



**SUMMIT COUNTY  
SAFETY COUNCIL**

## SCSC NEWSLETTER

### DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Motor vehicle crashes are the No. 1 cause of death in the United States for 3- to 34-year-olds. Crashes are among the top three causes of death throughout a person's lifetime. They also are the No. 1 cause of work-related death. Driver distractions have joined alcohol and speeding as leading factors in fatal and serious injury crashes.

Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that at any point during the day, 11 percent of drivers are talking on cell phones. Although texting is clearly a serious distraction, data shows drivers talking on cell phones are involved in more crashes. More people are talking on cell phones while driving more often, and for greater lengths of time, than they are texting. Thus, in 2008, an estimated 200,000 crashes involved texting or e-mailing, versus 1.4 million crashes involving talking on cell phones.

Vision is the most important sense for safe driving. Yet, drivers using hands-free phones (and those using handheld phones) have a tendency to "look at" but not "see" objects. Estimates indicate that drivers using cell phones look but fail to see up to 50 percent of the information in their driving environment. Distracted drivers experience what researchers call inattention blindness, similar to that of tunnel vision. Drivers are looking out the windshield, but they do not process everything in the roadway environment that they must know to effectively monitor their surroundings, seek and identify potential hazards, and respond to unexpected situations.

Multitasking is a myth. Human brains do not perform two tasks at the same time. Instead, the brain handles tasks sequentially, switching between one task and another. Brains can juggle tasks very rapidly, which leads us to erroneously believe we are doing two tasks at the same time. In reality, the brain is switching attention between tasks – performing only one task at a time. When people perform two tasks at the same time, one is a primary task and the other a secondary task. One task gets full focus and the other moves to a back burner. The human brain does the same switching between primary and secondary tasks when a person is driving a vehicle while talking on a cell phone. Should driving a vehicle ever be a "back burner" task?

Eliminating driver distraction due to cell phone use faces significant challenges. Drivers can help avoid this by informing frequent callers that they will not participate in phone conversations while driving. There is a shared responsibility among all involved in cell phone conversations to avoid calling and talking while driving—including drivers, callers and the people that drivers may call.

*Distractions  
now join  
Alcohol and  
Speeding as  
Leading  
Factors in fatal  
and serious  
injury crashes.*

*Should driving a  
vehicle ever be a  
"back burner"  
task?*

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## JULY'S FEATURED PROGRAM

*Office Ergonomics and Safety*

*George P. LaPorte, Jr., CIE*

*Bureau Veritas, North America*

### Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday,

July 21, 2010

11:30 a.m.

**Regular Meeting —Tangier  
George LaPorte  
Bureau Veritas, North  
America  
Office Ergonomics and Safety**

Did you know that the OSHA safety standards that apply in production areas may also apply in office areas?

We often think that the only safety issues in the office are slips, trips and falls. However there are several others and they are covered by OSHA safety standards. This presentation will address these and other safety issues that we often don't think exist in office areas. Also, the presentation will address office ergonomic risk factors that could potentially result in Musculoskeletal Disorders. Cost effective methods to reduce these risk factors will be addressed during the presentation.

In 1996, George LaPorte joined NATLSCO, which is now known as Bureau Veritas, North America, Inc. Mr. LaPorte currently supervises the Health and Ergonomics technical staff and conducts ergonomics consulting evaluations for larger and complex clients. He markets ergonomic services, including the development of sales promotional material, oral sales presentations to prospective clients, and preparation of proposals for bids on contracts. Also, he is responsible for the development and presentation of ergonomics training seminars.

Mr. LaPorte served a three year term on the National Advisory Committee on Ergonomics (NACE) for the Department of Labor. He has also been an Ergonomics Committee member on the Ohio Safety Congress and has made several presentations, at their annual conference, over the past three years.

Mr. LaPorte is involved in ergonomics projects nationally and internationally, including worksite assessments, injury investigation, trend analyses, program development and implementation, training seminars, and webinars. Specifically he has conducted comprehensive ergonomics evaluations in industry sectors including aerospace, food processing, biotechnology, electronics manufacturing, health care, telecommunications, warehousing, customer service, public service and general industry clients.

Prior to joining NATLSCO Mr. LaPorte had approximately 17 years of ergonomics, safety, and engineering experience, in industrial and corporate environments.



*Semi-Annual Reports  
for the 1st half of  
2010 are now due  
from all members.*

*If you haven't filed  
your report, please  
create an account on  
the SCSC web  
site. You must be  
logged on to access the  
"reporting link".*



## EYE INJURY PREVENTION MONTH

July has been officially recognized as Eye Injury Prevention Month. For this reason, a focus is placed on protecting your eyes in various environments, namely the workplace.

Eye injuries of all types occur at a rate of more than 2,000 per day. In particular, an estimated 1,000 eye injuries occur in American workplaces alone. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) found that almost 70% of the eye injuries studied occur from falling or flying objects, or sparks striking the eye.

The best ways to prevent injury to the eye is to always wear the appropriate eye protection. Surprisingly, the BLS reports that approximately three out of every five workers injured were either not wearing eye protection at the time of the accident or wearing the wrong kind of eye protection for the job. To be effective, eyewear must fit properly and be designed to effectively protect workers while they work. It is estimated that over 90% of eye injuries are preventable with the use of proper safety eyewear. The Occupational Safety Health Administration, OSHA, has standards that require employers to provide their workers with the appropriate eye protection.



In addition to the proper safety eyewear, early detection and treatment of eye conditions and diseases are essential to maintaining good vision at every stage of life. According to the American Academy of Ophthalmology, AAO, children with a family history of childhood vision problems should be screened for common childhood eye problems before the age of 5. Although most young adults have healthy vision, if eye problems such as visual changes, pain, flashes of light, seeing spots, excessive tearing, and excessive dryness occur, they should see an eye doctor. Adults between the ages of 40 to 65 should have an eye exam every two to four years. Adults over the age of 65 should have an eye exam at least every one to two years. Ultimately, the key to preventing eye injuries is to take a more proactive approach to sustaining healthy vision.

**To learn more about preventing eye injuries, please visit the following websites:**

- [American Academy of Ophthalmology](http://www.aao.org)—www.aao.org
- [Eye Protection in the Workplace](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FACT_SHEETS&p_id=142)—www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\_document?p\_table=FACT\_SHEETS&p\_id=142
- [Workplace Eye Safety](http://www.preventblindness.org)—www.preventblindness.org

### Upcoming Events & Reminders



**July 15, 2010**  
Semi-Annual Reports due for  
1/1/10 to 6/30/10 reporting  
period



**July 21, 2010**  
Regular Meeting—Tangier  
George LaPorte  
Bureau Veritas, North  
America  
Office Ergonomics and Safety



**August 18, 2010**  
Regular Meeting—Tangier  
Tod Morrow  
Morrow & Meyer LLC  
Effective Claims Management

# SCSC

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## FY11 SAFETY COUNCIL PROGRAM

A new safety council program year began 7/1/10. For those members who are eligible to participate in BWC's Safety Council Rebate Program, the following requirements must be met between 7/1/10 and 6/30/11:

- Enrollment with safety council by 7/31/10
- Attendance at 10 Safety council meetings/events. At least 8 thru the local safety council. You can get credit for up to two meetings at BWC's safety training courses or industry-specific training. Certificate must be submitted to safety council.
- CEO attendance at one safety council sponsored meeting.
- Submit semi-annual reports for the 2010 calendar year.

**The rebate offer excludes self-insuring employers, state agencies and employers enrolled in BWC's group-rating and group-retrospective programs. Limitations apply to a professional employer organizations.**  
BWC encourages all employers to become active safety council members.

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To prepay for luncheons for the entire year (7/1/10 to 6/30/11), please complete and return this form with payment in the amount of **\$165.00**. Cost of an individual luncheon is \$15.00. You receive one free luncheon for pre-payment.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed (make checks payable to Summit County Safety Council)

Complete and return to:

Summit County Safety Council  
One Cascade Plaza  
18<sup>th</sup> floor  
Akron, OH 44308

### 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.

Co-sponsored by the Ohio  
Bureau of Workers'  
Compensation (BWC)

