

Stark County Safety Council Newsletter

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STARK COUNTY

SAFETY COUNCIL
A committee of the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce

OSHA PLANNING TO RELEASE NEW DIRECTIVES AND SAFETY GUIDANCE

By Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell, Esq.

OSHA plans to release a number of new directives and a new safety guidance for nail guns.

OSHA has noted that about 10% of apprentice carpenters suffer nail gun injuries, 37,000 people annually visit emergency rooms for nail gun accidents, and OSHA believes that many construction nail gun accidents go untreated by doctors. The nail gun guidance is in its final stages, and was developed by OSHA and NIOSH. The nail gun safety guidance addresses two types of nail guns commonly used in the building trades – guns with “contact triggers” and “sequential triggers.”



OSHA also plans to issue a number of new directives, directly affecting the construction industry. OSHA noted that an enforcement directive for the construction cranes and derricks standards should come out this fall. The directive will set out how field inspectors should interpret the standard. OSHA also anticipates releasing several letters of interpretation addressing crane standard issues. Among the issues raised by the community are: training requirements for crane operators, riggers, and signalmen; whether a crane is considered engaged in construction when it is used to deliver supplies to a building site; and the amount of time electrical utilities have to shut down power to electric lines close to construction cranes.

In addition, OSHA is also preparing directives for highway work zones, personal protective equipment, and excavation and trenching. Finally, OSHA is adding a chapter to its Field Operations Manual covering construction. This manual provides detailed guidance for construction workplace inspections.

If you have questions about this article, please contact Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell at: 330-244-2864 or 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

August 11, 2011

Speaker: Fred Green, Safety and Compliance Director for Green Lines Transportation and Roger Bettis Trucking

Topic: “Where’s the Keys?” Best Practices for your Company Vehicles & Drivers

August Spotlight Co:



Burkins, Ritchie & Associates

Providing solutions for a healthier family, community and workplace

ABOUT THE AUGUST SPOTLIGHT COMPANY

Since 2001, Burkins, Ritchie & Associates has helped hundreds of local businesses and organizations to become safer, healthier and more productive. We assist companies in developing and implementing effective substance abuse policies, and offer substance abuse counseling and Employee Assistance Program services for employees and their families. We are endorsed by the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation as a provider of Drug-Free Safety Program training courses, and we serve as Authorized Providers of American Red Cross safety courses, such as CPR/ First Aid/AED and Bloodborne Pathogens.

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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.

This month's article was written by : Deb Schlabach,
Account Coordinator AultComp MCO

Driving Defensively

The school buses will soon be back on the roads and Labor Day is right around the corner- where did the summer go? This is a great time to reacquaint ourselves with some important defensive driving tips.



More than 41,000 people lose their lives in motor vehicle crashes each year and over 2.4 million more suffer disabling injuries, according to the National Safety Council. The quadruple threat of distractions, high speeds, impaired or careless driving and not using occupant restraints threatens every driver—regardless of how careful or how skilled.

Driving defensively means not only taking responsibility for yourself and your actions but also keeping an eye on "the other guy." The National Safety Council suggests the following guidelines to help reduce your risks on the road.

- Don't start the engine without securing each passenger in the car, including children and pets. Safety belts save thousands of lives each year! Lock all doors.
- Remember that driving too fast or too slow can increase the likelihood of collisions.
- Don't kid yourself. If you plan to drink, designate a driver who won't drink. Alcohol is a factor in over 40 percent of all fatal motor vehicle crashes.
- Do not use cell phones (including hands free) or any other mobile electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle. This includes, but is not limited to, answering or making phone calls, engaging in phone conversations, reading or responding to e-mails and text messages, adjusting a Global Positioning System (GPS) and accessing the internet.
- Be alert! If you notice that a car is straddling the center line, weaving, making wide turns, stopping abruptly or responding slowly to traffic signals, the driver may be impaired.
- Avoid an impaired driver by turning right at the nearest corner or exiting at the nearest exit. If it appears that an oncoming car is crossing into your lane, pull over to the roadside, sound the horn and flash your lights.
- Notify the police immediately after seeing a motorist who is driving suspiciously.
- Follow the rules of the road. Don't contest the "right of way" or try to race another car during a merge. Be respectful of other motorists.
- Don't follow too closely. Always use a "three-second following distance" or a "three-second plus following distance."
- While driving, be cautious, aware and responsible.

Information and recommendations are compiled from sources believed to be reliable. The National Safety Council makes no guarantee as to and assumes no responsibility for the correctness, sufficiency or completeness of such information or recommendations. Other or additional safety measures may be required under particular circumstances

Upcoming Program

September 8, 2011

Speakers: Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell,
Attorney at Law, Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths &
Dougherty Co., L.P.A. and Dan Morgan
Topic: "Social Media & The Workplace"

September Spotlight Co:



Robin's Corner

Question: If the pitch of the roof is only 4 : 6, do I have to wear fall protection?
Answer: The pitch of a roof doesn't have anything to do with whether or not a person must wear fall protection! It's all about the distance of the drop/fall to a lower level. General Industry has a four (4) foot distance and Construction has a six (6) foot distance. General Industry and Construction overlap each other meaning that they both follow the 4' and 6' regulations. If the fall distance from a roof is 6' or greater, some type of fall protection must be provided by the employer. (Guardrail System, Safety Net System, Personal Fall Arrest System, etc.) These Regulations are for Commercial and Residential Employers.

1910.23(b)(1)
Every wall opening from which there is a drop of more than 4 feet shall be guarded by one of the following:

1910.23(b)(1)(i)
Rail, roller, picket fence, half door, or equivalent barrier. Where there is exposure below to falling materials, a removable toe board or the equivalent shall also be provided. When the opening is not in use for handling materials, the guard shall be kept in position regardless of a door on the opening. In addition, a grab handle shall be provided on each side of the opening with its center approximately 4 feet above floor level and of standard strength and mounting.

1926.501(b)(1)
"Unprotected sides and edges." Each employee on a walking/working surface (horizontal and vertical surface) with an unprotected side or edge which is 6 feet (1.8m) or more above a lower level shall be protected from falling by the use of guardrail systems, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems.

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

Aug. 16 - Self Defense Seminar 8-9:30 (registration @ 7:30; East Coast Martial Arts, Fulton Rd.) Call the Chamber to register

Chainsaw Safety Classes at Stark State College

Monday Sept 19th 8:00 a.m-12:00 p.m.

Saturday Oct 15th 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Monday Oct 31st from 8:00 a.m – 12:00 p.m.

For additional information call Scott Brenner
at 330-933-1345.

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. **NOTE: July 1, 2011 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.