

Stark County Safety Council Newsletter

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STARK COUNTY

SAFETY COUNCIL
A committee of the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce

OSHA'S BROCHURE ON BANNING TEXTING WHILE DRIVING

By Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell, Esq.

Although OSHA does not have a specific standard addressing texting while driving, OSHA has published a brochure advocating that employers prohibit texting while driving. OSHA cites the following as some of the dangers of distracted driving:

- Distracted driving resulted in 5,400 deaths and nearly 500,000 injuries in 2009.
- Texting while driving claimed more than 16,000 lives from 2001 to 2007.
- Reaction time is delayed as much as for a driver who is legally drunk.
- Drivers who are texting take their eyes off the road 400% more than those not texting.
- More texting leads to more crashes.



As a result, OSHA suggests clear explicit policies and sound practices, and suggests that employers do the following:

- Prohibit texting while driving, and declare vehicles "text-free zones."
- Set up clear procedures, times, and places for drivers' safe use of texting and other communication technology.
- Incorporate safe communication practices into worker orientation and training.

Should you have any questions about this information don't hesitate to contact Jackie Caldwell at jcaldwell@kwgd.com or 330.497.0700.

NOTE: This general summary of the law should not be used to solve individual problems since slight changes in the fact situation may require a material variance in the applicable legal advice.

Today's Program April 14, 2011

Speaker: Courtney Meyers, RS,
Environmental Health Specialist,
Stark County Health Department

Topic: "Bedbugs: What are your employees bringing with them to work besides their lunch? *Educating yourself is key in protecting your business and home from a bedbug infestation?*"

April Spotlight



ABOUT THE APRIL SPOTLIGHT COMPANY

US SafetyGear is a family owned company based out of Warren Ohio We have a 100,000 Sq. Ft. Distribution Center and we are the largest SafetyGear Supplier in Northeast and Central Ohio. US SafetyGear also has 4 retail locations for Safety FootWear and Supplies. One in Cleveland, Chillicothe, Warren, and one located between Canton and Wooster on Old Lincoln Way. We are Proud Members of the Stark County Safety Council and the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce.

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Safety Council Mission Statement: To provide a forum for safety and health information, education and networking in Stark County, through leadership, innovation, facilitation, program, and support, in partnership with other public and private organizations.

The article this month is from Chris Zabel of US SafetyGear

High Visibility Clothing

by Chris Zabel

It's that time of year again when the weather begins to improve and road construction to repair all of the winter damage begins. It's obvious to see the benefits of high visibility clothing for employees working on the highway and on construction sights, but also it's imperative to consider its necessity in manufacturing and distribution facilities. The definition for High Visibility Clothing is listed below:

“High-visibility clothing, a type of personal protective equipment (PPE), is any clothing worn that has highly reflective properties or a color that is easily discernible from any background. Part of the surface of the garment may have reflective stripes. This way they become much more visible in the dark for observers near a light source, such as the driver of a car with its headlights on. The pattern of the reflecting parts also helps to distinguish between objects and people. For greater visibility during the daytime, very bright colors are used for the main body of the garment by means of fluorescent material.”

Many industrial and distribution companies are now taking a very serious look at getting most if not all employees into safety vests or high visibility T-Shirts. Safety Equipment distributors can also provide you with high visibility rainwear as well as sweatshirts, coats and hats in many styles and designs. The value for your workplace is that employees will be highly visible during early morning or late evening hours as well as throughout the course of a normal workday. Employees that are working in, near and around forklifts are also perfect candidates for this potential life-saving, low cost safety improvement. This clothing can be made with your company logo as well. The costs for this type of clothing are often much less than you would think and the benefits are reduced workplace accidents, lower workers compensation costs, improved employee morale, and most importantly your employees get to go home tonight healthy and whole.

Robin's Corner

Question: Is it written anywhere that vehicle lights must be used during rain?

Answer: Yes, there is a Law within the Ohio Revised Code, 4513.03 (which can be found at <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc>) that references the question. Anytime the windshield wipers of the vehicle are in use because of precipitation on the windshield, the vehicle lights shall be turned on.

Have a question about safety but too shy to ask? Write it on a card and submit to Colleen Maurer or Connie Cerny. Your question will be addressed by Robin from the Division of Safety and Hygiene. All questions will remain anonymous. No name or company will be mentioned.

Upcoming Program

May 12, 2011

Topic: The Eye's have it - How to Look Beyond Your Safety Glass Program

Speaker: Brian E. Mathie, O.D., F.A.A.O.,
Clinic Director, Roholt Vision Institute.

Eye safety is an incredibly important topic for students, athletes, and senior citizens but especially for those in the work place. Ocular injuries are a serious threat that can lead to long term disability and the subsequent vision loss can have devastating lifestyle consequences. This presentation will discuss various work related ocular injuries and emphasize proper safety precautions to avoid them. Actual cases will demonstrate the urgent treatments needed.

May Spotlight Co.



Upcoming

May 4th—The Stark County Safety Council and the Western Stark Safety Council will host a Special 2 hr. Group Rating Safety Training Session at the Holiday Inn in Canton. More details to follow.

May 10— 2011 Awards Banquet at Skyland Pines. Keynote Speaker is John R. Dysart of the FBI. Register online at www.starkcountysafetycouncil.org.

May 21—Safe Kids Day at Sippo Lake (details to follow).

Congratulations! The Stark County Safety Council was named 3rd in the State of Ohio out of more than 80 councils for its efforts to prevent workplace injuries. A special thanks to our members for their support and dedication to safety. Our Safety Council will formally be recognized by the BWC Division of Safety & Hygiene for this great achievement at the May 10th Awards Banquet.

Important items to make note of:

1. **Semi-Annual Reports** are required to maintain your membership with the SCSC. Reports are due July 15th and January 15th each year.
2. **Don't forget to sign-in.** If you do not sign the "sign-in sheet" your company will not receive credit for attending. This could hurt your company's chances of receiving the BWC's discount.
3. **July 1, 2010 began a new 12 month period** for the BWC's rebate program. If your company is eligible, you must attend a minimum of 10 events, with your company's CEO or a senior level manager attending one of these 10, and submit two semi-annual reports. See BWC website for complete rebate details.