



**SUMMIT COUNTY
SAFETY COUNCIL**

SCSC Newsletter

Keep Your Office Free From Electrical Safety Hazards

Executive Committee

Sally Cox
Executive Director
Sallycox5@aol.com (new)
330-806-1676

Mark Schwerdtfeger—President
Mark.Schwerdtfeger@us.hjhein.com
330-858-1638

Timothy Eberling—Past President
roadhouse@wadsnet.com
330-753-4585

Greg Newsome—Vice President
gnewsome@neo.rr.com
330-753-5051

Board Members

Paul Alic
palic@goldsmith-eggleton.com
330-335-1053

Robin Clute
Rclute@akronlibrary.org
330-643-9174

Walter Fluharty
Walter.fluharty@norandex.com
330-656-8860

Dianna Kane
affirmed_di_kane@yahoo.com
330-802-1272

Denise Mulhollen
Dmulhollen@macedonia.oh.us
330-468-8353

Donald Obermeier
Donald.obermeier@us.bureauveritas.com
330-952-0546

William Sanderson
bsanderson@polymericinc.com
330-928-2210 ext. 25

Bill Silver
Billsilver@akrocehm.com
330-535-2100

BWC Representative

Cari Gray
Cari.G.1@bwc.state.oh.us
330-904-4475

National Electrical Safety Month, May, is fast approaching. It's not too early to start thinking about electrical safety in offices—one of the themes being promoted this year by the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

Many offices lack sufficient electrical outlets for modern conveniences such as computers, printers, monitors, scanners and cell phones. As a result, it's not uncommon to see a rat's nest of wires plugged into an inexpensive, overloaded power strip.

This practice isn't only unsightly—it's dangerous, posing both electrocution and fire hazards.

The ESFI recommends the following steps to help keep workers safe from electrical hazards in offices:

- If you must use a power strip, don't cheap out. Purchase a name-brand product from a reputable retailer. Low-quality or counterfeit power strips may contain wiring that isn't adequate to carry the load.
- Place power strips where

there's plenty of air circulation to disperse heat.

- Do not attempt to plug grounded (three-prong) cords into ungrounded (two-slot) outlets.
- Do not bind, kink or knot electrical cords.
- Never run power cords under rugs or where chairs can roll over them.
- Keep cords close to a wall to avoid trip hazards.
- Keep all non-critical electrical items unplugged until you need to use them.
- Consider charging battery-operated devices in another area.

If your computer screen flickers or fades, or you detect a burning smell, immediate power down any electronic items and contact the building engineer. If you work from home and encounter such problems, call an electrician.

April's Featured Program

Wellness Initiatives...Cost Containment Strategies

Lisa Horning and Kelli Harvey...

Kelli Harvey and Lisa Horning's 18 year tenure with Summa Center For Corporate Health includes assisting employers with cost containment strategies, and serving as liaisons between their customers, and Summa's Occupational Health Clinics in the Tri County area. They have built many business relationships, and enjoy assisting companies with their occupational health care needs. In addition to working with companies, they have worked for 13 years in the juvenile and adult probation sector providing educational forums on drug and alcohol abuse.



Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday,

April 21, 2010

11:30 a.m.

Regular Meeting at Tangier

Lisa Horning & Kelli Harvey

Summa Center for Corporate

Health

Wellness Initiatives...Cost

Containment Strategies

Get CEO Credit and/or Extra Meeting Credit

Summit County Safety Council is co-sponsoring a CEO Breakfast with CAK Safety Council and Eastern Stark County Safety Council on Thursday, May 6th at 7:30 a.m. at Chenoweth Country club in Akron. Get your CEO Credit and/or an extra meeting credit at this event. The featured speaker is Bruce Hennes of Hennes Paynter Communications. If you did not get the opportunity to hear Bruce's "Crises Communications" presentation last August, take advantage of this additional meeting opportunity. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Please make your reservation by email to sallycox5@aol.com. By Monday, May 3rd, 2010.



Calling all CEOs ...

Have you met your attendance

requirement for

this year's Safety

Council Rebate Program? Three months and counting...

News from BWC

BWC announced continuation of the Safety Council Rebate Program for Fiscal year 2011 with the same rebate percentages of the current year's program.



New Board Members Take Office

I'm pleased to announce Summit County Safety Council's board members for the 2010-2012 term.

President—Mark Schwerdtfeger

Past President—Tim Eberling

Vice President—Greg Newsome

Board Members:

Paul Alic

Robin Clute

Walter Fluharty

Dianna Kane

Denise Mulhollen

Donald Obermeier

Bill Sanderson

Bill Silver

Our new board members bring the skills and personalities to help Summit County Safety Council move forward. I appreciate the willingness of these individuals to donate their time for the benefit of the council's membership. I welcome this team and look forward to working with them.

Special thanks to retiring board members Sandy Rilling and Don McCoy for all that you've done. I hope your service to SCSC will not end with your tenure on the board. Your skills and experience can continue to be valuable resources to us.

Best of luck to the new board and the future growth and success of Summit County Safety Council!

Sally

Upcoming Events & Reminders



April 21, 2010
Regular Meeting—Tangier
Lisa Horning & Kelli Harvey
Summa Center for Corporate
Health
Wellness Initiatives...Cost
Control Strategies



May 19, 2010
Regular Meeting —Tangier
Dr. Walter Fluharty
Norandex
Assessment the Prescription
for Success

2009 Safety Awards
Presentation

SCSC

One Cascade Plaza
18th Floor
Akron, OH 44308
330-806-1676
Sallycox5@aol.com (new)
thesummitcountysafetycouncil.org

The winner of March's
50/50 raffle was
**Harvey Nelson, CEO of Main
Street Gourmet in Cuyahoga
Falls. Harvey donated his
winnings of \$51.00 back to
SCSC.**
Thank you for supporting
SCSC!

SPECIAL NOTE

There will not be
an awards
banquet this year.
The 2009
Safety Awards
will be presented
at our regular
meeting on
May 19, 2010

Mission Statement

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

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

OSHA News

Michaels recommends higher penalties and improved whistle- blower protections

Employers who ignore OSHA's rules and risk workers' lives should pay higher penalties, Assistant Secretary Michaels told Congress March 16. Michaels was on Capitol Hill giving testimony supporting the goals of the Protecting America's Workers Act. "Safe jobs exist only when employers have adequate incentives to comply with OSHA's requirements. Meaningful penalties provide an important incentive to do the right thing," said Michaels to the House Subcommittee on Workforce Protections. Monetary penalties for violations of the OSHA Act have been increased only once in 40 years. Michaels offered a revealing disparity between OSHA penalties and those of other agencies: In 2001, a tank full of sulphuric acid exploded at a refinery killing a worker and literally dissolving his body. OSHA's penalty was only \$175,000. Yet, in the same incident, thousands of dead fish and crabs were discovered, allowing an EPA Clean Water Act violation amounting to \$10 million — 50 times higher. "Unscrupulous employers who refuse to comply with safety and health standards as an economic calculus will think again if there is a chance that they will go to jail for ignoring their responsibilities to their workers." Read Michaels' testimony for more information.

Michaels tells *Business Week* incomplete recordkeeping may be hiding worker injuries

An article in the March 11 issue of *Business Week* magazine, "Caution: Stats May Be Slippery," highlighted OSHA efforts to ensure accurate recordkeeping on worker injuries and illnesses. The article, which featured interviews with workers and corporate safety representatives, quoted Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA David Michaels' concerns that safety achievements may have been exaggerated at some industrial companies. Michaels revealed in the article that the statistics OSHA has on workplace injuries are incomplete and, in some cases, inaccurate. His concerns grew after a Government Accountability Office report last year revealed that some workers don't report serious injuries — such as broken arms and gashed legs — out of fear of being fired. The report also found that some employers underreport worker injuries to reduce their insurance premiums.