What To Expect From OSHA In 2011

By Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell, Esq.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration will be emphasizing penalties, enforcement, and liability of additional employers in 2011. For example, employers should expect the following:

- Increased inspections, emphasis on, and citations concerning combustible dust issues, including General Duty Clause, Section 5(a)(1) citations, housekeeping, personal protective equipment, forklift, and electrical citations;

- OSHA is also targeting improvement of awareness of and compliance with OSHA regulations by small construction contractors on job sites; the goal is to enhance safety at construction sites, particularly among small contractors – the “Three Guys and a Pickup Truck” contractors;

- Piercing the corporate veil will also be a theme for 2011. The Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission is currently reviewing a number of corporate veil piercing cases to determine whether seemingly unrelated companies are actually related through ownership, management, or in some other significant way such that they are connected enough to share OSHA liability.

- OSHA is also emphasizing penalties, penalties, penalties. Within the last year, OSHA has adopted a severe violator penalty policy, and has adopted a policy to increase penalties for serious violations. Moreover, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia has ruled that OSHA has authority to impose separate penalties for each employee affected by a violation. Thus, increased penalties will be on the horizon in 2011.

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.
SCSC Members,

The Stark County Safety Council is excited about bringing the most current information to our members as they bring safety into their workplaces and homes. Our 2011 volunteers include:

Lorenzo Bagley - Canton City Fire Department  
Larry Baum—Koch Knight LLC  
Jackie Bollas Caldwell - Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths and Dougherty Company  
Gust Callas - Black, McCuskey, Souers and Arbaugh  
David Demeo - Design Restoration  
Dave Dennison - Biery Cheese  
Barb Friedman - Union Metal Corporation  
Stephen Gronow - Stark County Engineer  
Kristina Harless - Day Ketterer LTD  
Steve Katz - Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Colleen Maurer - Paarlo Plastics  
Stephanie Mueller - AultWorks  
Bob Nicoll—Casework Consultants, Inc.  
Hans Nilges - Morrow and Meyer LLC  
Cameron Speck - Safety Resource Company of Ohio  
Curtis Werren - American Red Cross, Stark County  
Chris Zabel—US Safety Gear, Inc.

Any subjects you would like to have more information about or other safety related areas, please let me know. We look forward to addressing the needs of you, our members.

Keep safe,

Colleen

Did you know we collected 3000 toys for Toys for Tots at our December program? Thank you to all for helping and contributing!

Robin’s Corner

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

February 10, 2011

Speaker: Michael Lattavo , President
Big Rig Truck Driving School, Canton CDL Testing Company, and CDL Safety Resources
Topic: "New Ohio Safety Rules for Small Commercial Vehicles - What You Need to Know".

Upcoming

January 20 OSHA COMPLIANCE – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW—presented by the SCSC and the LEPC- 8:15 – 10:30 a.m.  
Meyers Lake Ballroom. Free but registrations required by 1/17. Call 330.458.2061 or register online at www.StarkCountySafetyCouncil.org

February 1 Public Employer Sate Mandated Annual Recordkeeping Due...forms and instructions available at www.ohiobwc.com/employer/forms/InjuryillnessSummary/default.aspx

March 30-31 Safety Congress in Columbus, Contact: Julie Darby Martin, Safety Congress Manager (614) 466-7695 SafetyCongress@bwc.state.oh.us. Booth space also available.

Semi-Annual Reports Due: Please remember that the Safety Council semi-annual report are due no later than January 15, 2011. Even if your company or organization is not eligible for the BWC’s Safety Council rebate, as an active member of the Stark County Safety Council, you are required to complete the semi-annual report. Contact Connie Cerny at 330-458-2061 or conniec@cantonchamber.org with any questions.

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.

*This newsletter is distributed monthly to keep you advised of developments in the area of OSHA law. Note: This should not be substituted for legal advice and should not be relied upon in a specific case.*