GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN IMPACTS MOST OSHA SERVICES

By Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell, Esq.

The government shutdown is affecting the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. For example, if you visit OSHA’s website at “osha.gov” you will see the following notice:

This website is currently not being updated due to the suspension of Federal Government services. The last update to the site was October 1, 2013. Updates to the site will start again when the Federal Government resumes operations. If you need to report a workplace fatality, hospitalizations, an imminent danger situation, or you are filing a hazard complaint, please contact our toll free number: 1-800-321-OSHA (6742); TTY 1-877-889-5627 (or contact OSHA’s area and regional offices during normal business hours.)

 Likewise, a telephone call to OSHA will result in a similar message. However, certain OSHA personnel are still available to respond to some issues. For example, OSHA is still performing fatality inspections. Thus, even during the shutdown, it is critical to continue all reporting obligations, such as for fatalities and catastrophic injuries. However, typical OSHA inspections and other services have been discontinued during the government shutdown.

If you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell of Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths & Dougherty Co., L.P.A. at: 330-244-2864 or jecaldwell@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.

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Stark County 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.
Q: Do you know your home may contain a silent killer – Carbon Monoxide

A: You can’t see it, smell it, or taste it. Yet there’s at least a chance it’s in your home if you have a furnace, a fireplace, a water heater, or anything else that burns fossil fuels. Carbon Monoxide (CO) kills some 500 Americans and puts an estimated 10,000 in hospital emergency rooms each year by displacing oxygen in their bloodstream. Simply warming up a barbeque, car, mower, or snow blower inside an attached garage creates CO, which can seep into living areas.

Flu-like symptoms that affect an entire household may be the first signs of a problem. The latest CO alarms can detect this deadly gas before it reaches the danger level. According to current standards, all models must sound a high-decibel beep when CO levels remain at 70 parts per million (ppm) for as little as one hour. While exposure to levels of 150ppm for one and a half hours isn’t likely to cause more than a headache for healthy adults, levels of 400ppm can cause loss of consciousness within that time and lead to brain damage or death an hour or two later.

LOCATE CO WHERE IT LIVES
Furnaces with a leaky heat exchanger, fireplaces with a blocked chimney, and poorly vented water heaters are among the typical sources of carbon monoxide. If your home is large, you may need a number of CO alarms. In small homes where living and sleeping areas are adjacent, one alarm may do.

HOW TO PREVENT CO PROBLEMS
- Faulty heating and ventilation systems aren’t the only source of CO. Bathroom or range fans can create negative pressure in a tightly sealed house, drawing in CO that would otherwise vent through chimney or flue.
- Regularly inspect and maintain heating ventilation, and other fossil-fuel-burning equipment and their venting systems. Also inspect ducts for leaks and immediately seal any that you find.
- Call in a heating contractor if CO alarms go off intermittently; it could mean that some household systems aren’t interacting well together.
- Don’t use a gas or charcoal grill indoors.
- Don’t leave your vehicle idling or start other gasoline-powered equipment inside a garage, even with the doors open.

IF A CO ALARM SOUNDS....
- Throw open windows to ventilate the area and move everyone to fresh air immediately.
- Watch for symptoms of CO poisoning – including nausea, headache, dizziness, or drowsiness – and get immediate medical attention. Pregnant women, children, the elderly, and those who are chronically ill are especially sensitive to CO and may experience problems at low levels.
- Notify your local fire department and utility provider; they’ll bring the equipment needed to pinpoint the source of CO.
Thank You Attendees and Exhibitors of The 2013 Safety, Health and Human Resource Fair Last Month

Click below for access to our 2013 Safety, Health and Human Resource Fair Exhibitors websites

http://starkcountysafetycouncil.org/vendors

- A.S.A.P. Advertising
- Advanced Waste Services
- Amerisafe Services
- AultCare
- AultComp MCO
- Aultman Blood Center
- AultWorks Occupational
  - Best Glove
- Black, McCuskey, Souers & Arbaugh
- Boggs Chiropractic
- Canton Charge
- Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Chocolates by Erin
- C-Mor Safety Eyewear
- CorVel Ohio MCO
- Embassy Healthcare/Oakhill Manor
  - EverStaff
- Harrison Paint Company
  - Hear Inc.
- Integrity Technical Services Inc.
  -Intensity Rehab LTD
- Janco Service Industries
- Malone University
- Mercy Work, Health & Safety
- Nationwide Hostetler Insurance
  - Professional Placement
- Ohio Bureau of Worker’s Compensation
- ProTech Security
- Quest Recovery and Prevention
  - Qualified Safety
- RETTEW
- RiskControl360
- Ryan Alternative Staffing
- Safety Resources Company of Ohio
  - Sign*A*Rama
- Silco Fire & Security

- Stailey Technologies
- Stark County Human Resources Association
- Stark County Safety Council
- Stark Safety Consultants
- Stauffer Gloves & Safety
- Sunpro
- Sunrise Massage Therapy
- Superior Search Group
  - The Connection
  - The Learning Service
  - The Repository
- Tough Equipment
- US HealthWorks
- US Safety Gear
- Veolia Environmental Services
- Western & Southern Financial
- Wet Surface Solutions

Congratulations to Ann Shelter for winning the Grand Prize at the 2013 Safety, Health & Human Resource Fair - $250 Visa gift card
Planning for Continuity of Operations (COOP)

Don McDonald, Program Director, LEPC and SCSC Steering Committee Member

The Stark County Local Emergency Planning Committee and Emergency Management Agency strive to serve as a liaison or bridge between local, state, federal government, and the private sector. This has been shown to be a mutually beneficial relationship, as evidenced by the Stark County community’s rapid recovery following various disasters which have struck this area over the past forty years.

Although COOP is a requirement for Federal, State and Local departments and agencies; the private sector is also encouraged to establish COOP programs that meet the general objectives of continuity efforts. COOP planning in the private sector is usually referred to as Business Continuity Planning (BCP).

For COOP plans to be effective, they:
1) must be maintained at a high level of readiness;
2) must be capable of being implemented, both with and without warning;
3) must be operational no later than 12 hours after activation;
4) must be able to sustain operations for up to 30 days or until normal functions can be resumed;
5) and, should collaborate with other organizations or agencies to share or access existing services, resources, equipment, and systems.

COOP is a widely applicable planning strategy designed to keep essential functions operational during “sudden and devastating emergencies”. COOP plans will also enable organizations to:
1) Reduce loss of life and minimize damage and loss to critical processes and information
2) Provide for a succession of leadership to perform necessary duties when normal leadership is suspended
3) Reduce or prevent disruptions to operations
4) Protect facilities infrastructure, equipment, records, and other necessary assets
5) Recover from an emergency in a timely and orderly manner, and resume full services

Continuity planning is then both good business practice and responsible and reliable administration. It enables organizations to minimize the consequences of disruptive events and to continue to operate during vulnerable conditions.

This information and much more are contained in a free booklet available through the Stark County Emergency Management Agency. Contact the EMA at 330-451-3900 or at 4500 Atlantic Boulevard N.E., Canton, OH 44705.

Coming next month
November 14, 2013

“SAFE FOUR THE RIGHT REASONS!!

Speaker: Troy Manion, Safety Director at Hilscher-Clarke Electric and Authorized OSHA 502 Outreach Instructor

This program takes a look at why people take chances in our everyday lives at home and at work and tries to breakdown the barrier between multiple contractors and the communication of job site hazards. It will show real life examples of things we do every day that are hazardous but we have become so complacent doing them that you stopped seeing the hazards associated with these behaviors.

Spotlight Company:

LEPC

Stark County Local Emergency Planning Committee

Mittens Drive

The Stark County Safety Council will once again be collecting hats, mittens and gloves at the November luncheons. Items collected will be distributed to children in need.

Christmas is less than 3 months away! The Stark County Safety Council will be collecting new, unwrapped toys at the December safety council luncheon. Over the years our members have joined forces with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program to provide children less fortunate experience the joy of Christmas. We encourage you to get all of your employees and co-workers involved in this extremely worthy cause. Let’s fill the truck!