

Safety Update

Ohio BWC Library



Wouldn't it be great
if we had our own
**GUARDIAN ANGEL
TO KEEP US SAFE?**

BWC campaign asks, "If you don't care about your safety, who will?"

If you have watched an Indians or Reds game recently, you may have seen our [television ad](#) featuring a pair of worn-out guardian angels commiserating about how the people they're watching over keep doing unsafe things.

The ad is part of a safety campaign we launched to remind Ohioans to proactively care for their safety, whether they're at work or at home. The beleaguered guardian angels bring some humor to a serious topic as they remind the audience, "If you don't care about your safety, who will?"

In addition to the advertisements, we have created the website – [BeSafeOhio.com](https://www.BeSafeOhio.com) – that provides simple, practical tips for safety. The campaign focuses specifically on slips, trips and falls, overexertion, and safe driving. These are some of the most common causes of injuries at home and at work.

We (and guardian angels everywhere) encourage you to visit the [BeSafeOhio.com](https://www.BeSafeOhio.com) site to learn more.

Research Rounds

The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), in its [NIOSH Research Rounds bulletin](#), reports on a study using BWC injury data from 2000 to 2011. The machine learning based study found that workers in Ohio skilled nursing facilities were at the highest risk for severe ergonomic-related claims, and workers in the general freight trucking industry are at the highest risk for severe slip, trip, or fall claims.

Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program

Participating states voluntarily notify NIOSH of traumatic occupational fatalities resulting from targeted causes of death that include confined spaces, electrocutions, machine-related, falls from elevation, working youth, and logging. [NIOSH FACE](#) is currently targeting investigations of deaths associated with machinery, deaths of foreign-born workers, energy production, and falls in construction. You can view reports in categories of location, industry, cause and population.

New Trenching Safety Poster

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) has a new [trenching safety poster](#). Use this poster and other [trenching safety materials](#) to help keep your employees safe on the job.

OSHA Training Requirements

Do you know all the training requirements under the OSHA Regulations? If you aren't sure then consult the [Training Requirements and Resources](#) page. You will find the [training requirements by standard](#) publication, as well as resources on developing training and links to OSHA-created training videos and publications.

Silica Standard for Maritime and General Industry

General industry and maritime employers must comply with OSHA's silica standard by June 23, except for phase-in dates for medical surveillance and for engineering controls in the oil and gas industry. OSHA has [information to assist you with compliance](#). Ohio BWC safety staff are also [available to assist](#).

OSHA Occupational Chemical Database

OSHA created a [new database](#) combining information on chemicals from various governmental agencies and organizations. Users can search for chemicals can by name or CAS number. Each chemical in the database has a report with physical properties, exposure limits and links to references and additional resources.

Keeping Pesticides on the Farm: Practical Solutions for Minimizing Family Exposures

The National Ag Safety Database has added a [training class](#) to help farmers and agricultural workers understand how residues from farming pesticides can be transferred to the home and pose a health risk for family members.

Stretch at Your Desk

Stretching at your workstation can help avoid muscle pain and strain caused by sitting. The Canadian Center for Occupational Health and Safety has some [stretches](#) you can do right at your desk.

Hot Work Safe Practices

The Chemical Safety Board reports that hot work is the cause of most of the explosions and fires it investigates and has produced a document on [Safe Hot Work Practices](#).

Study of Coal Miners

A [new study](#) reports that the incidence of the most serious form of black lung disease called progressive massive fibrosis (PMF) has increased. Between 1970 and 2016, 4,679 cases were reported with 2,318 reported since 2000. The highest reported levels are in West Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

NFPA 720

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is integrating NFPA 720, Standard for the Installation of Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detection and Warning Equipment into the 2019 issue of NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code. The NFPA also announced it will withdraw the old code in a [press release](#).

Firefighter Fatalities

NFPA released a [report on firefighter fatalities in 2017](#). The 60 fatalities are the lowest ever total for the study, with deaths being less than 70 for six of the past seven years. Sudden cardiac arrest accounted for almost half the deaths, and firefighters killed by vehicle strikes were to blame in 10 deaths.

SAMHSA Opioid Toolkit

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has published an update to its [Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit](#). The toolkit has five strategies:

1. Encourage health-care providers, people at high risk for overdose, family members and others to learn how to prevent and manage opioid overdose.
2. Ensure access to treatment for people who are misusing opioids or who have a substance use disorder.
3. Ensure ready access to naloxone.
4. Encourage people to call 911 in the event of a possible overdose.
5. Encourage health-care providers to use prescription drug monitoring programs to prevent overprescribing of opioids.

Fatigue Survey Reports

The National Safety Council (NSC) released parts one and two of three planned [survey reports on fatigue in the workplace](#). The first part discusses employee personal risk factors for fatigue, and the second describes workplace practices and policies that may contribute to fatigue. The NSC will issue part three in fall 2018.

Hearing Loss and Older Construction Workers

The Center for Construction Research and Training supported research on hearing loss on 19,127 participants in a medical screening program. The [study summary](#) indicates 58 percent of the workers had hearing loss, and the longer a person was in the construction trade the more likely they were to have hearing loss. Workers with higher exposure to solvents and those who smoked were also more likely to have hearing loss.

Obesity in Metropolitan Versus Nonmetropolitan Counties in the United States

A [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that “obesity prevalence was significantly higher among adults living in nonmetropolitan counties than among those living in metropolitan counties, overall, in all Census regions, all Census divisions, and in approximately half of states with both county types.”

Drug Testing Report

Drug testing company [Quest Diagnostics reports](#) that drug use in the American workforce is still at its highest overall rate in a decade. Positive test rates were 4.1 percent in 2017, which was the same as 2016. Prescription opiate positive rates declined. The press release links to a drug use test rate and trend map by three-digit ZIP code.