

# Safety Update

## Ohio BWC Library



### It's Flu Season

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a [website](#) full of information on influenza. Learn about protective actions, vaccinations and what to do if you get sick. If you have not gotten your vaccination yet, there is still time. Getting vaccinated later can still be beneficial. Health-care providers offer vaccinations throughout the flu season. Flu activity most commonly peaks in the United States between December and February. You can find the [Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report](#) online with information about the number of U.S. cases.

### NIOSH/CDC News

#### New Robotics Center

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Robotics Institute of America signed an industry alliance in October. They will work together on promoting technical expertise, hazard awareness and creating technical training. NIOSH created a new robotics center to "provide scientific leadership to guide the development and use of occupational robots that enhance worker safety, health and well-being." Information about the center, research, partnerships, resources and publications are available on the NIOSH [robotics website](#).

#### New Chapter on Biological Monitoring Methods

NIOSH posted a new draft chapter it will publish in its Manual of Analytical Methods. [Application of Biological Monitoring Methods for Chemical Exposures in Occupational Health](#) is available on the Regulations.gov website and is open for comments until Dec. 15, 2017.

#### Drug Overdoses in Rural Areas

The CDC released a [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) in October. It contains the results of a study that found drug overdose rates are rising in rural areas making the current crisis much more than an urban problem.

## Respiratory Protection Training

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NIOSH and the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN) created a respiratory protection training program for occupational health professionals. The [10-module program](#) is available on the AAOHN website. You do not need to be a member to use it. Materials are also available to assist in promoting the program.

## Data Data Data

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NIOSH has added new data sets to its [Worker Health Charts website](#). The public can use the information to make charts to assess current rates, distribution, and trends in workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths. The data sets include exposures, health and safety behaviors, health status and more.

## OSHA News

### Silica Website Update

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OSHA has updated its [crystalline silica website](#) to include information on silica hazards and related OSHA standards. Find everything from compliance assistance with both construction and general industry and maritime, to information on silica sampling and analysis, health effects of silica exposure, and answers to frequently asked questions.

This recent [BWC Safety Blog post](#) highlights how BWC can provide consulting services, information and training regarding the recent updates to the crystalline silica standard.

## Other News

### Safe Driving Materials

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While Drive Safe Work Week was in October, you can still access all the useful materials from the [campaign](#) prepared by the Network of Employers for Traffic Safety. Materials include fact sheets, a presentation and social media graphics. Keep the safe driving message going year-round.

### Costs of Substance Abuse and Fatigue

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The National Safety Council (NSC) has two cost calculators for your business.

Do you wonder what substance abuse could be costing you? The NSC created a [cost calculator](#) with the assistance of national nonprofit Shatterproof and independent research institution, NORC at the University of Chicago. The calculator uses business location, industry and number of employees to calculate a cost of substance abuse.

Is fatigue costing your business? The NSC created a [cost calculator for fatigue in the workplace](#) using business location, industry, number of employees and use of shift workers.

### Center for Construction Research and Training Newsletter

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The second quarter 2017 issue of the [CPWR Quarterly](#) discusses struck-by injuries and prevention in construction, the industry with the largest number of struck-by injuries. Half the fatalities in construction struck-by incidents were from vehicles. Objects or equipment caused the rest of the accidents. Read the entire report and learn about these statistics and how to prevent these tragedies.

## Dangers of Manure Pits

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Asphyxiation deaths associated with manure storage typically occur in confined spaces not intended for continuous occupancy; however, a Wisconsin farmer died at an outdoor storage facility. The CDC issued a [report](#) about the incident. This death emphasizes the need for businesses to learn about hydrogen sulfide safety at agricultural facilities. This NIOSH [webpage](#) has safety information and more.

## Occupational Health and Safety Vulnerability Measure

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The Institute for Work and Health (IHS) developed a tool you can use to determine who is most vulnerable to occupational health and safety risks at your business. The tool is a questionnaire that users can download from the [IHS website](#). A short video introduces the concept of “vulnerability to risk.”

## A Podcast for the Safety Professional

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Safety and Health Magazine has a monthly column and podcast called [All About You](#). The column and podcast feature professional speaker and safety professional Richard Hawk. There are 51 episodes at the time of this newsletter on topics designed to motivate safety professionals in their jobs.

## Window Cleaning Safety

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OSHA and the International Window Cleaning Association have developed an online [Window Cleaning Field Safety Guide](#). The guide provides information on the major safety hazards workers encounter during professional window cleaning, including identifying hazards, weather conditions, fall protection and more.

## When Not to Call 911

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As important as it is to know when to call 911, it is just as important to know when not to call. This [video](#) from the city of Columbus illustrates how non-emergency calls can prevent callers in real need from getting emergency services.

## Food Safety Plan Builder

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The Food and Drug Administration released a tool for operators of food facilities to assist them with the development of food safety plans. The [Food Safety Plan Builder](#) contains sections on facility information, good manufacturing practices, hazard analysis, sanitation, reporting and more.

Please contact the [library@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:library@bwc.state.oh.us) or 614-466-7388 for more information on any of these items.