

# Safety Update

## Ohio BWC Library



### PERRP

The [Public Employment Risk Reduction Program](#) (PERRP) is celebrating its 25th anniversary of protecting Ohio public employees on April 20. The Ohio Public Employment Risk Reduction Act of 1993 established PERRP.

Also, PERRP will announce its new Safety Partnership Agreement (SPA) to public employers very soon! A new rule allows public employers to apply for a SPA to recognize and promote effective worksite-based safety and health management systems that are self-sufficient and meet all SPA requirements. PERRP will communicate more details about requirements and how to apply soon.

### BWC News

#### Safety Grant Funds Still Available

BWC is accepting applications for safety grants for the current fiscal year. The Safety Intervention Grants program can help employers purchase equipment to significantly reduce or eliminate injuries and illness associated with a task or operation. Private and public employers are eligible for a 3-to-1 matching grant, up to a maximum grant award of \$40,000 for each eligibility cycle. This means BWC gives \$3 for every \$1 the employer contributes. Learn more or apply on BWC's Safety [Grants page](#).

### NIOSH/CDC News

#### Safe Driving GIFs

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has a page of [animated GIFs](#) to promote safe driving at work and home. The public can use these free images on Twitter, Facebook and websites.

## Hearing Loss Studies

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NIOSH published two papers on hearing loss: one for workers in the [agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting \(AFFH\)](#) sector and one for workers in the [health care and social assistance \(HSA\)](#) sector. Hearing loss was prevalent in 15 percent of AFFH workers. However, certain industries within the sector had up to 36 percent of noise exposed workers with hearing loss. In HSA, the overall prevalence of hearing loss was 19 percent with the medical and diagnostic laboratories subsector having a 31 percent prevalence.

## Fatigued Driving at Work

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NIOSH released two new publications for the oil and gas industry: [Oil and Gas Employers: How to Prevent Fatigued Driving at Work](#) and [Oil and Gas Workers: How to Prevent Fatigued Driving at Work](#).

## OSHA News

### Beryllium Rule Enforcement

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The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) will start enforcement of the [final rule on occupational exposure to beryllium](#) in construction, shipyard and general industries May 11, 2018.

### New Drilling Safety Bulletin

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A new OSHA safety and health bulletin [Avoiding Underground Utilities during Horizontal Directional Drilling Operations](#) highlights the hazards associated with striking underground utilities such as electrical, gas, sewage and water lines. Horizontal directional drilling has reduced visibility compared to vertical drilling. The bulletin describes directional drilling operations and describes safety precautions employers should use to protect utilities and workers.

## Other News

### April is Distracted Driving Month

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The National Safety Council (NSC) has a [website](#) with materials to help promote Distracted Driving Month. Resources include posters, videos, fact sheets, a safe driving kit and more. NSC will host a free webinar April 19. It will present information employers can use to address distracted driving by their workers. Sign up online [here](#).

In addition, NIOSH has resources on the prevention of distracted driving on its [Distracted Driving at Work](#) website.

Also, the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration has two videos, Famous Last Words and Emoji30, on its [distracted driving website](#) illustrating the dangers of distracted driving.

### Grain Engulfment Prevention Stand Down

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OSHA and the National Grain and Feed Association are holding a week of awareness for grain bin safety on the farm, April 9-13. Visitors can find information on the [event website](#), including a link to a 30-minute safety video, Your Safety Matters, in English and Spanish. This video is also available to borrow from the [BWC Video Library](#).

## Trench Safety Stand Down

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Plan now to promote the National Utility Contractors Association's [Trench Safety Stand Down](#), June 18-23. The 2017 event reached more than 10,000 workers. You can help it reach even more this year. The website has information on how to prepare for the stand down and materials to use for your event.

## Construction Chart Book

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The Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR) released a new edition of the Construction Chart Book. This sixth edition contains data on the U.S. construction industry including economic, demographic, employment/income, education/training, and safety and health issues. The book is available for download from the [CPWR website](#).

## Safety in the Kitchen

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WorkSafeBC has several kitchen safety videos on its [website](#). Users can view or download them in MP4 format from the site. Included are videos on burns and scalds, knives, meat slicers, lifting, slips, trips and falls, and deep fryers.

## Injury Facts

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The NSC is digitizing its nearly 100-year-old publication Injury Facts. The [Injury Facts website](#) has six topic areas that will eventually contain injury data in these six categories: All Injuries, Occupational, Motor Vehicle, Home and Community, State Data and International. The All Injuries tab is the only section now populated with information, including the odds of dying from a list of causes of accidental death.

## Pedestrian Fatalities are Rising

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Pedestrian fatalities are at a 25-year high according to [Pedestrian Traffic Fatalities by State](#) issued by the Governors Highway Safety Association. In 2016, pedestrian deaths accounted for 16 percent of all traffic fatalities. The number of pedestrian deaths increased by 27 percent, while all other traffic fatalities decreased by 14 percent. In 2016, the rate of fatalities was 1.20 per 100,000 people in Ohio.

## Tornado Safety

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Spring is tornado season in Ohio, although they can strike nearly anytime during the year. Know what to do in case of a tornado with tips from [Ready.gov](#) and this [Tornado FAQ](#) page from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Please contact the [library@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:library@bwc.state.oh.us) or 614-466-7388 for more information on any of these items.