

Safety Update

Ohio BWC Library

Heat Safety

It's getting hot out there! These resources will help you keep your employees safe in the hot summer months. [The National Integrated Heat Health Information System](#) website consolidates heat safety information from eight government agencies, including:

- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA);
- The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH);
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Find heat warnings, planning information, and tools and resources to help plan for extreme heat events.



- OSHA Heat App – The recently updated OSHA-NIOSH Heat Safety Tool is available for [iOS](#) and [Android](#) phones. The app features real-time heat index and hourly forecasts, specific to your location, as well as occupational safety and health recommendations from OSHA and NIOSH.
- The Center for Construction Research and Training released a new [hazard alert](#) for construction workers working in hot weather. This handout is available in English and Spanish and provides information on heat hazards and steps that you can take to prevent heat illness.

NIOSH/CDC News

Fatal Falls in the Oil and Gas Industry

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has released a report on the [trends in injuries in the oil and gas industry](#). It indicates that during 2003–2013, fatality rates for oil and gas extraction workers decreased for all causes of death except those associated with fall events, which increased 2 percent annually. The report found that the required fall protection was either not used, was used improperly or failed in more than 80 percent of the fatalities.

Lack of Bloodborne Pathogen Programs in Dental Offices

This NIOSH [survey of dental offices](#) found a significant percentage were not in compliance with OSHA bloodborne pathogen regulations and did not have an effective Exposure Control Plan for bloodborne pathogens. If your practice needs information on this topic, go to the [OSHA bloodborne pathogen webpage](#) and contact the BWC Library for training videos.

Fentanyl Exposure Risks for Law Enforcement and Emergency Response Personnel

This recent [NIOSH Blog post](#) provides links to interim recommended procedures that emergency services personnel can use when they suspect the presence of fentanyl or carfentanil.

New Communication Tower Workers Safety Publication

OSHA and the Federal Communications Commission published a new [best practices document](#) for communication tower workers. The brochure contains best practices for tower climbers, ground crew, carriers, tower owners and more.

Transportation Safety at Drilling Sites

The OSHA Oil and Gas Well Drilling and Servicing eTool has a [new module for transportation](#). The module offers information about site preparation, drilling, well completion, servicing and well abandonment. In addition, it provides safety information for transporting personnel and equipment, vehicle operation at the well site and all-terrain vehicles.

Other News

Coming Soon: Submit a Safety Innovation Awards Application

Later this month, BWC will begin accepting applications from Ohio employers for the 2018 Safety Innovation Awards. Innovations must demonstrate reduction in safety or ergonomic risk factors, or occupational health exposures.

Eligibility requirements and application instructions are available on our [Safety Innovation Awards webpage](#). Please submit applications by Sept. 30, 2017.

Positive Drug Tests Increased in 2016

Drug-testing company Quest Diagnostics [reports](#) in its yearly Quest Diagnostics Drug Testing Index™ that positive drug tests were at their highest rate in 12 years. The company reported increases across all of the most common illicit drugs.

Laboratory Chemical Safety Summaries

This new product in the [PubChem database](#) from the National Library of Medicine contains summaries of chemical stability and reactivity information from the Hazardous Substances Databank. A short [webinar](#) contains information about how to access the database for information on chemical safety for your laboratory.

Distracted Walking

We hear a lot about distracted driving. However, the same things that distract drivers can also distract pedestrians. This [blog post](#) from the National Safety Council (NSC) discusses distracted walking and provides links to information on statistics, studies and steps you can take to reduce your risk of injury while walking.

Campbell Institute Webinars

The Campbell Institute of the NSC creates [webinars](#) on current safety topics. Users can participate from their computer. The Campbell Institute also archives past webinars on the site for viewing.

Worldwide Hazard Map

The Hungarian National Association of Radio Distress-Signalling and Infocommunications operates the [Emergency and Disaster Information Service](#). This constantly updated map shows biological, weather, hazardous materials, geotechnical and medical hazards worldwide.

Fentanyl Guidance Document for Emergency Responders

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency has released a [guidance document](#) for emergency response personnel who may come in contact with fentanyl. A briefing guide for first responders contains information on best practices. It also includes recommendations for handling and processing of crime scenes and materials that may be contaminated with fentanyl and related substances.

Trench Safety Stand-Down

The National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA) held a stand-down event for trench safety in June. You can find all of the materials it provided for this event on the [NUCA website](#), including:

- Stand-down materials;
- Excavation checklists;
- Toolbox talks;
- OSHA trench safety publications.

Just because the formal event has passed doesn't mean you can't hold your own stand down for trench safety any time.

Not in our House

This [campaign](#) teaches firefighters about cancer risks on the job from dirty gear. It encourages them to take a pledge to maintain their gear properly to reduce their risk of cancer and the risk of taking carcinogens into their firehouse and their home.

Choose Hand Safety

The [Choose Hand Safety website](#) provides construction workers and contractors with information that workers can use to reduce the risk of work-related hand injuries, dermatitis, and related hand and skin disorders. The site includes information on:

- Choosing hand tools – how to decide if a hand tool is ergonomic for the user, what features can reduce the risk for injury and guidance on selecting hand tools;
- Choosing gloves – how to prevent skin disorders such as dermatitis, the importance of selecting the right gloves for a product and task, and guidance for selecting gloves.

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