

Volume 1, Issue 2

December, 2008

Summit County Safety Council Newsletter

One Cascade Plaza, Akron, OH 44308 — Phone 330-806-1676 — Fax 330-376-3852 — scox@neo.rr.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December 17, 2008

11:30 a.m.

Regular Meeting at Tangier

Aerial Work Platform Safety

Sunbelt Rentals

Holiday Safety

Christmas Tree Fire Safety in the Home

Following these safety tips will help ensure a happy and safe holiday season for you and your family:

Before you select a tree, perform the **FRESHNESS TEST**. Gently grab a branch of the tree, about six inches from the trunk of the tree, and pull outward on the branch. When your hand reaches the end of the branch, open it and check for needles. A fresh tree will have only a few needles or none in your hand. If there are several needles, look for a different tree.



Select the location for your Christmas tree carefully, keeping it away from fireplaces,

heating vents, and other heat-producing appliances that may dry out the tree.

Saw at least an inch off of the trunk bottom.

Mount the tree in a stand that holds water or wet sand. Keep the water level above the cut. This will keep the tree fresh and green while reducing the risk of fire.

Use tree lights that bear the Underwriters' Laboratory (U.L.) label, and check the strings for signs of wear and tear. Exercise care with extension cords. Use no more than three sets of lights per extension cord. Do not place the cords under rugs or in paths of travel.

DO NOT BURN YOUR CHRISTMAS WRAPPING OR BOXES in your fireplace. They cause a film in the chimney that can damage it, and when they burn, the fire may cause excessive heat which can damage your chimney and cause a fire in the wall.

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"Safety" Gift Ideas

Put together a gift basket containing one or more of the following items:

- Three smoke detectors and batteries.
- A quality fire extinguisher.
- A flashlight and batteries or light sticks.
- A first-aid kit.
- A carbon Monoxide detector
- A portable Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) extension cord set.
- A second floor escape ladder.
- "Emergency kit" - energy bars, water, battery radio, flashlight/light sticks and a first-aid kit packed in a small travel bag.

News From BWC

Rate Reform Update –Marsha Ryan

Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court issued a preliminary injunction Nov. 18 preventing BWC from implementing the current Ohio group-rating program effective July 1, 2009, and ordering us to enact a group retrospective-rating plan at that time.

It's important to note the ruling does not disrupt group rating for this policy year, nor does it order any restitution for the plaintiffs. The ruling also acknowledges the plaintiffs are unlikely to prove the group-rating plan is unconstitutional.

Laying the groundwork

We've been diligently working to address the group-rating program inequities for the last 18 months. This includes taking decisive action in late 2007 to increase equity among groups. We also took long-term action earlier this year that will fundamentally improve the overall equity and competitiveness of Ohio's workers' compensation system.

Our efforts provided the groundwork to address this court-ordered change to one of our most widely used rating programs. We've also been developing a group retrospective-rating program, which we'll introduce July 1, 2009, as the court ordered, if the preliminary injunction becomes final. We'd hoped to continue to partner with all parties to resolve these challenges through an open policy-making process rather than through litigation or legislation.

While the court's ruling significantly shortens the time line for reform, it doesn't change the fundamental goals of our ongoing reform efforts. Those goals include improving rating programs by offering employer more pricing options and creating a performance-oriented pricing system based on individual risk levels.

Building for the future

We know employers are concerned that premium instability could cause financial hardship due to the reform, loss of group discounts or other factors. In response, we want to implement a rate-capping strategy to help control workers' compensation costs. However, we have to make sure the identified strategies benefit employers.

We'll also continue to work with employer sponsors and third party administrators to implement premium-rate policies that help employers better manage individual workers' compensation costs. Additionally, we'll offer other options to employers, such as a deductible program.

As we improve equity in the workers' compensation system, Ohio's base rates should decline – reducing costs for all employers and making Ohio's base rates more competitive with neighboring states.

Safety council Discount program

FY08 performance bonus letters and FY09 benchmark letters will be distributed at the December and January meetings. Only employers who met the FY08 eligibility requirements will receive the performance bonus letter. All employers eligible to pursue the current year's FY09 safety council discount will receive the benchmark letter.

These letters will be distributed during the sign-in process. Thank you for your patience and cooperation during the distribution process.

Division of Safety & Hygiene - Library services

The Division of Safety & Hygiene Library provides free informational services on the topics of occupational safety and health, workers' compensation, and rehabilitation. This is the only such library in the state of Ohio, and one of the few in the nation. While most special libraries are not open to the public, the library serves employers, local and state government, legal and health care professionals, Ohio's work force and the general public.

The Division of Safety & Hygiene library has two locations to serve users: the central library in the William Green Building in downtown Columbus and the resource center and video library at the Ohio Center for Occupational Safety and Health (OCOSH) in Pickerington, Ohio. Both locations are open 8 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. weekdays.

You can e-mail the Safety and Hygiene Library at library@bwc.state.oh.us if you have any questions or comments concerning their services.

Resources available

- More than 6,000 books
- More than 200 magazines and newsletters
- Research services
- More than 600 safety and health videos
- Online tools and resources
- Ohio safety codes, 1924 to present
- American National Standards Institute standards related to occupational safety
- National Fire Protection Association fire codes
- OSHA regulations and chemical safety information

Visit one of two locations:

Central library

30 West Spring St., Third floor
Columbus, OH 43215-2256
(800) 644-6292

OCOSH resource center and video library

13430 Yarmouth Drive
Pickerington, OH 43147-8310
(800) 644-6292



This month's winner of the Safety Slogan Contest is Patti Miller of Eberhard Manufacturing. Patti's slogan "**BETTER TO LOCK OUT, THAN LUCK OUT**" was selected by the Executive Committee. Patti will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate for her winning slogan. Congratulations Patti!

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. Slogans are selected one month prior to announcement. If your slogan is not selected it remains in the pool for future consideration.



SCSC will soon have a totally redesigned website. The new site is currently in the design/implementation process. Should you experience any difficulties using our current site during this transition process, we sincerely apologize for your inconvenience. Stay tuned.....

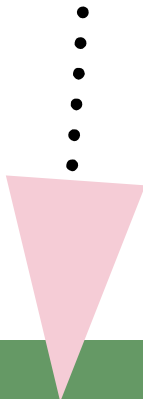
IMPORTANT REMINDER

Semi-Annual Reports for the period 7/1/08 to 12/31/08 will be due on January 15, 2009. The report and instructions for completion can be found on pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter. Please email the report to scox@neo.rr.com or fax to 330-376-3852. The report may also be submitted online via the SCSC website. **Failure to submit this report timely will adversely affect your eligibility for participation in BWC's FY09 Safety Council Discount Program.** These Accident statistics are used for the purpose of determining eligibility for safety awards and are **not** reported to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration or any other enforcement agency.



If you would like to donate company promotional items for our annual holiday raffle, please bring them to the December meeting.

Thank you!



Upcoming Events & Reminders

December 17, 2008
 Regular Meeting—Tangier
 Aerial Work Platform Safety
 Sunbelt Rentals - Peninsula



January 15, 2009
 Semi-Annual Report for 7/1/08
 to 12/31/08 due



January 21, 2009
 Regular Meeting—Tangier
 Holly Harlan
 Sustainability



February 18, 2009
 Regular Meeting—Tangier
 Tanya Weiker, PT, CPT
 Spherica
 Healthy Backs: Back to Basics



March 18, 2009
 Timothy Campbell
 Hanna, Campbell & Powell, LLP
 Effective Claims Management



March 31, 2009
 PDP+ & DFWP Reports for 7/1/08
 program period are due to BWC
 Fax to 1-877-721-9420

**Instructions for completing the
BWC's Division of Safety & Hygiene semi-annual report form**

(1) Date of Most Recent Lost-Time Injury or Illness

This is the date of the most recent injury that resulted in an employee missing **at least one full day of work**. The date does not necessarily have to be during this reporting period. If no injuries have ever occurred, you may leave the date blank.

(2) And (3) Average Number of Employees/Total Hours Worked

Multiply the average number of employees x the average number of hours worked per week x the number of weeks in the six-month period. (i.e. 725 employees x 40 hours = 29,000 hours x 26 weeks in the six month period = 754,000 hours)

(4) Deaths

Taken from OSHA 300 Log column G, the number of deaths that resulted from an occupational accident during this six-month period.

(5) Number of Injuries/Number of Workdays Lost

Taken from OSHA 300 Log column H, the number of occupational injuries or illnesses resulting in days away from work.

(6) Number of Workdays Lost

Taken from OSHA 300 Log column K, the total number of days away from work as a result of occupational accidents during the six-month period. NOTE: If the days away from work resulted from an accident which occurred in a previous six-month period, please report the additional workdays missed.

IMPORTANT:

If the date of last injury or illness resulting in days away from work (1) was during the current six-month period within which you are reporting, there should be at least a 1 for (5) the number of injuries or illnesses, and (6) the number of days away from work.

If the date of last injury or illness resulting in days away from work was during a previous six-month period, (5) and (6) should be 0 unless an employee is still having lost days as a result of a previous injury (then there may be a number on line 6).

SUMMIT COUNTY SAFETY COUNCIL
Co-sponsored by BWC's Division of Safety and Hygiene

Semi-Annual Report

1st [] due by July 15, 2008
(for current period January 1 – June 30, 2008)

2nd [] due by January 15, 2009
(for current period July 1 – December 31, 2008)

Safety Council Account Number _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Company Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Fax _____

City / State / Zip _____

Submitted By _____ Date _____

Please check here if information provided above has been updated on this report.

1.) DATE OF MOST RECENT INJURY OR ILLNESS RESULTING IN DAY(S) AWAY FROM WORK

____ / ____ / ____
Month Day Year

Report All Information Below For **CURRENT SIX MONTH PERIOD ONLY** (corresponds with period identified above)

2.) Average Number of Employees..... _____

3.) Total Hours Worked (entire six month period, all employees) _____

Items 4, 5 and 6 are based on the Recordkeeping Requirements under the Occupational Safety & Health Act of 1970 (rev. 1/1/02). The columns listed below correspond to the columns in the OSHA 300 Log.

4.) Number of Deaths . . (column G in OSHA 300 Log)..... _____

5.) Number of occupational injuries and/or illnesses resulting in days away from work
(column H in the OSHA 300 Log) _____

6.) Number of days away from work as a result of occupational injuries and/or illnesses
(column K in the OSHA 300 Log)..... _____

Note: If you report a death, injury or illness resulting in days away from work in the current six month period (item 4 or 5), the most recent date of death, injury or illness must correspond with item 1.

Please return this form to:

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