "power press" will be more precise than a search for "power" and "press" as separate terms. With advanced search, you can specify you want a PowerPoint presentation on your topic. If you want to avoid commercial sites, you can limit your search to only government and/or university sites.

**BWC's Division of Safety & Hygiene libraries**

If you've spent about 20 minutes or more searching for information and still haven't found what you're looking for, you can call BWC's librarians for assistance. They can help you refine your search, suggest appropriate sites or e-mail you links to Web pages that will answer your questions. You can reach the BWC librarians by calling 1-800-OHIOBWC and following the prompts.

**Karen Jensen** has been a librarian with BWC's Division of Safety & Hygiene libraries since 1986. She assists internal and external customers who have information inquiries, primarily on the subject of occupational safety and health. She also is responsible for adding new titles to BWC's video library.