

Safety Update

Ohio BWC Library



BWC unveils new trenching safety grants and website

BWC is launching a new \$2 million safety grant program to assist employers in purchasing equipment to protect their workers while working in trenching and excavating situations.

BWC's [Trench Safety Grant program](#) provides 4-to-1 matching funds, up to \$12,000, to Ohio private and public employers covered by the State Insurance Fund who wish to purchase equipment to substantially reduce or eliminate injuries and illnesses associated with trenching and excavation.

The grant funds can assist employers in purchasing safety equipment, such as trench boxes and hydraulic shoring. Along with the grant, BWC will provide training and educational materials for employers to share with their employees on basic requirements of trench safety.

Finally, BWC has launched a website, trenchsafetyohio.com, that includes links to trenching safety information and tips, training, and publications.

Ohio BWC News

In a newly [published article](#) in the American Journal of Industrial Medicine, researchers from BWC and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) examined more than 1.3 million workers' compensation claims from the years 2001 to 2013 to compare injury rates between temporary and permanent workers. The results showed temporary workers had higher overall injury rates than permanent workers when controlled for industry manual class. For more information on this article, please [email the BWC Library](#).

NIOSH/CDC News

Fatigue Website Updated

NIOSH updated the materials on their website, [Driver Fatigue on the Job](#). The page has social media images, fact sheets, and risk reduction tips.

OSHA News

Corrections to Walking-Working Surfaces and Other Standards

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued [corrections to three standards](#) in December 2019. Corrections were made to ladders, stairways, other walking-working surface standards, fall protection systems, and electric power generation standards.

Injury Reporting

A reminder to employers that your 2019 Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses (Form 300A) must be posted from Feb. 1 through April 30 each year. Recordkeeping information is found on the [OSHA website](#).

Other News

Overdose Fatalities at Worksites and Opioid Use in the Construction Industry

The Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR) [Quarterly Report](#) for the fourth quarter 2019 discusses issues around opioids and the construction industry. Key findings from the research include an increase in fatalities from 2011 to 2018, a higher rate of opioid use by work-related injured workers, and higher rates of prescribed opioids amongst older workers versus illicit use among younger ones.

Suicide Prevention Resources

Suicide rates are up in the U.S., particularly amongst construction workers. CPWR has a page of [links to resources for suicide prevention](#). Use these valuable resources to start a conversation, or if someone you know needs immediate help, contact the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#). Call 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255) or use the [online Lifeline Chat](#).

2018 Costly for Fires

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has released its annual [report on fire losses](#) for the year 2018. There were 36 large-loss fires in 2018 with losses of more than \$12.91 billion. The largest losses came from fires in California. Total losses for 2018 from 1.3 million fires was \$25.6 billion.

Construction and Extraction Workers at Risk for Drug Use

A study in the journal [Drug and Alcohol Dependence](#) finds that workers in the construction and extraction trades are more likely to misuse several classes of drugs. Drug misuse was associated with higher rates of absenteeism; however, written policies and workplace drug testing had a positive impact on drug use prevention.

New Ideas on Exit Signage

This [National Fire Protection Journal article](#) on a new approach to emergency exit signs describes the idea of “dynamic signage,” which are signs that can respond to emergencies in an active manner, such as pointing out the best exit. This exit sign strategy is likely to be part of the 2021 update to the NFPA 101: Life Safety Code, according to the article’s author.

Safety and Health at Work 2020

An international conference on Safety and Health will be held not too far from Ohio. Toronto will be host to the [XXII World Congress on Safety and Health at Work](#) in October 2020. The event includes technical and poster sessions, a young worker spotlight, and an international expo.

Dataset Search

Google has created a [search engine for datasets](#) giving you a single place to search for datasets and find links to the data. So far, they have indexed 25 million datasets and recently added filters that allow you to search for the type of dataset and usage rights. Google reports that the largest topics currently covered are geosciences, biology, and agriculture.

Guide to Federal Rulemaking

If you run a small business, federal rules impact how you do business. Do you understand the rulemaking process and how you can participate? If not, this [guidance document](#) from the U.S. Small Business Administration can help. The document outlines the rulemaking process and provides guidance on how to comment effectively.

Winter Safety

It’s getting cold outside and the National Safety Council has some [winter safety tips](#) to keep you safe. Included are tips on safe driving, avoiding shoveling and snowblowing injuries, frostbite treatment, carbon monoxide poisoning prevention, and more. Plus, don’t forget these: NIOSH [Preventing Cold-related Illness, Injury, and Death among Workers](#) and [OSHA Alert: Working Safety in Cold Weather](#) publications for workplace winter safety.

Methylene Chloride Banned for Consumer Use

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [prohibited the manufacture, processing, and distribution of methylene chloride](#) (MEK) in all paint removers for consumer use after Nov. 22, 2019. It is now unlawful for any person or retailer to sell or distribute paint removal products containing methylene chloride for consumer use, including e-commerce sales.

Please contact the library@bwc.state.oh.us or 614-466-7388 for more information on any of these items.

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