

BWC Update

Safety news from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation

Playing it safe in confined spaces

Your employees can face a number of hazards when working in confined spaces. The risk of an explosion, collapse or asphyxiation is present at every moment. 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 to help reduce confined space incidents at their work sites. These include:

- Identifying all permit required confined spaces and informing all exposed employees of the existence and location of such spaces and their hazards;
- Providing appropriate equipment for confined space air monitoring, entry and rescue;
- Training employees in confined space entry and rescue techniques;
- Prohibiting unauthorized entry into confined spaces.

BWC also offers training courses and professional safety consultations on confined space identification and assessment, and personal protective equipment. BWC offers these services to businesses at no additional charge.

Using these and other BWC recommended control measures and services can help protect your workers from other dangers present in your workplace. These include:

- Airborne dust, fumes and vapors;
- Striking against objects;
- Overexertion due to material handling and repetitive, awkward postures;
- Slips, trips and falls.

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 for public employers by [clicking here](#).

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