

Safety Update

Ohio BWC Library



OHIO SAFETY CONGRESS & EXPO

YOUR FUTURE IN SAFETY. WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED.

**Registration
NOW OPEN!**

Safety Congress Registration Now Open

Registration is now open for the 2020 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo (OSC 2020)! Visit the [OSC 2020 website](#) to view a full listing of course descriptions and to register for the event, which takes place March 11-13 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Now in its 90th year, OSC 2020 is the largest and longest-running regional occupational safety, health and workers' compensation conference in the U.S.

Last year, more than 8,000 representatives from Ohio businesses and government attended the event to discover the strategies and tools needed for a healthy, safe, and productive workforce.

Ohio BWC News

Safety Innovation Awards Semifinalists Announced

We're pleased to announce the semifinalists for our 2020 Safety Innovation Awards! Between July and September, we received 70 total applications, including 46 that met all the eligibility requirements. After tallying the composite scores, we identified these top-scoring 11 applications as the 2020 semifinalists.

- Carmichael Machine Corp. - Springfield
- Clark Grave Vault Company - Columbus
- Diversified Fall Protection - Westlake
- Fort Amanda Specialties - Lima
- Keller Trucking - Defiance
- Mansfield Plumbing Products - Perrysville
- Mt. Vernon City Schools - Mt. Vernon
- Terydon, Inc. - Navarre
- TFO Tech Co., LTD - Jeffersonville
- Thyssenkrupp Bilstein of America - Hamilton
- Washing systems LLC (dba WSI)

The **five** semifinalists with the highest scores will advance and be featured at the 2020 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo (OSC 2020), where an independent (non-BWC) panel of judges will determine their ultimate placement — first place through honorable mention with associated cash awards. The finalists will also be eligible for the People's Choice award as determined by OSC 2020 attendee voting.

Better You, Better Ohio!® Webinars for Employers

At BWC, we take our mission to take care of Ohio's workforce seriously. That's why we're offering [Better You, Better Ohio!®](#) – a program that provides health and wellness resources and services to workers who work for small employers (150 or fewer workers) in certain industries. The program is designed to help both workers and their employers at no cost and through a simple, paperless process. Register here for the [Jan. 15, 2020, webinar starting at 9:30 a.m.](#) or the [Jan. 28, 2020, webinar starting at 1:30 p.m.](#) to learn how your employees can get healthier and be eligible for up to \$175 in financial incentives.

NIOSH/CDC News

Mast Climbing Inspection Tool

The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) created an [inspection tool for mast climbers](#). The walkthrough program shows common inspection points on this equipment and what to look for in each area.

Hard Hat Anniversary

The December issue of [NIOSH eNews](#) includes an article on the 100th anniversary of the invention of the hard hat.

OSHA News

Rise in At-Work Suicides

The rate of suicide at work increased by 11% in 2018. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) created a new [Preventing Suicide](#) webpage with links to suicide prevention phone numbers and online chat. The page has poster graphics for these services and links to other assistance websites.

Regulatory Error Correction

OSHA published a notice in the [December 17, 2019 Federal Register](#) to correct errors and clarify requirements in the Walking-Working Surfaces and Personal Protective Equipment standards. The corrections clarify height of ladder side rails, exclusion of coverage for articulated stairs, proof testing of snap hooks, carabiners, and D-rings, and several typographical errors.

Headphone Use on Construction Sites

A recent [letter of interpretation](#) from OSHA regarding Standard 1926.52 and 1926.101 confirms that there are no OSHA regulations that prohibit the use of headphones on a construction site but cautions that struck-by hazards are one of the four leading causes of death at construction sites and listening to music can cover up sounds that alert workers to danger.

Other News

Material Handling Injury Prevention

The Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR) recently added resources to the [Best Built Plans \(BBP\)](#) program. CPWR designed the program to reduce the risks for soft tissue injuries from manual material handling by providing contractors with resources at each project stage to use on the job to raise awareness and reinforce safe practices. New items include an app version of the planning and interactive training resources, a Spanish version of the planning tool, and a video on how to use the program.



Risks for Vaping Product Associated Lung Injuries

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported on a public survey from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) in their [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#). IDPH conducted an online public survey during September–October 2019 targeting e-cigarette or vaping product users in Illinois. The CDC said: “The findings in this report reinforce current recommendations that persons should not use e-cigarette, or vaping, products that contain THC, or any e-cigarette, or vaping, products obtained from informal sources such as off the street, from a dealer, or from a friend. In addition, because the specific compound or ingredient causing lung injury is not yet known, the CDC continues to recommend that persons consider refraining from use of all e-cigarette or vaping products while the outbreak investigation continues.”

Work Zone Safety

CPWR has a set of resources to prevent struck-by injuries in construction work zones. Struck-by hazards are a leading cause of fatal and nonfatal injuries in construction. This [webpage](#) contains material from a variety of sources and includes fatality reports and videos from NIOSH, OSHA resources, toolbox talks, handouts, and links to research.

Focus on the Drive Newsletter

The National Safety Council's Focus on the Drive quarterly newsletter provides tips on driving and information on the latest driving research. You can [read the latest issue here](#) and sign up for an email notice of new issues [here](#).

Hand and Arm Vibration Tool

Great Britain's Health and Safety Executive updated their [hand/arm vibration calculator](#). This Microsoft Excel-based tool is used to calculate exposures. Also included with the tool are a guidance document on the issues of vibration and a guide to the use of the calculator.

Safe Loading Docks

The Loading Dock Equipment Manufacturers industry group wrote a Dock Planning 101 guidance document to assist in the basic design of loading docks. Users can download the guide after creating a free account on the [Material Handling Industry](#) website.

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

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The Ohio BWC Library of BWC's Division of Safety & Hygiene compiles and distributes this newsletter each month.