

Stark County Safety Council Newsletter

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STARK COUNTY
SAFETY COUNCIL
A committee of the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce

OSHA ISSUES HAZARD ALERT FOR DIESEL PARTICULATE MATTER

By Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell, Esq.

In January 2013, OSHA issued a Hazard Alert concerning diesel exhaust/diesel particulate matter (“DE/DPM”). OSHA first noted those occupations with potential exposure to DE/DPM, including miners, construction workers, heavy equipment operators, bridge and tunnel workers, railroad workers, oil and gas workers, loading dock workers, truck drivers, material handling operators, farm workers, long-shoring workers, and auto, truck, and bus maintenance garage workers.

OSHA then listed the short and prolonged term exposure effects of DE/DPM, noting that in June 2012, the International Agency for Cancer Research (“IARC”) classified DE (including DPM) as a known human carcinogen (Group 1).

OSHA then described both engineering controls and administrative controls (changes to the way tasks are performed) for minimizing exposure. Finally, OSHA noted that OSHA does not have a permissible exposure limit for DPM in general industry, agriculture, construction, or maritime operations regulations.

If you need any additional information, please feel free to 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.

**Congratulations to the
2012 Stark County Safety Council
Photo Contest Winner!**



Beth Durishin-Shaffer and Randy Martin of Beaver Excavating.

Today: February 14, 2013

**Topic: Employers- Just Say "YES" to the
Drug Free Safety Program; Understanding
the Benefits of the Drug Free Safety Program**

*Panel: Jodi Sabatino, Employer Services Specialist,
Ohio BWC; Dr. Bruce Hensley, Mercy Work Health &
Safety; Attorney Gust Callas, Black, McCuskey, Souers
and Arbaugh*

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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.

Message from the Chairman

Why Wouldn't You Implement a Drug Free Safety Program?

Employers have the right to reasonable expectations of their employees and should be concerned for the safety of everyone in the workplace as well as protection of company property, timely attendance, employee job knowledge, and productive work behaviors. Employee use of alcohol and other drugs is a very costly yet preventable problem that may undercut these expectations. Substance users do not leave their unproductive and dangerous behaviors at home when they enter the workplace, and their use of alcohol and other drugs may jeopardize the safety and health of co-workers and the general public as well as themselves. Statistically, inappropriate substance use is associated with a higher level of absenteeism, greater use of medical benefits, higher incidence and greater severity of workplace accidents, higher number of workers' compensation claims, greater involvement in theft and loss, and lower productivity than for employees who do not use substances inappropriately. Statistics show that:

- 47% of serious workplace accidents and 40 percent of workplace accidents resulting in fatalities have drug and/or alcohol involvement. (Occupational Medicine)

- 38 to 50% of all workers' compensation claims are related to the use of alcohol or drugs in the workplace. (National Council on Compensation Insurance)

- More than 90% of alcoholics and 74% of drug addicts (up 7% since 1992) are employed. [(National Institute on Drug Abuse, Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)]

- 15% to 17% of employees in the average U.S. company affect their workplaces through substance use. (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

- On average, employees with inappropriate substance use cost their employers \$7,000 annually. (Small Business Administration)

Overall, then, substance use is a serious threat to workplace safety and every employer's "bottom line."

Submitted by: Deb Schlabach, AultComp MCO; Info from Ohio BWC

Next Program: March 14, 2013

Money, Money Everywhere –
Find Out How to Get Your Share
BWCs Destination Excellence Program
BWC Speaker: Lorrie Goodnight, Business Consultant

Spotlight Company:



Upcoming Safety Events

March 8—CEO Breakfast: Skyland Pines Golf Club & Event Center 3550 Columbus Rd NE, Canton. Keynote speaker is Bruce Hennes, Managing Partner, Hennes Paynter.

April 9-11—Ohio Safety Congress at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. SAVE THE DATE! **Note: The April SCSC meeting date has been moved from April 11th to April 4th due to the Ohio Safety Congress event.....please mark your calendars!**

Congratulations 2012 SCSC Business Grant Winners!

Brewster Cheese * Louisville City Schools *
Classico Landscapes



Doug Linhart - Brewster Cheese, James Carman - Louisville City Schools and Tracy Driscoll - Classico Landscapes; Brewster Cheese Awarded \$500- towards the purchase of a rail system; Classico Landscapes: Awarded \$1,000 – towards the purchase of a lift gate; Louisville City Schools: Awarded \$500 – towards the purchase of a transmission lift (*Please note grant monies to be awarded contingent to the purchase of the specific grant item)

ROBIN'S CORNER

Q: What are my safety risks in dealing with fluorescent bulbs pertaining to mercury? How can I avoid mercury exposure from fluorescent bulbs?

A: Metallic mercury poses health risks from inhalation and skin exposure. Tubular or compact fluorescent bulbs contain small amounts of the metal mercury sealed inside. If fluorescent bulbs are broken, small amounts of mercury will be released into the environment. Proper cleanup will reduce workers' exposure to the low levels of mercury anticipated when a fluorescent bulb is accidentally broken.

How Workers Can Be Exposed

- Breathing mercury vapor in the air • Skin contact with mercury

Health Effects and Symptoms

- Signs of mercury poisoning include tremors; mood, memory or coordination changes; and skin irritation or allergy • Exposure to mercury can harm unborn children

Preventing Accidental Breakage

- Handle bulbs carefully and store away from workers • Package bulbs in a sturdy container to prevent breakage • Label containers of fluorescent bulbs

Safe Cleanup of Broken Fluorescent Bulbs

- Notify workers and tell them to stay away from the area • Open any windows and doors to air out the room
- Do not use a broom or vacuum cleaner unless the vacuum cleaner is specifically designed to collect mercury
- Wear appropriate disposable chemical-resistant gloves
- Use a commercial mercury spill kit if available, or scoop up pieces of glass and powder with stiff paper or cardboard to avoid contact with the broken glass
- Use sticky tape to pick up any remaining pieces of glass • Wipe down hard floors with a damp paper towel
- Place all pieces of glass and cleanup materials in a sealable plastic bag or a glass jar with a lid • Wash your hands thoroughly after cleanup

Disposing of Fluorescent Bulbs

- Follow EPA and state government regulations for disposal of fluorescent bulbs and mercury-contaminated waste. Visit the EPA's website for more information <http://www.epa.gov/osw/hazard/wastetypes/universal/lamps/index.htm>