

BWC Update

Safety news from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation

Playing it safe in a confined space

Your employees can face a number of hazards when working in confined spaces. The risk of a cave in, collapse or asphyxiation is present every moment spent working in these dangerous areas. Regardless of your workers' level of experience, employers must always inform their employees of the hazards and available escape routes.

BWC provides instructional resources and tools for employers in the construction industry who want to ensure their work site is a safe place for their employees. To help reduce the occurrence of confined space incidents at work sites, BWC recommends:

- Identifying all potential confined spaces at the work site;
- Providing appropriate equipment for confined space air monitoring, entry and rescue;
- Prohibiting unauthorized entry into confined spaces;
- Establishing safe entry and rescue procedures for each space.

BWC also offers training courses for employers on confined space assessment and personal protective equipment, all at no additional cost to your business. Professional safety consultation services on confined space identification and assessment are also available.

Using the above BWC recommended control measures and services can help protect your workers from other safety hazards in your workplace, including:

- Airborne dust, fumes and vapors;
- Overexertion;
- Slips, trips and falls;
- Getting struck by objects.

Employers that have used our safety services in the past have seen reductions in the amount of injury claims in the area of intervention. The use of these safety measures could prevent costly injuries, but most importantly, save a life.

More information is available about preventing injuries in the construction industry by [clicking here](#).

Connect with a BWC safety consultant at 1-866-569-7805 or via email at besafe@ohiobwc.com.