The utilities industry is one of the fastest-growing sectors in Ohio. Employees in this industry encounter a number of hazards that can sometimes be fatal. This sheet:

- Increases awareness of the primary injury/illness hazards in the utilities 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 100 employees in Ohio’s utilities industry sustain occupational injuries or illnesses that result in workers’ compensation claims.
- On average, two Ohioans in the utilities industry lose their lives each year due to occupational injuries or illnesses.
- Approximately 15 percent of the Ohio workers’ compensation claims among workers in the utilities industry result in losing eight days or more from work and cost an average of $46,000.
- Slips, trips and falls and overexertion are the primary causes in approximately 60 percent of all injuries that result in eight or more days away from work.

**The utilities industry includes establishments engaged in the generation, transmission, and/or distribution of electric power; natural gas distribution; steam supply provision and/or distribution; water treatment and distribution; and sewage collection, treatment and removal.**

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.
Injury Prevention for the Utilities Industry

Below is one of the primary hazards and/or causes of injuries in the Utilities 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 due to manual material handling and repetitive, forceful, awkward postures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommended control measures</th>
<th>BWC resources for assistance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Analyze the work conditions for potential ergonomic risk factors and provide ergonomic hand tools. | **Ergonomics consulting services**
• e.g. Manual material handling assessment, job/task evaluation |
| • Provide mechanical equipment to minimize manual lifting. | **Safety intervention grant program**
• e.g. Material handling equipment, improved tools and assistive devices |
| • Eliminate long carrying distances by providing powered dollies. | **Training courses**
• Ergonomics- Basic Principals |
| • Stage materials close to where employees will handle and use them. | • Office Ergonomics |
| • Reduce the size and weight of loads that employees must manually handle. | • Understanding and Identifying Ergonomic Risk Factors |
| • Provide training on ergonomics and fatigue factors that focus on the physical environment and the worker tasks. | • Avoiding BackTrauma Online |

**Ergonomics consulting services**
- e.g. Manual material handling assessment, job/task evaluation

**Safety intervention grant program**
- e.g. Material handling equipment, improved tools and assistive devices

**Training courses**
- Ergonomics- Basic Principals
- Office Ergonomics
- Understanding and Identifying Ergonomic Risk Factors
- Avoiding BackTrauma Online

**Videos**
- Hazard Recognition for Utility Workers - #420295
- Back Safety: Lift for Life #440074
- Ergonomics Awareness #440003
- Overexertion: Injury Prevention #440069
- Safe Manual Handling #440081

**Safety talks**
- Back Injuries
- Vibrating Tools

**Educational guides**
- What is Ergonomics?

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

Better Business Starts with Safety. Safety Starts at BWC.
Injury Prevention for the Utilities Industry

Below is one of the primary hazards and/or causes of injuries in the Utilities 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:
Slips, trips and falls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommended control measures</th>
<th>BWC resources for assistance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Analyze the work conditions for potential slip, trip and fall hazards. | Safety consulting services  
e.g. Safety hazard assessment |
| • Clear work areas and pathways to minimize slip, trip and fall hazards. | Training courses  
• Fall Hazards in Construction and Maintenance  
• Construction Safety Elements  
• Preventing Slips,Trips and Falls Online  
• Ladder/Stairway Safety Online  
• Job Safety Analysis  
• Scaffolding Safety |
| • Provide adequate lighting in all areas. | Videos  
• Safety Smart Video Series 1-4 #470076  
• Fall Factors: Understanding and Preventing Slips, Trips and Falls #420430  
• Slips,Trips, Falls: Stranger Than Friction #420025  
• Ladder Safety #420378  
• Scaffolds: Safety at All Levels #400004 |
| • Insist on good housekeeping and use of appropriate footwear. | Safety talks  
• Portable Ladder Safety  
• Three-point Technique  
• Falls |
| • Conduct frequent jobsite housekeeping inspections to eliminate hazards. | |
Injury Prevention for the Utilities Industry

Below is one of the primary hazards and/or causes of injuries in the Utilities 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: Cuts, lacerations and punctures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommended control measures</th>
<th>BWC resources for assistance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Conduct a workplace hazard assessment to identify tasks that expose employees to laceration and puncture hazards.</td>
<td>Safety consulting services e.g. Safety hazard assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Provide well designed cutting tools and knives and protective sheaths.</td>
<td>Training courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Provide appropriate gloves and personal protective equipment.</td>
<td>• Preventing Cuts and Lacerations Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ensure proper storage and handling of cutting tools and knives.</td>
<td>Videos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Hand Sawing #400115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Flat Sawing and Blade Safety #400124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Safety Cutting Tools: Using Cutters Safely #420058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Safety talks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Utility Knives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Hand Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Preventing Cuts and Lacerations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Educational guides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• What are Hand Tools?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• What are Power Tools?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You can find these resources on our website at www.bwc.ohio.gov or by calling a safety consultant at the number listed above.
Below is one of the primary hazards and/or causes of injuries in the Utilities 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: Foreign body in eye

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Recommended control measures</strong></th>
<th><strong>BWC resources for assistance</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Conduct job hazard analysis to identify risks from flying debris and objects.</td>
<td><strong>Safety consulting services</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Provide appropriate guarding on grinders and other tools and equipment.</td>
<td>e.g. Safety hazard assessment, PPE assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Consider “dustless” tools to minimize exposure to flying objects and debris.</td>
<td><strong>Training courses</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Provide the right tool for the job.</td>
<td>• Welding and Brazing Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Make sure blades, bits and abrasive wheels are in good condition.</td>
<td>• Job Safety Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Provide appropriate eye and face protection.</td>
<td>• Basic Construction Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Construction Safety Elements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Personal Protective Equipment Selection Criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Videos</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Welding &amp; Cutting Torch Safety #420434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Eye Safety Basics #420402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Eye Safety: Focused on Protection #420426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• PPE Essentials #420419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Protecting Your Sight #420027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Safety talks</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Eye Protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Respirators: The Why, When, What</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Educational guides</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• What is Welding?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Below is one of the primary hazards and/or causes of injuries in the Utilities 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:
**Getting struck by/striking against objects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommended control measures</th>
<th>BWC resources for assistance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Provide secure storage of materials and equipment to prevent sliding and collapse. | Safety consulting services  
e.g. Safety hazard assessment, PPE assessment |
| • Establish temporary traffic control procedures and provide equipment to create safe work zones. |  |
| • Provide protection from falling and moving objects and barricade any location where objects could fall. | Training courses  
• Crane Rigging and Signal Person Duties  
• Temporary Traffic Management  
• Personal Protective Equipment Selection Criteria |
| • Prohibit employees from entering barricaded areas. | Videos  
• Avoiding Runovers and Backovers #400125  
• Rigging: Specialized in Safety #420406  
• Cranes: Mobile Crane Safe Operations #400032  
• Flagger Safety #400101  
• Hand and Power Tool Safety #420332 |
| • Provide hard hats for falling object hazards or head bump hazards. | Safety talks  
• Hard Hats  
• Safety Shoes  
• Traffic Control/Flaggers  
• Pre-planning for Safe Crane Operation |
| • Keep hand tools (e.g. hammers, chisels, wrenches, prybars, cutting tools) in good condition. | 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? |
| • Provide powered tools to reduce high force applications. |  |
| • Avoid the use of cheater bars. |  |

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

Below is one of the primary hazards and/or causes of injuries in the Utilities 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: Confined spaces

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommended control measures</th>
<th>BWC resources for assistance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Identify all potential confined spaces.</td>
<td>Safety and industrial consulting services e.g. Confined space identification; assessment of confined space entry procedures</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| • Provide appropriate equipment and training related to confined space air monitoring, entry and rescue. | Training courses  
• Confined Space Assessment & Work  
• Personal Protective Equipment |
| • Establish safe entry and rescue procedures for each space. | Videos  
• Confined Space Entry: Plan & Prepare #420408  
• Safety Smart Video Series, Episodes 1-4 #470076 |
| • Prohibit unauthorized entry into confined spaces. | Safety talks  
• Permit Required Confined Spaces  
• Confined Space  
• Respirators: The Why, When, What |
| | Educational guides  
• What is Confined Space?  
• What is Respiratory Protection? |

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

Below is one of the primary hazards and/or causes of injuries in the Utilities 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: Electric shock and electrocution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommended control measures</th>
<th>BWC resources for assistance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Ensure employees use all electrically powered equipment and tools according to listing and labeling instructions.</td>
<td>Safety and industrial consulting services e.g. Electrical safety hazard assessment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| • Develop a lockout/tagout program and policies that prohibit employees from working on energized conductors and equipment. | Training courses  
  • Electrical Hazard Recognition and Abatement  
  • NFPA 70E and You: Insight and Implementation  
  • Lockout/Tagout and Safety-Related Work Practices  
  • Advanced Lockout/Tagout |
| • Establish policies that require employees and equipment to stay a minimum of 10 feet from any overhead utility wires. | Videos/publications  
  • Electrical Safety: What Everyone Should Know #470070  
  • Electrical Safety for Qualified Workers #470019  
  • 2012 NFPA 70E: Electrical Safety in the Workplace #470011  
  • Safety Smart Video Series #470076 and #470077  
  • Lockout/Tagout (numerous titles) |

Safety talks  
• BoomTruck Safety  
• Control of Hazardous Energy (Lockout/Tagout)  
• Electrical Safety

Educational guides  
• What are Electric-Powered Tools?  
• What is Lockout/Tagout?

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