

Safety Update

Ohio BWC Library

BWC accepting submissions for safety talks

As in previous years, BWC's Division of Safety & Hygiene (DSH) is accepting articles to build its library of safety resources for Ohio's employers and employees from both *internal* and *external* sources.

Safety professionals are encouraged to review the details in the flyer and consider contributing to this collection.

Submissions in the following categories are being accepted **year round**:

- Construction, esp. trenching & excavation
- Workplace wellness (why wellness is important)
- Respirators
- Driving in hazardous conditions (winter, floors, tornadoes, etc)
- Power tools
- Hoists and slings
- Aerial lifts
- Compressed air

See current safety talks and the flyer with application information [here](#).

Annual traffic fatalities increase

The National Safety Council reports that traffic fatalities increased 5 percent in 2012 over 2011 numbers [preliminary estimates](#). This is the first annual increase since 2005.

In 2012 there were approximately 36,200 fatalities in motor vehicles over the 34,600 fatalities in 2011. Injuries requiring medical care also increased in 2012 by 5 percent to 3.9 million.

The rate of increase in Ohio from 2011 to 2012 was 9 percent.

The association reported that car driver errors caused approximately three quarters of the accidents with fatalities. Driving too fast for conditions or following too closely were found to be primary contributing factors reported for the majority of crashes.

April is distracted driving awareness month

In April the National Safety Council observes Distracted Driving Awareness Month to remember the lives that have been tragically lost in cell phone-related motor vehicle crashes and to bring national attention to the issue of cell phone distracted driving. You can find a variety of free posters, fact sheets and videos to share at nsc.org/ddmonth.

Mobile device use while driving

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly](#) reported on March 15 that more than two thirds of U. S. adult drivers (age 18-64) spoke on their cell phones while driving in the previous 30 days and 31% reported that they had read or sent texts or emails while driving.

New hazcom standard guides from OSHA

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has published two guidance documents on its new hazard communication standard.

OSHA issued a [fact sheet](#) on the training requirements for the standard. Employers must train their workers on the new label elements and safety data sheet format by Dec. 1.

OSHA also issued an [OSHA Brief](#) for chemical receivers, purchasers, and trainers. This document describes the new pictograms on labels and other label elements that must be used.

OSHA's new hydrogen sulfide resource site

OSHA has launched a new [safety and health topic page](#) warning workers and employers about the dangers of breathing hydrogen sulfide and providing ways to control exposure to the toxic gas.

Hydrogen sulfide (also known as H₂S, sewer gas, swamp gas, stink damp, and sour damp) is a colorless gas known for its pungent "rotten egg" odor at low concentrations. Hydrogen sulfide is used or produced in a number of industries and it occurs naturally in sewers, manure pits, well water, and oil and gas wells. Health effects range from mild, headaches or eye irritation, to very serious, unconsciousness and death depending on how much H₂S a worker breathes and for how long.

New guidance from NIOSH for medical workers exposed to hazardous drugs

NIOSH has released a new document, [Medical Surveillance for Healthcare Workers Exposed to Hazardous Drugs](#) describing the aspects of setting up a medical surveillance program to protect employees such as pharmacists, operating room personnel, and nurses from drugs used to treat such diseases as HIV infection and cancer.

OSHA diesel exhaust/diesel particulate matter hazard alert

OSHA has issued a [Hazard Alert](#) for diesel exhaust and diesel particulates. This document defines diesel particulate matter, who can be exposed, the health effects, how to control exposure and the regulations in place to protect workers.

Seven new OSHA publications on the control of silica exposure in construction

Silica: Controlling Exposures in Construction While Doing Tuckpointing/Mortar Removal [PDF](#)

Silica: Controlling Exposures in Construction While Operating Hand-Operated Grinders [PDF](#)

Silica: Controlling Exposures in Construction While Operating Handheld Masonry Saws [PDF](#)

Silica: Controlling Exposures in Construction While Operating Jackhammers [PDF](#)

Silica: Controlling Exposures in Construction While Operating Rotary Hammers [PDF](#)

Silica: Controlling Exposures in Construction While Operating Stationary Masonry Saws [PDF](#)

Silica: Controlling Exposures in Construction While Operating Vehicle-Mounted Drilling Rigs [PDF](#)

OSHA Record Keeping Advisor

Need assistance determining if an injury or illness is work related? [OSHA's Record Keeping Advisor](#) is an online tool you can use to assist in the determination. It presents questions to you and then relies on your responses to help with determination.

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