Your Safety Photos Wanted!

By Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell, Esq.

Do you recognize the picture on the left? It is the winning photo in the 2011 Safety Photo Contest.

Our Stark County Safety Council is holding its Second Annual Photo Contest promoting worker safety, entitled “Picture it! Safe Workplaces for Everyone.” Our contest challenges everyone with a passion for photography to capture an image of workplace safety and health and participate in the photo contest.

Once again, all photos should depict your image of workplace safety and health. The contest rules preclude photographs depicting violation of an OSHA standard, unsafe procedures and practices, and endorsement of particular products or services. The judging criteria is as follows: quality of photograph; suitability for possible use in safety publications; clarity of the safety and health message conveyed; originality; creativity; inclusion of worker, employer, or workplace imagery.

Our Stark County Safety Council urges your participation in our Second Annual Photo contest. We hope to receive a lot of photos depicting workplace safety. Shortly, you will receive an email from the Safety Council providing the rules for the photo contest. Good luck to all you photographers!

Should have questions about this article, please contact Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell at: 330-244-2864 or jcaldwell@kwgd.com.

Today's Program  June 14, 2012

Topic: “Keep Your Eyes Open, Someone May be Watching You!”

Special Investigations Department Overview

Speaker: Phillip J. Brickman, Special Agent in Charge, State of Ohio - Bureau of Workers' Compensation, North East Regional Field Office

Spotlight Company:

About US Safety Gear Inc.

US Safety Gear was founded in 1989 as full line Safety Distributor and now has 12 locations in Northeast & Central Ohio, with our strongest customer base being in Canton and Stark County. We carry name brands such as MSA, Gatorade, 3M, Gateway Safety & more. Besides providing safety gear to area companies, US Safety Gear has a complete integrated Embroidery and Graphics Dept. to help your company with its corporate identity & promotions. A Graphic Artist is now on staff to assist with events or design questions. Recently, we added a new 8 Head Tajima Knitting machine to increase embroidery capacity along with a Silk Screening Department. In our pad printing area we print cups, pens, or even gloves with your companies name or logo on it. US Safety Gear has also teamed up with Cleveland Cavaliers as the “official safety gear and apparel” supplier to the Cavs and Quicken Loans Arena. Whether its 5,000 shirts or just 1 hat, we do it all!!! US Safety Gear wants to help promote your company.

Territory Manager: Kelly Zabel (330) 980-3955
Sales Manager: Chris Zabel (330) 717-6626
Representative: Tarry Alberini(330) 717-0113
US Safety Gear Office Number (330) 898-1344

Upcoming Event - Special 2hr Group Rated Safety Training

June 20 - 8:00 a.m. (7:30 registration/breakfast) presented by Todd Smith, CSP Safety & Risk Consultant at McCall's Restaurant & Banquet Center - $15.00 members; $20.00 non members. Register at www.starkcountysafetycouncil.org. or call 330-458-2070.

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.
Understanding the Membership Requirements for Safety Council

By: Colleen Maurer
Chairman, 2012 Stark County Safety Council

As July 1st is quickly approaching, this is a great time to remind everyone of the BWC requirements for membership into the Stark County Safety Council.

Ohio BWC’s Requirements for Active Participation

- If you are not already enrolled, complete enrollment form and submit to Stark County Safety Council by July 31, 2012.
- Attend 10 meetings between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013 (at least eight must be received through the Stark County Safety Council. Up to two attendance credits can be received though qualifying external training. Online or training at your location does not qualify).
- One of the 10 meetings must be attended by a top-ranking management official/CEO during the same time period.
- Submit the two required semi-annual reports by specified deadlines.

If I’m enrolled in the Council but I am self-insured, do I have to submit Semi-Annual Reports?

- Yes. To be considered “enrolled” in the Council, you agree to submit injury and illness reports to the BWC. Since these reports help determine which companies receive safety council awards, it is to your benefit to submit. Although not eligible for the rebate program, self-insured companies ARE eligible for safety council awards.

Common problems on Semi-Annual Reports

- The most recent date of injury must either equal what you submitted on the last report OR be in the six-month time period. If not, it will be rejected.
- You can’t report days away from work without reporting a date in the six-month reporting period.
- It doesn’t matter how you paid the claim; the injury is still lost-time according to OSHA. The last three questions ask about your OSHA log, not your BWC claims.

ROBIN’S CORNER

Employers must train workers in hazard recognition and the care and safe use of equipment such as ladders and scaffolds, and fall protection systems.

- OSHA has provided numerous resources which are publicly available on its website at www.osha.gov. Employers can use these resources during toolbox talks to train their employees on safe practices to avoid falls in construction. Falls can be prevented when employees understand proper set up and safe use of equipment.
- Ladder Safety: Employees must be trained to properly use a ladder—this includes safety measures like:
  - Maintain three points of contact
  - Place the ladder on level footing
  - Always face the ladder
  - Secure the ladder by locking the metal braces at the center of the ladder
  - Don’t overreach
  - Don’t walk the ladder
- Scaffold Safety: Employees must be trained to safely set up and use scaffolds—this includes safety measures like:
  - During setup: fully plank scaffolds, complete all guardrails, ensure stable footing and plumb and level
  - Ensure proper access to scaffolds
  - A competent person must inspect the scaffold before use
  - Don’t climb over cross braces
  - Don’t stand on guardrails
  - Don’t use a ladder on a scaffold
- Roof Safety: Employees must be trained to avoid fall hazards on a roof and properly use fall protection equipment—this includes safety measures like:
  - Make sure your harness fits and is not defective when using PFAS
  - Always stay connected/tie off
  - Ensure that all anchor points are safe
  - Protect all holes, openings and skylights
  - Don’t sit or walk on skylights or other openings

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, 2012 begins 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.