



**SUMMIT COUNTY
SAFETY COUNCIL**

SAFETY & HEALTH NEWS

OSHA IS SET TO INCREASE FINES THIS YEAR

For the first time in a quarter century, OSHA will in 2016 increase its fines for safety violations. This unwelcome surprise came as a result of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (H.R. 1314), signed by President Obama on November 2, 2015. Section 701 of the Bill, entitled the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015, allows OSHA to increase its fines based on inflation where it was previously exempt from doing so.

Catch-up Penalties expected to be significant

OSHA will first enact a one-time catch-up assessment that will increase penalties to reflect the changes in inflation from 1990 - 2015, with a cap at 150%. Current estimates using October 1990 to September 2015 CPI data (the latest data available) allow for a nearly 80% increase in OSHA fines for 2016.

This means that OSHA fines for willful or repeat violations could increase from a current maximum of \$70,000 per violation to approximately \$125,000 per violation. Fines for serious and other-than-serious violations could increase from \$7,000 per violation to approximately \$13,000 per violation.

The law allows some leeway for OSHA to avoid inflicting the maximum catch-up penalty, but the general consensus is that employers should expect the worst. According to Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA, Dr. David Michaels, "Simply put, OSHA penalties must be increased to provide a real disincentive for employers accepting injuries and worker deaths as a cost of doing business."

The catch-up adjustment will take effect no later than August 1, 2016. Thereafter, employers should expect to see OSHA fine increases by January 15th of every year as the agency makes adjustments based on the annual percentage increase in the CPI.

Safety Compliance is About More Than Dollars and Cents

What's the bottom line for employers? This potentially huge increase in the cost of OSHA fines makes it even more important to shore up your safety programs and continue to stress a culture of safety throughout your organization. The safety of your employees should be organic to your company's value system and should infiltrate every area of operations.

Upcoming Regular Monthly Meetings



January 20, 2016

Regular Meeting—Tangier's
EverSafe Driving Program
Ron Byrd
CMS, Inc.



February 17, 2016

Regular Meeting—Tangier's
Updates to NFPA 70E
Jerry Bennett
Hilscher-Clarke Electric



March 16, 2016

Regular Meeting—Tangier's
Trenching & Excavating
Dennis Hobart



April 20, 2016

Regular Meeting—Tangier's
**Taking the Stress Out Of
Stress Management**
Jep Hostetler



Ohio Safety Congress & Expo
March 9 - 11

**Mark Your Calendar
January 20, 2016**

11:30 a.m.

Regular Meeting —
Tangier's

Cost—\$17.00

January's Featured Program...

***Ron Byrd, ASP, CSP
Central Mine Services, Inc.***

EverSafe Driving Program

Ron Byrd will present the EverSafe Driving course material developed by the Evergreen Safety Council in Washington State. The risk of driving today is greater than ever. In fact, OSHA states that the leading cause of workplace fatalities is due to driving accidents. This course examines how a driver's attitude, skill and knowledge interact to influence the success and safety of the driving experience.

As a Certified Safety Professional, Ron Byrd has conducted over 300 site visits in the last five years at various companies in order to identify potential risks and liabilities. He develops safety and training courses for accident prevention, accident investigation, effective communication, and team building, as well as conducting safety perception surveys. Mr. Byrd has been certified by the Evergreen Safety Council of Washington State to teach their EverSafe Driving Program.

**2015 Foodbank
Donations**

**\$1,773.00 and 641
lbs. of food**

**Providing
7,626 meals to our
community!**

**Many Thanks
SCSC Members!**



January's Featured Sponsor...



Strengthen from Within

The reason we are in business today is because we believe, the traditional form of corporate wellness has lost sight of the real goal: to make both the company AND its employees successful; to help BOTH become stronger; to build a culture and a team who strive for their best, not just a health benchmark.

Strength is more than a measurement to us. It is a mindset that focuses on and works toward achievement. For us, wellness is only a success if it measurably strengthens both the company and individual employees. Through our approach to plan design, we are able to implement programs for many clients that increase the value and support employers are able to provide...all without increasing a wellness budget.

Cari's Safety Corner

Question: What safety concerns exist in office settings like call centers, administrative offices and meeting rooms and what can we do to protect workers from injuring themselves in these settings?

Answer:

Slips, Trips & Falls

1) Office areas can become cluttered with boxes of documents and samples from vendors and the production floor. Housekeeping is important which includes having locations for the storage of these items & ensuring that walkways are kept clear. Remind office staff to keep cubical and personal office walkways clear of clutter.

2) Occasionally we need that last ream of paper in the back of the upper cabinet, so we grab an office chair with wheels to reach it. The end result is an employee falling off the chair and becoming injured. Instead strategically place step-ladders throughout the office to use to reach for those difficult items. Also ensure your frequently used items are conveniently located in easy to reach locations.

3) As we travel around the maze of cubicles we are only one step away from a collision with our co-workers. A simple fix is to install mirrors at points of intersection to avoid these unnecessary accidents.

Struck-By Injuries

1) Large filing cabinets provide an excellent space to store all your documents. However when drawers are left open, especially the bottom drawer, injuries can occur. Remind staff the importance of keeping all file cabinet drawers closed. Also you may want to locate filing cabinets in a storage room to reduce the potential injuries from foot traffic in busy locations.

Fire Safety

1) Technology has brought about many great devices like cell phones, tablets, e-readers and laptops. Each of those devices requires some charging cord that has made its way in your offices. Those cords if not maintained properly can present a fire hazard. Ensure all cords are kept in good working order and off the floor.

2) Storage space is always at a minimum in offices. When storing documents and supplies ensure that you do not blocked any sprinkler heads in your office. A simple fix is to paint a decorative line 18" down from the ceiling around the room to remind employees not to store items that they may interfere with the sprinkler heads.

Remember when completing your weekly or monthly safety audits to walk the office spaces and look for these hazards.

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Pat Shrimpton of Ramco Specialties was the winner of \$80.00 in December's 50/50 raffle!

SCSC donated November and December's 50/50 share to the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank.

Mission Statement

To promote well being and injury prevention by offering informational and educational opportunities to both the private and public sectors within the community.

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

Work Safe in Cold Weather – Plan. Equip. Train To Prevent injuries, Illnesses and Fatalities During Winter Storms

Together OSHA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration created an online public education effort aimed at improving the way people prepare for and respond to working in severe weather. You can find information about preventing slips and falls, cold stress guides, winter safety checklists and much more.

https://www.osha.gov/dts/weather/winter_weather/index.html

Upcoming BWC Class Schedule (North Canton)

339 E. Maple St., Suite 200
North Canton, OH 44720

Register at bwclearningcenter.com

Safety Series for Industry Workshop Module 3: Feb 8 1-4:30 PM
(Haz Comm, BBP, PPE)

Safety Series for Industry Workshop Module 4: Mar 14 1-4:30 PM
(Emerg Prep, Flammables, Walking Working)

Welding and Brazing Safety: Mar 15 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

OSHA Recordkeeping Half-day Workshop: Mar 17 8:30-12 noon

Accident Analysis Half-day Workshop: Mar 17 1-4:30 PM

Restaurant and Food Service Safety Workshop: Mar 21 8:30-12 noon

Combustible Dust Hazards: Recognition, Evaluation and Control Recommendations: Mar 23 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Controlling Workers' Compensation Costs: Mar 31 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

FY16 BWC Safety Council Rebate Program Requirements

For those members who are eligible to participate in BWC's Safety Council Rebate Program this year, the following requirements must be met between **7/1/15 and 6/30/16**:

- **Enrollment with safety council by 7/31/15.**
- **Attendance at 10 Safety council meetings/events.** At least 8 thru the local safety council. You can get credit for up to two meetings at BWC's safety training courses or other offsite industry-specific training courses./ seminars. Certificate must be submitted to safety council.
- **CEO attendance at one safety council sponsored meeting.**
- **Submit semi-annual reports for the 2015 calendar year.**