

Summit County Safety Council Newsletter

One Cascade Plaza, Akron, OH 44308 — Phone 330-379-3185 — Fax 330-376-3852 — www.thesummitcountysafetycouncil.org

October is National Fire Prevention Month

A Little History

The Lake View School Fire

NFPA Journal®, September/October 2008
By Casey C Grant, P.E.

When the sun broke over the bustling village of Collinwood, Ohio, on Wednesday, March 4, 1908, the day began like any other day just off the shores of Lake Erie. But the day would end much, much differently. Unbeknownst to the children and teachers at the Lake View School, they were about to become part of a disaster forever etched in time. On this day, 172 students and 3 adults would die in the largest life-loss school fire in U.S history.

Nowhere to run

At the start of the 1907/1908 school year, Lake View School had 350 students, more than it could comfortably handle, occupying nine classrooms. Because the day of the fire was Ash Wednesday, however, the number of absentees might have been slightly higher than usual.

“It was like a snowstorm only the flakes were red instead of white.”

Fire Narrative of Bessie Bradwell Helmer

The fact that the Great Chicago Fire started around 9 o'clock on Sunday evening, October 8, 1871, somewhere in or very near the O'Leary barn, the exact particulars of its origins are unknown. But, given the dry summer and the careless way the city had been built and managed, a kick from a cow would have been sufficient but by no means necessary to burn Chicago down. As A.T. Andreas, the city's leading nineteenth-century historian, put it, "Nature had withheld her accustomed measure of prevention, and man had added to the peril by recklessness."

THINGS TO REMEMBER IF YOU HAVE A FIRE!

GET OUT of the House or building and **STAY OUT!**

Crawl low under the smoke.

Feel doors with the back of your hand for heat, before opening.

Open doors slowly and be ready to close them if heat or fire is outside them.

Once out of the house or building, **DON'T GO BACK IN FOR ANY REASON!**

Once outside go to a phone and call 911 to report the fire.

If your clothes catch on fire: **STOP, DROP, and ROLL** until the fire goes out and cover your face with your hands.

Close any doors you safely can as you are leaving the house or building.

Provide any helpful information to the Fire Department you can:

1. Where the fire is located in the house or building.
2. If anyone is still in the house or building and where they might be located.
3. Any Hazards that might be in the house or building.

October, 2008

Mark your Calendar

October 15, 2008

Regular Meeting at Tangier

Featuring

Chief Michael Benson

Copley Fire Department

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BWC to Distribute Checks at October Safety Council Meeting

BWC will distribute checks representing the initial 2% participation discount for employers who met the four FY08 eligibility requirements at the October 15th safety council meeting. 213 members of Summit County Safety Council will receive checks totaling \$655,115,58. The checks will be distributed at the conclusion of the meeting.

The 2% performance discount will be calculated by BWC when data is available in November. Correspondence will be distributed at the December and January safety council meetings with employer frequency/severity ratios. If earned, the performance discount check will be mailed to the business address on file with BWC.

FY09 Discount Program Eligibility Requirements

Are you meeting the following requirements for the FY09 Safety Council Program?

Enroll in local safety council by July 31, 2008

Attend 10 meetings or events between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009

- At least eight of the 10 meetings must be safety council meetings. Up to two of the 10 can be external educational options outlined below, but all 10 can be safety council meetings.
- A person can represent only one policy number with their attendance at a meeting.
- Employer has the option to gain credit for up to two meetings through attendance at Workers' Compensation University, Ohio Safety Congress & Expo, BWC's Division of Safety & Hygiene (DSH) safety training courses or industry-specific training.
- DSH safety training credit is available for training conducted at the Ohio Center for Occupational Safety and Health (OCOSH) in Pickerington or one of its branches.
- No matter the duration of the training or special event, attendance applies toward only one meeting credit.
- Safety training conducted at the employers' workplace, online or required Drug-Free Workplace training does not qualify for the safety council discount program eligibility.
- It is the employer's responsibility to submit documentation to his or her safety council by June 30, 2009, for attendance at non-safety council training or events to qualify.
- Documentation must be an official certificate of attendance or transcript.

CEO must attend any one safety council sponsored function or meeting

- CEO attendance counts as credit toward one of the 10 required meetings.
- If a CEO is representing multiple policy numbers, his/her attendance fulfills the CEO attendance requirement for all policies, but counts as meeting credit for only one policy number.

Submit semi-annual reports for the 2008 calendar year

2-percent premium discount

- Employers meeting these participation eligibility requirements will receive a refund of 2 percent of their annual premium.
- The discount offer excludes self-insuring employers and state agencies.
- Employers must have active coverage status and no outstanding BWC balance to qualify.
- Employers who meet the participation requirements will be eligible for a 2-percent performance bonus.
- BWC will calculate the performance bonus based on claims data.

Upcoming Events

November 18, 2008
First Aid/CPR Training
Chenoweth Country Club

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November 19, 2008
Regular Meeting—Tangier
Tim Dimoff
SACS Consulting
Flu Vaccinations

◆
December 2, 2008
First Aid/CPR Training
Chenoweth Country Club

◆
December 4, 2008
OSHA Recordkeeping Class
Chenoweth Country Club

◆
December 17, 2008
Regular Meeting—Tangier
Christmas Luncheon

Reminders

Summit, Green (CAK) and Barberton Safety Councils are co-sponsoring an OSHA Recordkeeping class to be held on Thursday, December 4, 2008 at Chenoweth Country Club in Akron. You will also learn how to fill out the semi-annual report. The class will begin at 8:30 a.m. and last approximately 3 hours. Cari Gray, Industrial Safety Consultant with BWC will be instructing the class. A light breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. Cost is \$15.00 per attendee. Attendance at this class will qualify as one safety council meeting credit per policy for BWC's Safety Council Program. Please contact Sally Cox at scox@neo.rr.com if you are interested in attending this class. Chenoweth Country club is located at 3087 Chenoweth Road, just off I-77 at Arlington Road.



Summit County Safety Council will once again offer flu vaccinations to its members at a reduced cost of \$15.00 per immunization during our regular meeting on November 19, 2008. Please contact Sally Cox at scox@neo.rr.com if you are interested in participating. We need to have an approximate count to have enough immunizations available.



If any SCSC member attended Workers' Compensation University and would like to receive credit for external training for the Safety Council Program, please email or fax your certificate of attendance to Sally Cox by 10/31/08. Attendance at WCU can earn a maximum of one meeting credit no matter the number of individuals in attendance per policy number or the number of courses or events attended. Please include employer name and BWC policy number on your certificate.

CPR / First Aid / Bloodborne Pathogens / AED Training

Summit County Safety Council is sponsoring two CPR/First Aid training classes on November 18th and December 2, 2008 at Chenoweth Country Club. These classes will include CPR / First Aid / Bloodborne Pathogens and AED training. Classes are limited to twenty participants. Cost is \$45.00 per participant. Class will begin at 9:00 a.m. until approximately 3:30 p.m. Lunch will be included. Dianna Kane with Affirmed First Aid and Safety will be the instructor for these classes. Participants will receive a workbook, comprehensive reference guide and DVD. Attendance at either class will qualify for a maximum of one safety council meeting credit per policy number for BWC's Safety Council Program. Contact Sally Cox at scox@neo.rr.com to register. Class dates will be filled on a first come /first serve basis. Additional classes may be added at a later date if needed.

October Spotlight Company

Serving the residents and employers of Northeast Ohio since 1999, MEDGroup offers a full range of urgent care and occupational health services. Thank you, MEDGroup, for sponsoring Summit County Safety Council.



HARVEST THE REWARDS OF SAFETY IN ALL SEASONS

This month's winner of the Safety Slogan Contest is Tammie Stevens of Empire Die Casting. Tammie's slogan "HARVEST THE REWARDS OF SAFETY IN ALL SEASONS" was selected by the Executive Committee. Tammie will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate for her winning slogan. Congratulations Tammie!

Please continue to submit your safety slogans to Sally Cox at scox@neo.rr.com. Each month's winner will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate. The winning slogan will be printed in the newsletter and projected at the monthly meeting.

SUMMIT COUNTY SAFETY COUNCIL

MISSION STATEMENT

To promote safety/accident prevention in the workplace by offering informational and educational opportunities to both the private and public sectors within the community.

News from BWC

BWC Reform Efforts

Workgroups are underway to assist BWC in its ongoing efforts to strengthen its rating structure and enhance the contribution of Ohio's workers' compensation system to Ohio's economy.

Two workgroups have been formed to craft rules on group composition and consistency in membership, and to develop new discount programs. These teams include representatives from more than a dozen employer service organizations who are working with BWC staff toward the development of these key deliverables.

In the coming months, an additional group will be developed to work on the implementation of a capping plan to limit cost swings to employers in the event of a negative change in their EM rating.

Progress from each workgroup will be posted at ohiobwc.com/reform beginning October 1st. Interested persons may also visit the site to register for regular updates from BWC on its progress in our continuing reform efforts.

Potential New Programs

As mentioned previously, BWC is working to create new programs that are intended to assist all employers in managing their workers' compensation costs. If adopted, some of these programs may be in place as soon as July 1, 2009. The new program workgroup is considering whether Ohio's market will support the programs, which include:

- o Deductibles – allowing any employer to reduce its premium costs in exchange for bearing more individual risk for claims;
- o Group retro – similar employers are measured on their ability to control costs relative to losses they are projected to incur. Better performing groups could achieve a dividend, while less effective groups may pay additional premiums;
- o Safety group dividend - allowing groups of state-fund employers to receive a dividend based on exceeding performance projections; and
- o Shared savings - allowing a logical group (like businesses) of employers to receive a discount. Higher performing employers would sacrifice some level of discount to reduce costs for lower performing employers.

Reserve Info Now Available Online

Ohio employers can now view claim activity and reserve information online. The second phase of the roll out of MIRA II became official on September 5. The availability of the information will enable employers to better manage the claims of their injured workers and know at all times how much a claim costs and anticipated expenses in the future. Information can be found at ohiobwc.com in the "employer" section of the homepage.

Joint Legislative Regulatory Reform Task Force

In fall 2008, a task force will be traveling all across Ohio, soliciting input from Ohio employers, on burdensome regulations and policies that hamper the economic development and the creation of new jobs. The first meeting was held on August 13th in Columbus and the second meeting was held in Southwest Ohio on September 3rd. Workers' compensation is a key focus of the task force which is being jointly chaired by State Representative James Zehringer and State Senator Keith Faber.

Common Sense Business Initiative

In spring 2008, Governor Strickland issued Executive Order 2008-04S, which directed all state agencies to streamline administrative policies and ease business regulations. All state agencies, including BWC, are currently reviewing administrative rules, to determine which may be conflicting, outdated and /or confusing. To date, BWC has eliminated 14 rules and continues its examination of others.

Another key component of this order mandates that all large state agencies that regularly interact with businesses create an Ombuds Office. The workers' compensation system Ombuds Office has been in place since 1978 to assist injured workers, employers and medical providers in settling concerns or disputes they may have with BWC or the Ohio Industrial Commission (IC). The BWC/IC Ombuds Office is providing guidance and assistance to other state agencies that are creating new business regulation Ombuds offices. The Chief Ombuds Officers for each agency are meeting on a regular basis to ensure good inter-agency cooperation and information flow.