

Safety Update

Ohio BWC Library

CALL FOR INNOVATIONS

Apply by September 30, 2016

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation is accepting applications from Ohio employers for the 2017 Safety Innovation Awards competition. Innovations must demonstrate reduction in safety or ergonomic risk factors, or occupational health exposures.



Eligibility requirements and application instructions are available at <https://www.bwc.ohio.gov>. Click on Safety Services, then Safety Innovation Awards.

NIOSH/CDC News

Electronic Cigarettes

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released a report on e-cigarette use amongst working adults. The report found that 3.8 percent were regular e-cigarette users. The survey found that e-cigarette usage was highest among workers in accommodation and food services industry and among workers in food preparation and serving-related occupations. [Find the report here.](#)

Distracted Driving

The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) [Distracted Driving website](#) has information on types of distractions, the role of distraction in fatal crashes and ways to prevent distracted driving at work.

NIOSH Program Factsheets

NIOSH now provides a series of factsheets called [Program Performance One-Pagers](#) for each of its programs. The factsheets describe the relevance and impact of a NIOSH program; including the program's priorities, major activities, accomplishments and plans.

Preventing Motor Vehicle Crashes

The CDC released a [report on crash deaths in the U.S.](#) In 2013, the U.S. crash death rate was more than twice the average of other high-income countries. The report lists five steps that drivers can do to reduce their risks.

- Use a seat belt in every seat, on every trip, no matter how short.
- Make sure you always buckle children in the back seat, in a car seat, booster seat or seat belt, whichever is appropriate for their age, height and weight.
- Choose not to drive while impaired by alcohol or drugs, and help others do the same.
- Obey speed limits.
- Drive without distractions (such as using a cell phone or texting).

Lightning Safety

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have released [Lightning Safety When Working Outdoors](#). This fact sheet provides employers and workers with information about lightning hazards and protective measures they can take to ensure workers' safety. Be safe during summer storm season!

Tree Care Safety Documents

If you work in the tree-care industry, OSHA has some materials for you. These include:

[Hazard Bulletin](#) contains information on falls and falling object hazards;

[Tri-fold wallet card](#) has information on falls, electrocution or being struck by trees;

[Pamphlet](#) contains information that helps workers know and prepare for the risks of tree-trimming operations near sources of electricity.

New Document on Agricultural Safety

OSHA's new [Emergency Preparedness for Farmworkers](#) fact sheet focuses on the importance of creating and training workers in an emergency action plan to help lessen the impact of natural and man-made agricultural emergencies and disasters such as tornados, floods, wildfires and grain entrapments.

Zika Virus Guidance

If you are looking for information on Zika virus, check out these two new documents — the OSHA QuickCard [Zika Virus Protection for Outdoor Workers](#) (also in [Spanish](#)) and the OSHA-NIOSH fact sheet [Interim Guidance for Protecting Workers from Occupational Exposure to Zika Virus](#).

Other News

Sunscreen Use

Are you using sunscreen correctly? [Safety and Health Magazine](#) reported on a survey conducted by the American Academy of Dermatology on sunscreen use. The results show most people, even those who have a history of non-melanoma skin cancer, did not understand how to properly apply sunscreen or understand sun protection factor (SPF) labels on sunscreen products.

Beat the Heat

[NOAA's Weather-Ready Nation](#) is about readying your community for extreme weather, water, and climate events. Right now, this website is focusing on [heat safety](#) with resources for job sites, vehicles, outdoor activities and many other topics.

Google Science App

Google has created an [app for Android phones](#) that may have applications to the world of safety. Using the sensors in your phone or external sensors, you can gather data; take notes and plot results on a graph. It is a hand-held lab notebook. [This article from Google](#) describes more about how the app works. Google designed the app for education. However, it appears to have more possibilities!

Underwriter Laboratories (UL) - Forklifts vs. Pedestrians: Right-Of-Way (Podcast)

UL created this [18-minute podcast](#) about the issues around the requirement for forklift drivers to yield to pedestrians and the challenges to drivers and pedestrians in following that rule.

Infographics of the Month!

This month we have a website full of dozens of infographics. [Atlantic Training](#) has created numerous infographics on various aspects of safety and wellness. It also has a [blog](#) that contains articles on the same topics.

Silica

OSHA has finalized the Crystalline Silica Rule for General Industry and Maritime. The Federal Register published the final rule on March 25, 2016, with an effective date of June 23, 2016. The Center for Construction Research and Training created the [Silica Safe website](#) to inform you about silica. The site has information about silica hazards and regulations and requirements. It also has a tool to help you create a silica dust control plan.

Weather App from FEMA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has an app with tools and tips to keep you safe before, during, and after disasters. Stay updated with weather-related alerts from the U.S. National Weather Service. Get tips on what to do before, during, and after more than 20 types of disasters. Download the FEMA app for free on the [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#)

Construction Safety Videos

The Ontario Road Builders' Association created three humorous videos [The Failure to Merge](#), [The Road Rager](#) and [The Speeder](#) to promote safety in construction work zones.

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