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# Summit County Safety Council Newsletter

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

11:30 a.m.

Regular Meeting at Tangier

Michael Kovacic

TMK and Associates

NFPA 70E 2009

Continuing Implementation

## May is National Electrical Safety Month

### NFPA-70E & OSHA 29 CFR 1910.333-339

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Many companies believe they have adequately protected their employees from the hazards of electrical shock and arc blast after they have labeled their equipment. In reality, this couldn't be further from the truth! A study by NFPA revealed 91% of electrical fatalities and accidents are caused, not by faulty equipment, but by unsafe acts. This is why **NFPA-70E** mandates that, "The employer shall implement and document an overall electrical safety program...". Additionally, it requires that the program contain the principles, controls, and procedures necessary to protect their workers from the hazards associated with energized electrical equipment.

### Did You Know?

Did you know that 61% of executives polled by the Liberty Mutual Group claim that for every \$1 spent on investments in workplace safety, \$3 are saved? 95% of the executives in that same poll indicated that workplace safety has a positive impact on a company's financial performance. OSHA's Office of Regulatory Affairs reports an even more dramatic result, suggesting that \$4 to \$6 are saved for every \$1 invested.

## *May's Featured Program....*

*Michael O. Kovacic  
TMK and Associates, Inc.*

### *NFPA 70E 2009—Electrical Safety—Continuing Implementation*

Michael O. Kovacic is a full-time Electrical Safety Specialist and President of TMK and Associates, Inc., a Cleveland, Ohio based organization specializing in electrical safety and lockout/tagout.

Mr. Kovacic has over 15 years of experience in the electrical safety industry. He has participated in or managed teams for safety audits of over 200 million square feet of facility, representing over 150 heavy industrial facilities for major corporations and government organizations. Mr. Kovacic is involved in the development of several computer database applications which aid in the record keeping and reporting portions of the assessment function. He has participated in flash hazard analysis for numerous facilities as well, and has background in accident investigation and legal assistance.

Mr. Kovacic has an extensive knowledge of various consensus and regulatory standards, including DOD/DOE requirements and Army, Navy and Air Force safety programs. He has been involved in the instruction of thousands of students for the U.S. Department of Labor at the OSHA Training Institute in Chicago, IL., various State OSHA Departments, Bureau of Worker's Compensation and numerous major private corporations such as Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa) and is a specialist in NFPA 70E, including flash hazard and safety-related work practices. Additionally, this expertise in electrical safety and knowledge of standards has allowed for coauthoring and rewriting of complete electrical safety programs for major corporations and government entities around the country.



**SAFETY PAYS TODAY, INJURIES COST A LIFETIME**

This month's winner of the Safety Slogan Contest is Frank Prijatel with Empire Die Casting Co. Frank's slogan "**SAFETY PAYS TODAY, INJURIES COST A LIFETIME**" was selected by the Executive Committee. Frank will receive a \$25.00 gift card for his winning slogan. Congratulations Frank!

The Safety Slogan Contest is open to all SCSC members. Submit your safety slogans to Sally Cox at [scox@neo.rr.com](mailto:scox@neo.rr.com). Each month's winner will receive a \$25.00 gift card.

***FY09 is coming to a close. Will your company be receiving a 2% refund of its 2009 BWC premium this October?***

***Only if you meet the following discount program requirements...***

***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***

***Please review your participation status now at [www.thesummitcountysafetycouncil.org](http://www.thesummitcountysafetycouncil.org)***

## Upcoming Events & Reminders

May 20, 2009

Regular Meeting—Tangier

Michael Kovacic

TMK & Associates

NFPA 70E 2009 -  
Continuing Implementation



June 17, 2009

Regular Meeting—Tangier

Matthew Banning

Rockwell Automation

Management Systems



June 30, 2009

Deadline to Submit External  
Training Certificates for FY09  
Discount Program



July 15, 2009

Deadline to submit Semi-annual  
Reports for 1/1/09 to 6/30/09



July 15, 2009

Regular Meeting—Tangier

Greg Newsome

City Scrap & Salvage

Safety is Magic

## *News From BWC*

### ***Safety-based Rate Reform Programs Approved***

The Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) Board of Directors approved a comprehensive update to the State Insurance Fund's investment policy statement (IPS). The new IPS will provide further diversification within both fixed income and equity investments.

The State Insurance Fund portfolio will remain 100 percent passively managed. Mercer Investment Consulting, Inc. has been working with BWC's Board of Directors and staff to perform a year-long analysis of the current IPS, and the benefits of modifying it to meet the current needs of the State Insurance Fund. With the updated IPS, the State Insurance Fund investment portfolio will be comprised of 70 percent bonds and 30 percent equities. BWC investment staff, with Mercer Investment Consulting will prepare a proposed implementation plan for the new asset allocation strategy which is expected to be presented to the Board of Directors' Investment Committee on May 28.

Additionally, the Board of Directors approved several components of BWC's comprehensive rate reform plan. These include the creation of a Group Retrospective Rating Program that will provide employers with a new performance based program to promote and achieve workplace safety. The program allows BWC-certified sponsoring organizations to create homogeneous groups that are focused on safety and claims management. Members of these groups join forces to improve safety and manage claim costs and can receive retrospective premium adjustments based on the combined performance of their group.

The Group Retrospective Rating Program will become active July 1. Sponsors must enroll members and submit their application for the upcoming policy year by June 26. More information and a list of certified sponsors is available online at [ohiobwc.com](http://ohiobwc.com) or by calling the employer programs unit at 614-466-6773.

Other rule changes include:

- A 100-percent cap on increases to an employer's experience modifier (EM) for employers with an individual EM of 1.01 or higher and who agree to follow the 10-Step Business Plan for safety;
- Limiting the financial incentives paid from the Drug Free Workplace Program (DFWP) to non group-rated employers only. Effective July 1 group-rated employers will receive up to a 77 percent premium discount. With this new rule, these group-rated employers will no longer be permitted to stack DFWP discounts on top of their group premium discounts. All Ohio employers are eligible and encouraged to participate in the DFWP to benefit from the educational and safety benefits associated with the program;
- Eliminating the Premium Discount Program (PDP+) which was found to be underutilized and ineffective in the recent study by Deloitte Consulting LLC. BWC will retain the 10-Step Business Plan for safety as a key safety strategy for employers to develop a culture where all members of the organization actively manage workplace safety and health.