

# Safety Update

## Ohio BWC Library

Each August, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) holds **Safe + Sound Week**, a nationwide event that recognizes the successes of workplace health and safety programs. It also offers information and ideas on how to keep America's workers safe.

During the week, organizations host events throughout the U.S. BWC's Division of Safety & Hygiene will hold Safe + Sound events at our Pickerington training facility from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Aug. 12 and from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Aug. 15 in Piketon at 1862 Shyville Road. These events are for any employer that wants to learn more about safety program requirements.

Visit the BWC [Learning Center](#) to sign up for either event.



### BWC News

#### Toledo Area Trenching Safety Seminars

BWC is hosting two Trenching Safety Day Seminars, Aug. 27 and 28, at the Ohio Operating Engineers Training Center, 9435 Cygnet Road, Cygnet, Ohio 43413. To enroll with a BWC policy number, visit the BWC [Learning Center](#). To enroll without a BWC policy number, call 614-466-6375.

### NIOSH/CDC News

#### Small Business Assistance Program

See this [flyer](#) to learn more about the Small Business Assistance Program offered by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). This program conducts research on injury prevention and increases awareness of injury prevention activities among businesses with fewer than 50 employees. The flyer links to the [main program website](#) and a published [study](#).

#### Occupational Exposure Banding

NIOSH recently released a [chemical management strategy](#) that quickly and accurately assigns chemicals into categories, or "bands," to protect workers on the job. Occupational exposure banding is a voluntary process that assigns each chemical to a category based on its toxicity and any negative health outcomes associated with exposure to it.

## Participation in Workplace Health Promotion Programs

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A new study by researchers at NIOSH found that close to 47% of workers have access to workplace health promotion programs, and among those with access, only 58% of workers take advantage of them. Read more about this research on the [NIOSH website](#).

## Ergonomic Webinar

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The sixth webinar in a series of monthly webinars presented by the Education and Research Center (ERC) is posted on the [center's website](#). The program, presented by Amit Bhattacharya, PhD, CPE, of the University of Cincinnati, focuses on heat-stress-associated changes in postural balance among firefighters.

## OSHA News

### Redesigned Whistleblower Website

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OSHA recently redesigned the [Whistleblower Protection Program's website](#). The whistleblower program protects employees from retaliation for reporting workplace safety violations. The new homepage uses video to highlight the covered industries. The improved site allows visitors to easily access information on protected activities, filing deadlines, and resources.

### Fall Protection Training

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Two universities recently added free training programs to help protect construction workers from fall hazards. The [University of Tennessee training program](#) offers three modules on OSHA's role in workplace safety, health and safety standards affecting construction workers, and preventing common types of falls at construction sites. Meanwhile, the [University of Florida training program](#) uses software to present 360-degree panoramas of construction scenarios to test trainees' skills at identifying fall hazards.

### OSHA Alert: Working Safely in Hot Weather

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This [new OSHA document](#) gives safety practices for working in the heat and links to obtain more information about OSHA heat injury prevention programs.

### Electrical Industry Safety Partnership

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OSHA and members of the power industry created the Electrical Transmission and Distribution Partnership to protect the safety and health of line workers and other electrical transmission and distribution industry workers. Learn about the partnership, best practices, and training on the [partnership website](#).

## Other News

### Firefighter Cancer Symposium

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Five sessions from the University of Miami State of the Science National Firefighter Cancer Symposium are available to view online at the [conference website](#).

## New Construction Health Booklet

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The American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) issued a guidance booklet, [Focus Four for Health: An Initiative to Address Four Major Construction Health Hazards](#). The 54-page publication, developed by AIHA's Construction Committee addresses these four common construction industry health hazards:

- Manual material handling.
- Noise.
- Air contaminants.
- High temperatures.

## Firefighter Fatalities

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The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) report on firefighter fatalities in the U.S. found there were 64 on-duty deaths in 2018. Of those, 25 were at fires, 40% were sudden cardiac deaths, three were vehicle-related, and one was a murder of a firefighter responding to a call. Read the entire report at the [NFPA website](#).

## Preventable Injury-related Deaths

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Poisoning was the leading cause of preventable death in 2017 according to the National Safety Council's Injury Facts state data. The report says the opioid drug overdose epidemic was the primary driver. Ohio had the second highest rate of poisoning in 2017. State data from 2017 is available on the [Injury Facts website](#).

## Disaster Health Information Class

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This [one-hour class](#) from 2 to 3 p.m. Aug. 28 covers National Library of Medicine disaster health information and other emergency preparedness resources for community educators, families, friends, and caregivers. Resources for special populations and those with special needs are highlighted.

## Ladder Safety Video

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This [video](#) – developed by the Roofing r2p Partnership – focuses on ladder safety during roofing work and shows how the [free NIOSH ladder safety app](#) can help.

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.

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