

Stark County Safety Council Newsletter

www.starkcountysafetycouncil.org ■ Newsletter Editor ■ Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell, Esq. ■
 Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths & Dougherty, Co., L.P.A. ■ Phone ■ 330-497-0700 ■
 E-mail: jcaldwell@kwgd.com ■



STARK COUNTY

SAFETY COUNCIL
 A committee of the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce

OSHA ISSUES NEW ENFORCEMENT GUIDANCE ON PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

By Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell, Esq.

On February 10, 2011, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued a new enforcement directive concerning personal protective equipment ("PPE") entitled, Enforcement Guidance for Personal Protective Equipment in General Industry.



This new enforcement guidance clarifies the types of PPE that employers must provide at no cost to workers, and also gives details concerning when employers are required and not required to pay for PPE. In addition, the directive also provides guidance that allows employers to use PPE that complies with current consensus standards and also updates PPE enforcement policies based on court and Review Commission decisions.

For example, the directive outlines the personal protective equipment standard requirement that employers provide – at no cost to workers – protective equipment, such as goggles and face shields that fit properly without restricting vision; earplugs and earmuffs when they will reduce noise to acceptable levels and are less costly than administrative and engineering controls; and respirators to protect workers from exposure to air contaminants. The directive also lists PPE and other items that are exempt from the employer payment requirement. In addition, the directive includes a question and answer section that is helpful in clarifying PPE payment issues.

Should you desire more information concerning the new PPE enforcement guidance concerning personal protective equipment, please contact Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell at phone: 220-244-2864 or email: jcaldwell@kwgd.com.

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 March 10, 2011

Speaker:

**Madeline Martin, LICDC, LISW
 Glenbeigh Outpatient Center of Canton**

**Topic: Energy Drinks + Your Employees
 = Increase in Root Cause: "Protecting
 Your Employees and their Families
 Against the Use of Alcohol and Energy
 Drinks".**

March Spotlight Company:

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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 Barb Friedman, The Safety and Workers' Compensation Manager at Union Metal Corporation.

Alcohol & Energy Drinks a Problem

By: Barb Friedman

To keep consistent with the topic at the Safety Luncheon Meeting this month, I thought I would write a little about the popular trend of alcohol and energy drinks. Not only are young adults mixing alcohol and energy drinks, your employees are also mixing and consuming these drinks. How many of you have been out late at night, possibly drinking (just a few), then need to boost your energy for work the next morning? We have all seen these energy drinks at drug stores, gas stations and carryout stores. Just walk into any store, buy one or two of these energy drinks which each last 4-5 hours (add some alcohol) and you will be in good shape to handle your work for the day. Have you taken the time to read what is in these drinks? It's like drinking 7 to 10 cups of strong black coffee in 10 minutes. Or, it is equivalent to taking 10-12 caffeine pills. Imagine that you have worked all day and you are exhausted; but, you have plans for the evening. If you have a couple of energy drinks with your alcohol, you will be able to stay awake all evening, drive yourself home or to work.

Now, if you recall, alcohol acts as a depressant. Energy drinks have high amounts of caffeine which acts as a stimulant. Now what are depressants and stimulants telling your body? Should you sleep today or work? Will I work safely? Will I care? Will the work be correct? Will you need someone to redo all the work? What does that cost your company? Can you tell when someone is acting this way? Do you have a policy regarding energy drinks? There are many articles about this popular trend. But, how do you apply this to your work place? What is your plan of action?

OSHA requires employers to maintain a workplace free of known hazards. If you know or have reason to believe that an employee is abusing alcohol or drugs and poses a danger to others, you have an obligation to your other employees to discipline the employee, place the employee in a rehabilitation program, or eliminate the hazard.

Now do you wait until something happens and OSHA comes knocking at your door? Or do you take action now? Ask some of these questions: Do you have a Drug and Alcohol Policy? Are your Supervisors trained to notice the signs of excessive stimulants or depressants? Do they need to be trained? Do you need this at your work place? If you don't have the answers to these questions, you need to get some help to fix this problem. One place you can start is with The Drug Free Safety Program through the BWC. Look at your Drug and Alcohol Policy; if you don't have a Drug and Alcohol Policy develop one. Ask for help. Do not wait until you have a problem. It will be too late.

Robin's Corner

Question: "If our company already participated in the drug free workplace program, can we participate again?"

Answer: Yes you may. You will not automatically be enrolled; you must complete BWC form U140 which can be found on the BWC website (www.ohiobwc.com). This form must be submitted on line by April 30, 2011 for the July 1, 2011 DFSP program period. You may go in and out of the program as you please; continuous participation is not required and participation is not limited to five years. The application and reporting process is now streamlined and the implementation is simpler and easier. Benefits include a 4% discount at the Basic Level, a 7% discount at the Advanced level, a 3% discount for Group-experience rated businesses and reduced hours of education and training.

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

April 14, 2011

Speaker: Courtney Meyers, RS,
Environmental Health Specialist,
Stark County Health Dept.

Topic: "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



Upcoming

March 15—CEO Breakfast-The Stark County Safety Council's Annual CEO/Senior Management Breakfast will be held on March 15th at Meyer's Lake Ballroom from 7:30 to 9:00. The council is pleased to have as the speaker Kent McElhattan, Chairman of the Board of the National Safety Council. The cost to attend is \$20 and includes the program and a full breakfast. Everyone is welcome to attend, but we encourage your CEO/Senior Management to attend.

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.

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.

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.