

Better Business Starts with Safety. Safety Starts at BWC.



Injury Prevention for the Construction Industry

Workers in the construction industry encounter a variety of hazards, some of which can lead to serious injuries and fatalities. This fact sheet:

- Increases awareness of the primary injury/illness hazards in the construction industry;
- Offers recommended hazard control measures;
- Provides a partial list of the vast resources available from BWC.

Industry specific injury/illness facts

- Each year, more than 6,000 employees in Ohio's construction industry sustain occupational injuries or illnesses that result in workers' compensation claims.
- On average, 22 Ohioans employed in the construction industry lose their lives each year due to occupational injuries or illnesses, primarily as a result of struck by accidents and falls.
- Approximately 20 percent of workers' compensation claims among Ohio construction workers result in losing eight days or more from work and cost an average of \$44,000.
- Slips, trips and falls and overexertion are the primary causes for 60 percent of all injuries that result in eight or more days away from work.

The construction industry is comprised of establishments primarily engaged in the construction of buildings, highways, preparation of sites for new construction and subdividing land. Work done includes new work, additions, alterations, or maintenance and repairs.

BWC has a variety of safety and health services that can assist you with addressing hazardous conditions in your workplace. These include On-site Consultation, Safety Intervention Grants, Training and Video Library Services.



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Below is one of the primary hazards and/or causes of injuries in the Construction Industry. We recommend the following control measures and BWC resources to help prevent this type of accident from happening in your business. For more information connect with a BWC safety consultant at 1-866-569-7805 or via email at besafe@ohiobwc.com.

Primary hazard/cause:

Overexertion, repetitive motion or trauma

Recommended control measures	BWC resources for assistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyze jobs for risk factors that increase the risk of musculoskeletal disorders.• Provide material handling equipment to minimize manual material handling.• Provide employees with well-designed tools and equipment.• Deliver/stage materials close to where they will be used.• Reduce the size and weight of materials and supplies that are handled manually.• Provide handles, hooks, slings and other handling assists to improve grip and posture.• Develop an ergonomics process to identify and address risk factors associated with musculoskeletal disorders.• Train workers on ergonomics and involve them in improvement projects.	<p>Ergonomics consulting services e.g. Manual material handling assessment, job/task analysis, tool and equipment design evaluation</p> <p>Training courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ergonomics: Basic Principles• Ergonomics: Developing an Effective Process;• A Five Step Process for Identifying Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders (WMSDS) in Your Workplace - Online• Avoiding Back Trauma - Online <p>Videos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Back in Action #44001• Ergonomics Awareness #44003• Manual Material Handling Safety #430004• Overexertion: Injury Prevention #440069• Principles of Safe Lifting & Carrying #440082• Soft Tissue Injury Prevention #440004 <p>Safety talks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Back Injuries• Basic Ergonomics Training for Construction Workers• Mechanical Lifting Devices <p>Educational guides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is Ergonomics?• What is Manual Materials Handling?

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Primary hazard/cause:

Slips, trips and falls

Recommended control measures	BWC resources for assistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct work site and job assessments to identify slip, trip and fall hazards.• Provide appropriate fall protection (e.g. guardrails, personal fall arrest systems) when employees are required to perform work from elevations.• Develop policies and procedures for use of fall protection devices and enforce them.• Ensure proper use of ladders, scaffolds and other types of work platforms.• Properly maintain all ladders, scaffolds, manlifts and fall protection equipment.• Provide training on fall protection, personal fall arrest systems and fall protection plans.• Provide adequate lighting and clearly mark elevation changes and slip/trip/fall hazards.• Insist on good housekeeping.	<p>Safety consulting services e.g. Slip, trip and fall hazard assessment, fall protection evaluation</p> <p>Training courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fall Hazards in Construction and Maintenance• Construction Safety Elements• Preventing Slips, Trips and Falls – Online• Ladder/Stairway Safety – Online• Job Safety Analysis• Scaffolding Safety <p>Videos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Surviving the Fall: The Proper Use of Your Personal Fall Arrest System #420035• Don't Fall Down on the Job #420154• Fall Protection: The Right Connection #400102• Height Safety Essentials #420376• Ladder Safety (numerous titles)• Scaffolds: Safety At All Levels #400004• Fall Factors: Understanding and Preventing Slips, Trips and Falls #420430• Slips, Trips and Falls in Construction Environments #400011• Tallest Tool in the Toolbox: Using Ladders Safely #420020• Winter Walking: Avoiding Slips & Falls #490213 <p>Safety talks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Portable Ladder Safety• Boom Truck Safety <p>Educational guides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is Fall Protection?

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Primary hazard/cause:

Lacerations/punctures

Recommended control measures	BWC resources for assistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct a workplace hazard assessment to identify laceration/puncture hazards.• Minimize sharp edges on equipment and materials.• Provide knives and cutting tools with retractable blades or sheaths.• Provide gloves and other appropriate personal protective equipment.• Ensure proper storage and handling of cutting tools, knives and other sharp objects.• Place caps on rebar and other material with sharp edges.	<p>Safety consulting services e.g. Safety hazard assessment</p> <p>Training courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preventing Cuts and Lacerations - Online <p>Videos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hand Sawing #400115• Flat Sawing and Blade Safety #400124• Safety Cutting Tools: Using Cutters Safely #420058 <p>Safety talks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Utility Knives• Hand Safety• Preventing Cuts and Lacerations

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Primary hazard/cause:

Getting struck by/striking against objects

Recommended control measures

- Provide secure storage of materials and equipment to prevent sliding and collapse.
- Establish temporary traffic control procedures and provide equipment to create safe work zones.
- Provide back-up alarms or spotters to assist equipment operators during backing maneuvers.
- Install roll-over protective systems on mobile equipment.
- Provide training on the proper use and maintenance of the protective system.
- Provide protection from falling and moving objects and barricade any location where objects could fall.
- Provide hard hats for falling object hazards or head bump hazards.
- Prohibit employees from entering barricaded areas.
- Provide proper equipment and training for trenching and excavations.

BWC resources for assistance

Safety consulting services

e.g. Safety hazard assessment, personal protective equipment (PPE) assessment

Training courses

- Crane Rigging and Signal Person Duties
- Machine Guarding Basics
- Temporary Traffic Management
- Personal Protective Equipment Selection Criteria

Videos

- Avoiding Runovers and Backovers #400125
- Rigging Equipment Basics #400081
- Cranes: Mobile Crane Safe Operations #400032
- Flagger Safety #400101
- Buried Truth Uncovered with Eric Giguere #400172

Safety talks

- Hard Hats
- Safety Shoes
- Traffic control/Flaggers
- Pre-planning for Safe Crane Operation

Educational guides

- What is Eye Safety?
- What are Hand Tools?
- What are Electric Power Tools?
- What are Powered Industrial Tools?
- What are Powered Industrial Trucks?
- What is Personal Protective Equipment?

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Primary hazard/cause:

Airborne dusts, fumes and vapors (e.g. silica and wood dust, welding fumes and solvents). Elevated noise levels; temperature extremes

Recommended control measures	BWC resources for assistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enclose dust-producing equipment.• Deploy local exhaust ventilation to capture air contaminants at the source.• Use wet cutting techniques to reduce dust.• Use PPE.• Assess worker noise exposures.• Enclose noise-producing machines/processes.• Provide appropriate hearing protection.	<p>Industrial hygiene consulting services e.g. Evaluation of potential airborne contaminant / noise exposures and recommending appropriate control measures and/or PPE</p> <p>Safety intervention grants e.g. local exhaust ventilation, “dustless” tools, noise attenuation, machine enclosures</p> <p>Training courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health Hazards in Construction Online• Construction Safety Elements (OSHA 10)• Basic Construction Safety (OSHA 30)• Hazard Communication• Noise & Hearing Conservation <p>Videos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lead Safety on the Job #490065• Silica Safety Awareness #490209• Chemical Handling Safety: Flammables #490061• Chemical Handling Safety: Solvents #490063• Heat Stress in Construction Environments #400120• Hexavalent Chromium Awareness #490168• Working Safely in Cold Weather #430121• Hazard Communication #490026 <p>Safety talks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Asbestos Awareness• Chemical Labels• Combustible Dust• New Hazard Communication Requirements• Hearing: A Sense to be Guarded• Respirators: The Why, When, What <p>Educational guides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is Hazard Communication?• What is Personal Protective Equipment?• What is Hearing Conservation?• What is Respiratory Protection?

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Primary hazard/cause:

Confined spaces

Recommended control measures

- Identify all potential confined spaces.
- Provide appropriate equipment for confined space air monitoring, entry and rescue.
- Establish safe entry and rescue procedures for each space.
- Prohibit unauthorized entry into confined spaces.

BWC resources for assistance

Safety consulting services

e.g. Confined space identification; assessment of confined space entry procedures

Training courses

- Confined Space Assessment & Work
- Personal Protective Equipment

Videos

- Confined Space Entry: Plan & Prepare #420408
- Survive Inside: Employee Safety in Confined Spaces #420910

Safety talks

- Permit Required Confined Spaces
- Confined Space
- Respirators: The Why, When, What

Educational guides

- What is Confined Space?
- What is Respiratory Protection?

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