



**SUMMIT COUNTY
SAFETY COUNCIL**

SCSC NEWSLETTER



'Tis the Season to be Cautious

Very few things are as unique to the winter holiday season as the custom of decorating your home and yard. While decorative lights and other electrical decorations contribute to the splendor of the season, they can significantly increase the risk of fires and electrical injuries if not used safely. Follow basic safety guidelines as you decorate your home and yard this holiday season.

Outdoor Decorating

- | Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage. Use insulated staples, or run the lights through hooks.
- | Make sure all products are marked for outdoor use.
- | Keep all outdoor extension cords and light strings clear of snow and standing water.
- | Make sure spotlights used to highlight decorations are well-ventilated, protected from weather, and a safe distance from flammable items.

Ladders

- | Inspect ladders for loose or missing screws, hinges, bolts, and nuts.
- | Exercise caution when decorating near power lines. Contact with a high-voltage line could lead to electrocution. Keep equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from lines.

- | Use wooden or fiberglass ladders when hanging lights outdoors. Metal ladders conduct electricity.

GFCIs

- | Plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to prevent electric shock.
- | GFCIs should be used in any indoor or outdoor area where water may come into contact with electrical products, including kitchens, bathrooms, garages, and outdoors.
- | Portable GFCIs provide flexibility in using receptacles that are not GFCI-protected, and are often used outdoors.
- | GFCIs should be tested once a month to confirm that they are working properly.
- | Portable GFCIs should be tested before every use. Simply press the RESET button.

Post-Holiday Safety

- | Holiday decorations are meant for temporary use. Take down all decorations during the first week of January.
- | Do not yank or tug on cords when unplugging them.
- | Carefully inspect all decorations prior to storing them. Discard broken or faulty lights.
- | Make sure that electrical cords are in good condition, and wire insulation is not frayed or cracked.
- | Store decorations in a dry location that is safely out of reach of children and pets.

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December's Featured Program

Flirting with Disasters

Robert M. Schwartz, Ph.D.

**Associate Professor of Emergency Management
Director, Center for Emergency Management and Homeland
Security Policy Research
The University of Akron**

Dr. Schwartz is starting his fourth year at The University of Akron. Originally from Florida, he owned a construction and land development company for over 21 years and changed careers in the mid-1990s to become a professor. His research interests include emergency management issues from disasters (preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation), atmospheric hazards (hurricanes, blizzards, and tornadoes), and climatology. He has completed field observations following several hurricanes and other atmospheric hazards. Some of the classes taught include Hazardous Weather Observations, Hazards for Emergency Management, Disaster Victims: Casualties and Recovery, Disaster Relief and Recovery, Introduction to Terrorism, Business Continuity, and Research Methods. In addition, he has published in the *Journal of Emergency Management*, *Journal of Climate*, Quick Response Reports from the Natural Hazards Center, and various chapters in edited volumes. He is also an active participant with FEMA's Higher Education Project at the Emergency Management Institute and has been involved with the Veterans Health Administration Emergency Management Program Evaluation, CERT, Medical Reserve Corps, Pandemic planning, and Skywarn. Dr. Schwartz holds a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Florida, an M.S. in Geosciences from Mississippi State University, and a Ph.D. in Geography from Kent State University.

Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday, December 15,
2010
11:30 a.m.

Regular Meeting —Tangier
Robert M. Schwartz, PH.D.
Flirting with Disasters

**Best
Wishes for
a Safe and
Happy
Holiday
Season!**

Share Your Best practices

If you attended last month's SCSC meeting, you heard our president, Mark Schwerdtfeger, share a best practice from H.J. Heinz Co. If an employee at Heinz Co. is noticed performing his or her job in a safe manner, he/she receives a t-shirt which says **"I got caught..." on the front and "doing something safe at Heinz" on the back.** An excellent example of leadership and employee involvement.

Does your company have a unique practice that has helped boost employee involvement and/or reduce accidents? We want to hear about it! Please take a minute to share it with us at this month's or another upcoming safety council meeting. Your success stories could benefit other members of SCSC. If you are shy, we (Mark) will present it for you!



Upcoming Events & Reminders



December 15, 2010

Regular Meeting—Tangier
Robert M. Schwartz, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of
Emergency Management,
Director Center for Emer-
gency Management and
Homeland Security Policy
Research
The University of Akron
“Flirting with Disasters”



January 15, 2011

Semi-annual reports for the
2nd half of 2010 (7/1/10 to
12/31/10) will be due from all
members on January 15th.
You may email, fax or file
online. **Note: To file online
you must be logged into
the SCSC website to obtain
access to the “Reporting”
link.** Filing of semi-annual
reports is a requirement of
continuing SCSC
membership as well as
BWC’s Safety Council
Rebate Program
requirement. **Failure to file
reports for calendar year
2010 could result in re-
moval from the SCSC
membership roster. Please
do not file your report
before 1/1/11**



2010 Holiday Food and Funds Drive

Our holiday food and funds drive continues this month. Last month’s donations to the Akron-Canton Regional Food bank amounted to \$100.00 and 42 lbs. of food. Many thanks for your generosity!

Please remember to bring a food item(s) to our meeting on December 15th. The **Super Six** most needed items are boxed cereal, peanut butter, canned tuna, canned vegetables, canned beef stew and canned soup.

Financial donations will also be accepted. Every \$1 donation can provide \$7 worth of groceries for the hungry. Checks should be made payable to Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank.

All donors of food or funds will be entered into a prize drawing!

Akron Canton Regional FoodBank
350 Opportunity Parkway
Akron, OH 44307
akroncantonfoodbank.org



Emergency Medical Response Class

SCSC is sponsoring an Emergency Medical Response class on Tuesday, February 15, 2011. This class includes CPR/AED, bloodborne pathogen and first aid.

The class will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Tangier’s. Cost to members is \$30.00 per person, which includes lunch.

Training will be provided by Shull Medical Educators. All training is done by full time Firefighter/Paramedics and Registered nurses who work in critical care in northeast Ohio. Shull Medical Educators teaches AHA(American Heart Association) and ASHI (American Health and Safety) curriculum and all classes besides the OSHA 1910:1030 Bloodborne class carry a 2 year certification; Bloodborne is 1 year.

Class size is limited. Reserve your spot now via email to Sally Cox at sallycox5@aol.com. Reservations must be made and paid in advance. Send payment to:

Summit County Safety Council
One Cascade Plaza
Akron, Oh 44308

SCSC

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The winner of \$38.00 from November's 50/50 raffle was Bill Sanderson of Akron Rubber Development Labs. Last month's proceeds and Bill's winnings were donated to the Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank. Thanks for participating!

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)

OSHA Program Enlisting Building Inspectors To Identify Safety Hazards May Be Expanded

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is considering expanding its building inspector program, under which local inspectors identify unsafe work conditions they encounter while checking for building code violations. OSHA recently began evaluating the program in 11 pilot cities to determine whether to expand it. OSHA enlisted these cities for their help in having building inspectors partner with OSHA to look for hazards associated with falls, electrocution, being crushed or caught between objects, or being struck by moving machinery or objects—the four leading causes of construction-related deaths (40 OSHR 420, 5/20/10).

The agency treats the inspector calls as referrals and sends compliance officers to investigate complaints it receives. They are not turning the building inspectors into OSHA inspectors, but have asked them, in the course of conducting their own operations, to be vigilant. If they see a serious job hazard or OSHA violation, they should either discuss the problem [with] the employer or call OSHA.

Program Pioneered in New York

The program was pioneered in New York, where a cross-referral program between New York's state OSHA program and its Department of Environmental Conservation has identified numerous hazards OSHA would have otherwise been unable to inspect. OSHA could look to other government agencies to cross-train inspectors to identify and refer safety and health hazards in the workplace, such as restaurant health inspectors. The idea is to maximize the amount of eyes in the workplace.

Inspectors Call for Compensation

Chuck Marino, president of the Commercial Inspectors Association of America, has stated that if OSHA wants building inspectors to report safety hazards, they should pay those workers "legitimate compensation". In addition, OSHA should require those inspectors be certified by private entities, such as the Commercial Inspectors Association, and implement a performance review process "so those people are actually doing what's being asked of them." Marino thinks the concept in and of itself is a good concept, but thinks those three things should be added, "otherwise you're going to get inadequate, uneducated inspectors."

FY11 BWC Safety Council Rebate Program Requirements

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 other industry-specific training courses. 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.

