

Better Business Starts with Safety. Safety Starts at BWC.



## Injury Prevention for the Wholesale and Retail Trade Industry

Workers in the wholesale and retail trade industry encounter a variety of occupational hazards, some of which are potentially fatal. This fact sheet:

- Increases awareness of the primary injury/illness hazards in the wholesale and retail trade Industry;
- Offers recommended hazard control measures;
- Provides a partial list of the vast resources available BWC.

### Industry specific injury/illness facts

- Each year, approximately 11,000 employees in the wholesale and retail trade industry sustain occupational injuries or illnesses that result in workers' compensation claims.
- On average, 14 Ohioans in the wholesale and retail trade industry lose their lives each year due to occupational injuries or illnesses.
- Approximately 17 percent of workers' compensation claims result in losing eight days or more from work and cost an average of \$29,000.
- Slips, trips and falls and overexertion are the primary causes in approximately 60 percent of injuries that result in eight or more days away from work.

The wholesale and retail trade industry includes establishments engaged in wholesaling and retailing of merchandise, generally without transformation, and rendering services incidental to the sale of merchandise. The merchandise includes the outputs of agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and publishing.

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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Primary hazard/cause:

## Slips, trips and falls

Recommended control measures	BWC resources for assistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assess facilities and grounds for potential slip, trip and fall hazards.</li><li>• Repair and maintain floor surfaces, parking lots and walkways.</li><li>• Apply anti-slip floor treatments and mats in hazardous areas.</li><li>• Minimize or clearly mark elevation changes and slip/trip/fall hazards.</li><li>• Provide adequate lighting in all areas.</li><li>• Insist on good housekeeping and use of appropriate footwear.</li><li>• Provide fall protection (guardrails, personal fall arrest systems) when employees are required to perform work from elevations.</li></ul>	<p><b>Safety consulting services</b> e.g. Slip, trip and fall hazard assessment</p> <p><b>Training courses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preventing/Slips/Trips/Falls Online</li><li>• Ladder/Stairway Safety Online</li></ul> <p><b>Videos</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fall Factors: Understanding &amp; Preventing Slips, Trips And Falls #420430</li><li>• Surviving The Fall: The Proper Use Of Your Personal Fall Arrest System #420035</li><li>• Winter Walking: Staying On Your Feet #490138</li><li>• Supermarket Series: Preventing Slips, Trips &amp; Falls #490231</li></ul> <p><b>Safety talks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Walking and Working Surface Safety</li><li>• Portable Ladder Safety</li><li>• Three-point Technique</li><li>• Parking Lot Safety</li></ul>

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Primary hazard/cause:

**Overexertion due to manual material handling and repetitive, awkward postures**

Recommended control measures	BWC resources for assistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assess manual material handling tasks to determine risks and solutions.</li><li>• Simplify operations to reduce unnecessary handling.</li><li>• Provide material handling equipment such as carts, conveyors, lift tables, etc.</li><li>• Provide well designed racks and adequate space in storage areas.</li><li>• Purchase and package items in easily manageable quantities.</li><li>• Consider using height adjustable stock picking carts.</li><li>• Consider using lighter pallets, materials, and products.</li></ul>	<p><b>Ergonomics consulting services</b> e.g. Manual material handling assessment</p> <p><b>Safety intervention grants</b> e.g. Mechanical lifting devices, improved racking</p> <p><b>Training courses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A Five-Step Process for Preventing Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders (WMSDs) in your Workplace Online</li><li>• Ergonomics: Basic Principles</li><li>• Ergonomics: Developing an Effective Process</li></ul> <p><b>Videos</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ergonomics Awareness #440003</li><li>• Move It Safely: Avoiding Injury While Moving Materials #440086</li><li>• Safe Manual Handling #440081</li><li>• Overexertion: Injury Prevention #440069</li></ul> <p><b>Safety talks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Back Injuries</li><li>• Mechanical Lifting Devices</li></ul> <p><b>Educational guides</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is Ergonomics?</li><li>• What is Manual Materials Handling?</li></ul>

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Primary hazard/cause:

## Cuts, lacerations and sharp object penetrations

Recommended control measures	BWC resources for assistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Analyze the work conditions for potential laceration hazards.</li><li>• Based on analysis, provide appropriate personal protective equipment.</li><li>• Maintain good housekeeping.</li><li>• Maintain proper storage and handling of cutting knives and other sharps.</li><li>• Develop procedures and provide training on knives and other sharps.</li></ul>	<p><b>Safety consulting services</b> e.g. Safety hazard assessment, PPE assessment</p> <p><b>Training courses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preventing Cuts and Lacerations Online</li></ul> <p><b>Videos</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Safety Cutting Tools: Using Cutters Safely #420058</li><li>• Knife Safety in the Workplace #420421</li><li>• Supermarket Series: Boxcutter Safety #490230</li></ul> <p><b>Safety talks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preventing Cuts and Lacerations</li><li>• Utility Knife</li></ul>

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Primary hazard/cause:

## Getting struck by forklifts/other equipment and falling objects

Recommended control measures	BWC resources for assistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure forklifts are properly maintained and employees are appropriately trained.</li><li>• Avoid using mechanically powered vehicles in proximity to workers.</li><li>• Isolate or cordon off areas where struck by hazards exist.</li><li>• Install mirrors at blind intersections.</li><li>• Clearly mark vehicle routes and pedestrian walkways.</li><li>• Use visual and auditory signals to warn of hazardous equipment movement.</li><li>• Develop lockout/tagout procedures for all equipment.</li></ul>	<p><b>Safety consulting services</b> e.g. Forklift/material handling equipment assessment, lockout/tagout program review</p> <p><b>Training courses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Powered Industrial Trucks: Developing a Training Program</li><li>• Lockout/Tagout and Safety-Related Work Practices</li></ul> <p><b>Videos</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Handle With Care: Forklift Safety Training #420390</li><li>• Forklift Safety Lessons For The Safe Pedestrian #421004</li><li>• Forklift Safety Lessons For The Safe Operator #420913</li><li>• Pedestrian Safety Training #420394</li><li>• Golf Cart &amp; LSV Safety: On and Off the Course #490006</li></ul> <p><b>Safety talks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Safe Forklift Operation</li><li>• Loading Dock Safety</li></ul> <p><b>Educational guides</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What are Powered Industrial Trucks?</li></ul>

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Primary hazard/cause:

## Getting caught in or between moving parts

Recommended control measures	BWC resources for assistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evaluate guarding and lock-out tag out issues on all equipment.</li><li>• Properly guard all moving machinery parts.</li><li>• Conduct job safety analysis on all tasks, and address all mechanical hazards.</li><li>• Prohibit loose clothing and hair.</li></ul>	<p><b>Safety consulting services</b> e.g. Machine/equipment guarding assessment</p> <p><b>Training courses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lockout/Tagout &amp; Safety-Related Work Practices</li><li>• Machine Guarding Basics</li><li>• Job Safety Analysis</li></ul> <p><b>Videos</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lessons Learned from Hand Injuries #420086</li><li>• Machine Guard Awareness #420381</li><li>• Unit Handling Conveyor Safety Video #420445</li><li>• Lockout/Tagout (numerous titles)</li></ul> <p><b>Safety talks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Control of Hazardous Energy: Lockout/Tagout</li><li>• Job Safety Analysis</li></ul> <p><b>Educational guides</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is Lockout/Tagout?</li></ul>

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Primary hazard/cause:

## Workplace violence

### Recommended control measures

- Train employees on procedures to protect themselves and manage the situation.
- Maintain well-lit and uncluttered business premises, both inside and outside the facility.
- If you have operations that involve cash or money transactions, verify they are secure.
- Train employees in customer service skills, including conflict resolution.
- Report all incidents or threats.
- Where feasible, provide security measures (locked doors, bullet-proof glass, cameras, etc.).

### BWC resources for assistance

#### Safety consulting services

e.g. Workplace violence assessment/program review

#### Training courses

- Nonviolent Strategies for Caregivers & Other Staff Working Directly with the Public
- Violence in the Workplace

#### Videos

- Taking Control Of Workplace Violence #400059
- Workplace Violence: The Early Warning Signs (Manager Version) #400024
- Murder 9 to 5 #400037
- Convenience Store Safety #490227
- How to Survive an Armed Robbery #400006
- Conflicts in the Workplace: Sources & Solutions #400056
- Violence on the Job #400100

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