

# Safety Update

## Ohio BWC Library

### Summer Safety

#### UV Index

Every day the National Weather Service calculates the predicted UV Index for the next day in each area of the U.S. This UV Index forecast is published in mid-afternoon (Eastern time zone) at the EPA website. The ozone layer shields the Earth from harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Find the UV index for your city or zip code on this [page](#) from the US EPA website.

#### The Air Quality Index

The AQI is an index for reporting daily air quality. It tells you how clean or polluted your air is, and what associated health effects might be a concern for you. The Environmental Protection Agency calculates the AQI for five major air pollutants regulated by the Clean Air Act: ground-level ozone, particle pollution (also known as particulate matter), carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. Find the air quality index at your location from AirNow <http://www.airnow.gov/>

#### Lightning Safety

Summer is the peak season for one of the nation's deadliest weather phenomena – lightning. This [website](#) from the National Weather Service has information on what you need to do to stay safe when thunderstorms threaten. It has sections on the science of lightning, myths and facts, and teacher resources.

### NIOSH News

#### NIOSH Science Blog

The [NIOSH Science Blog](#) provides an opportunity to exchange ideas on various workplace safety and health topics with leading researchers from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

#### NIOSH Newsroom

NIOSH has created a newsroom on their website providing a central location for all NIOSH press releases, publications and articles pertaining to NIOSH, and new NIOSH research publications and articles. Visit the Newsroom at [www.cdc.gov/niosh/newsroom](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/newsroom).

#### Occupational Hearing Loss

NIOSH has created a new topic page on [Occupational Hearing Loss Surveillance](#). Visit this page to find information on this NIOSH program which has been in place since 2009 conducting surveillance and research on this common occupational illness.

## Emergency Exit Routes

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OSHA has sent a memo directing field inspectors to make sure that businesses have provided and maintained adequate means of egress from work areas. This is a good time to inspect your exit areas to make sure they comply with current regulations. See OSHA's [Emergency Exit Routes Fact Sheet](#) for more information on employers' responsibilities to ensure that their workers are able to exit the workplace quickly and safely.

## Hazard Communication Standard December Deadline

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It may be the middle of summer but December will be here before you know it. The first deadline in the implementation phase of the HCS is Dec. 1, 2013, the date by which employers must train workers on the new label elements and safety data sheet.

OSHA has prepared a number of materials that explain the new changes to the requirements of the HCS, including QuickCards, a training fact sheet, a list of frequently asked questions and a brief on labels and pictograms. These and other materials are available on OSHA's [Hazard Communications page](#).

## OSHA Injury and Illness Prevention Program Fact Sheet

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This new document describes some common program elements of [Injury and Illness Prevention Programs](#) and how to implement them, allowing employers on an ongoing basis to find and fix workplace hazards before workers are hurt or become ill. The fact sheet explains the major elements of an effective program, including management leadership; worker participation; hazard identification, assessment, prevention and control; education and training and program evaluation and improvement.

## Updated Oil and Gas Website

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OSHA's [Oil and Gas Extraction Safety and Health Topics Web page](#) has been updated with additional information for employers and workers in the oil and gas industry aimed at identifying, preventing, and controlling workers' exposure to hazards.

## Institute for Work and Health

Want to keep up on safety and health research? The [Institute for Work & Health](#) is an independent, not-for-profit organization. Based in Ontario, Canada, the IWH mission is to conduct and share research that protects and improves the health of working people. They publish a quarterly free newsletter about ongoing research and other safety-related information.

## North American Fatigue Management Program

[NAFMP](#) is a program designed by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and Canadian regulatory agencies to manage fatigue in commercial truck drivers. The program includes learning modules on how to manage fatigue, an implementation manual to be used by carriers, a return on investment calculator that carriers can use to determine the cost/benefit of implementing NAFMP, and a learning management system for the online learning environment.

## CPWR - The Center for Construction Research and Training

[CPWR](#) provides accurate, user-friendly information about safety and health for construction workers, employers, researchers and others interested in construction safety and health from a wide range of sources worldwide. They have created three useful construction safety sites:

- [Electronic Library of Construction Occupational Safety and Health](#)  
eLCOSH is an electronic library of occupational health and safety information related to the construction industry. The information included ranges from toolbox talks and training materials to government requirements, articles, and research reports. Materials are available in a number of formats (documents, images, videos, podcasts and presentations). The library includes both archival information and new information that is updated frequently.
- [Work Safely with Silica](#)  
This site includes the tools and information needed to identify silica hazards, understand the health risk, and find equipment and methods to control the dust. Users will also find information on regulatory and voluntary efforts to minimize silica exposures as well as a central place to share successes and challenges.
- [Construction Solutions](#)  
Designed for owners, contractors, & workers, Construction Solutions is a database of work hazards, & practical control measures to reduce or eliminate hazards.

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.