

Better Business Starts with Safety. Safety Starts at BWC.



Injury Prevention for the Public (Government) Employees Sector

Public (Government) employees maintain crucial infrastructure and provide essential services that improve the quality of life for all Ohioans and visitors to our state. They also encounter various hazards in the tasks they perform. This fact sheet:

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

Industry specific injury/illness facts

- Each year, approximately 19,000 of Ohio's public employees sustain injuries that result in workers' compensation claims.
- Each year, an average of 22 Ohio public employees lose their lives due to occupational injuries or illnesses.
- Slips, trips and falls and overexertion are the primary causes in approximately 60 percent of injuries to public employees in Ohio, that result in eight or more days away from work.
- Approximately 25 percent of the workers' compensation claims among public employees result in eight or more days away from work and cost an average of \$22,000 per claim.

Hazardous work activities include: road maintenance, tree felling/trimming, landscaping, refuse collection, building maintenance and public safety (police/fire/corrections).

Public employers include public schools, state agencies, state universities, university hospitals and taxing districts such as counties, cities, villages and townships.

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.

Compliance assistance services are available from the Public Employment Risk Reduction Program (PERRP).

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Below is one of the primary hazards and/or causes of injuries in the Agriculture and Natural Resources 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 and cumulative trauma

Recommended control measures

- Analyze jobs and work conditions for ergonomic risk factors.
- Provide material handling equipment (carts, lifts, lift tables, etc.) to minimize manual material handling.
- Provide employees with well-designed tools, furniture and equipment.
- Deliver/stage materials close to where employees will use them.
- Reduce the size and weight of materials and supplies that employees handle 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 (MSD).
- Train workers on ergonomics and involve them in improvement projects.

BWC resources for assistance

Ergonomics consulting services

e.g. Material handling assessment, workstation evaluation

Safety intervention grants

e.g. Material handling equipment, tools and assistive devices

Training courses

- Avoiding Back Trauma Online
- Office Ergonomics Online
- Ergonomics: Basic Principles
- Ergonomics: Developing an Effective Process

Videos

- Back in Action #440001
- Ergonomics Awareness #440003
- Manual Material Handling Safety #430004
- Better Way to Lift #440088
- Back Safety for First Responders #440061
- Overexertion: Injury Prevention #440069
- Principles of Safe Lifting & Carrying #440082

Safety talks

- Back Injuries
- Mechanical Lifting Devices
- Basic Ergonomics Training
- Vibrating Tools

Educational guides

- What is Ergonomics?
- What is Manual Materials Handling?

You can find these resources on our website at www.bwc.ohio.gov or by calling a safety consultant at the number listed above.

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Primary hazard/cause:

Slips, trips and falls

Recommended control measures

- Assess grounds and facilities for slip, trip and fall hazards and develop appropriate control measures.
- Repair or maintain walking surfaces so they are free of obstructions and hazards (standing water, ice, uneven surfaces, tripping hazards).
- Ensure good lighting and clearly mark elevation changes and hazards.
- Provide well-designed ladders and stepstools.
- Ensure proper use of ladders, scaffolds, and other elevated work platforms.
- Provide 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.
- Insist on good housekeeping and appropriate footwear.

BWC resources for assistance

Safety consulting services

e.g. Slip, trip and fall hazard assessment, fall protection assessment

Training courses

- Advanced Safety for Public Employers
- Fall Hazards in Construction & Maintenance
- Preventing Slips, Trips and Falls Online
- Ladder/Stairway Safety Online
- Job Safety Analysis
- Scaffolding Safety

Videos

- 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
- Falls in the Workplace #420280
- Tallest Tool in the Toolbox: Using Ladders Safely #420020
- Winter Walking: Avoiding Slips & Falls #490213

Safety talks

- Walking and Working Surface Safety
- Three-point Technique
- Portable Ladder Safety
- Falls

Educational guides

- What is Fall Protection?

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Primary hazard/cause:

Getting struck by motor vehicles or falling/moving/rolling objects

Recommended control measures	BWC resources for assistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.• Follow the 2012 Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.• Contact the Ohio Local Technical Assistance Program Center for assistance with temporary traffic control.• Provide secure storage of materials and equipment to prevent sliding and collapse.• Install roll-over protective systems on equipment.• Provide falling object protection and barricade any location where objects could fall.• Provide hard hats for workers exposed to falling objects or head bump hazards.	<p>Safety consulting services e.g. Safety hazard assessment, PPE assessment, accident investigation technique assistance</p> <p>Safety intervention grants e.g. Advanced machine guarding, portable traffic control signals</p> <p>Training courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crane Rigging and Signal Person Duties• Machine Guarding Basics• PPE Selection Criteria• Temporary Traffic Management <p>Videos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Avoiding Runovers and Backovers #400125• Rigging: Specialized in Safety #420406• Cranes: Mobile Crane Safe Operations #400032• Flagger Safety #400101• Landscape Power Tool Safety #490016 <p>Safety talks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Traffic Control/Flaggers• Pre-planning for Safe Crane Operations <p>Educational guides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are Powered Industrial Trucks?

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Primary hazard/cause:

Cuts/lacerations/punctures (including assaults and bites)

Recommended control measures

- Analyze the work conditions for potential laceration hazards.
- Based on analysis, provide appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Ensure proper storage and handling of cutting knives and other sharps.
- Develop procedures and provide training on knives and other sharps.
- Establish procedures to make sure new tool purchases reduce or eliminate puncture / laceration risks (self-retracting blades/ needles, no-touch needle re-capping, etc.).

BWC resources for assistance

Safety consulting services

e.g. Risk factor identification and remediation; personal protective equipment (PPE) selection

Training courses

- Preventing Cuts and Lacerations Online
- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Nonviolent Strategies for Caregivers & Other Staff Working Directly with the Public

Videos

- Knife Safety in the Workplace #420421
- Bloodborne Pathogens: Universal Precautions #430126
- Groundskeeping Safety: Dealing with Bugs and Critters #420064
- Needlesticks: Avoiding Exposure #430014
- Occupational Dog Bite Safety #490115
- PPE: Your Defensive Line #420387
- Safety Cutting Tools: Using Cutters Safely #420058

Safety talks

- Utility Knife
- Hand Safety

Educational guides

- What are Hand Tools?

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Primary hazard/cause:

Confined spaces

Recommended control measures

- Identify all permit required confined spaces and inform exposed employees of the existence and location of such spaces and their hazards.
- Provide appropriate equipment for confined space air monitoring, entry and rescue.
- Implement policies and procedures to follow before and during entry for testing and monitoring oxygen content, flammability, toxicity or explosive hazards.
- Train employees in confined space entry and rescue techniques.
- Prohibit unauthorized entry into confined spaces.

BWC resources for assistance

Safety and industrial hygiene consulting services

e.g. Identification of potential confined spaces; review of safe work practices for monitoring and entering confined spaces

Training courses

- Confined Space Assessment & Work
- Personal Protective Equipment

Videos

- Confined Space Entry: Keeping Public Employees Safe #420391
- Confined Space Entry: Plan & Prepare #420408

Safety talks

- Confined Space
- Permit Required Confined Spaces

Educational guides

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

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Primary hazard/cause:

Electric shock and electrocution

Recommended control measures

- Enclose all energized electrical conductors in approved cabinets, boxes, raceways and fittings.
- Ensure employees use all electrically powered equipment according to its listing and labeling instructions.
- Develop a Lockout/Tagout Program and policies that prohibit employees from working on energized conductors and equipment.
- Establish policies that require employees and equipment to stay a minimum of ten feet from any overhead utility wires.

BWC resources for assistance

Safety consulting services

e.g. Electrical safety hazard assessment

Training courses

- Electrical Hazard Recognition and Abatement
- NFPA 70E and You: Insight and Implementation
- Lockout/Tagout and Safety-Related Work Practices
- Advanced Lockout/Tagout

Videos/publications

- Safety Smart Video Series #470076 and #470077
- Electrical Safety: What Everyone Should Know #470070
- Safety for Qualified Workers #470018
- 2012 NFPA 70E: Electrical Safety in the Workplace #470011
- Lockout /Tagout (numerous titles)

Safety talks

- Boom Truck Safety
- Control of Hazardous Energy (Lockout/Tagout)
- Electrical Safety

Educational guides

- What are Electric-Powered Tools?
- What is Lockout/Tagout?

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Primary hazard/cause:

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

Recommended control measures

- Enclose dust-producing equipment.
- Deploy local exhaust ventilation to capture air contaminants at the source.
- Use wet cutting techniques to reduce dust.
- Use appropriate PPE.
- Assess worker noise exposures.
- Enclose noise-producing machines/processes.
- Provide appropriate hearing protection.

BWC resources for assistance

Industrial Hygiene consulting services

e.g. Evaluation of potential airborne contaminant / noise exposures and recommending appropriate control measures and/or PPE

Safety intervention grants

e.g. Local exhaust ventilation, “dustless” tools, noise attenuation, machine enclosures

Training courses

- Health Hazards in Construction Online
- Construction Safety Elements (OSHA 10)
- Basic Construction Safety (OSHA 30)
- Hazard Communication
- Noise & Hearing Conservation

Videos

- Lead Safety on the Job #490065
- Silica Safety Awareness #490209
- Chemical Handling Safety: Flammables #490061
- Chemical Handling Safety: Solvents #490063
- Heat Stress for Public Employees: Seeing Red #430028
- Hexavalent Chromium Awareness #490168
- Working Safely in Cold Weather #430121
- Are you Listening, Jim...? #420428

Safety talks

- Asbestos Awareness
- Chemical Labels
- Combustible Dust
- New Hazard Communication Requirements
- Hearing: A Sense to Guarded

Educational guides

- What is Hazard Communication?
- What is Personal Protective Equipment?
- What is Hearing Conservation?
- What is Respiratory Protection?

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