



STARK COUNTY

SAFETY COUNCIL

A committee of the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce

news

Volume 12 Issue 5 May 2014

StarkCountySafetyCouncil.com

**FINAL RULE: ELECTRICAL SAFETY FOR  
POWER PLANTS AND MAINTENANCE  
CONTRACTORS**

*By Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell, Esq.*

On April 11, OSHA's final rule updating protections for workers performing construction or maintenance on power plants or on power lines was issued. The new rule primarily applies to power companies (as well as manufacturers that own and operate their own power distribution installations) and maintenance workers.

The following are among the significant changes under the new rule:

- Host and contract employers are required to share information on safety matters and coordinate work rules and procedures;
- After April 15, 2015, employers are required to provide protective equipment to workers exposed to electrical hazards from electrical arcs;
- Line-clearance tree trimmers must be trained on how to recognize and avoid electrical hazards;
- After April 15, 2015, qualified workers are required to use fall protection when climbing or changing locations on poles and towers, unless such use would pose a greater hazard or is infeasible;
- Multiple crews working together on the same line are required to either (1) coordinate their activities under a single worker; or (2) independently comply with the standards for de-energizing transmission and distribution lines; and
- Use new minimum approach distances, from and after April 15, 2015;

This final rule will become effective 90 days after its publication in the Federal Register and is expected by OSHA to save approximately 20 lives and prevent about 120 serious injuries per year. OSHA also estimates that employers will incur approximately \$50,000,000 per year in compliance costs, with approximately one-third of these costs related to the arc-flash protective equipment requirements.

For more information please contact Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell of Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths & Dougherty Co., L.P.A. at: 330-244-2864 or [jcaldwell@kwgd.com](mailto: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.*

May 8, 2014

**So You Think You  
Work in a Zoo?**

**Doug Piekarz, Vice President,  
Planning & Conservation Programs, Akron Zoo**

Many folks have heard the word "Zoo" used to describe a work environment that is fast paced, and in some way overwhelming or chaotic for the employees who work there. With this presentation, this idea will be challenged and Doug Piekarz will discuss both safety and security aspects of managing a professional accredited Zoo in the 21st century. Not every organization needs a Disaster Assistance Response (DART) team, but we all have similar and at times unique risks and concerns that need to be addressed and drilled.

**May Spotlight Company:**

**MCO Open Enrollment through Friday, May 23rd**  
Since 1997 AultComp MCO has contracted with the Ohio BWC to medically manage workers' comp of Ohio employers. We are your **LOCAL MCO** serving nearly 10,000 employers. Our main emphasis is to get your injured worker back on the job as quickly and as safely as possible. AultComp MCO consistently receives high is proud to be recognized as one of the top three managed care organizations based on the 2014 MCO Report Card published by the Ohio BWC.

***Employers have a choice- choose AultComp MCO***  
To select AultComp MCO or for additional information contact  
Deb Schlabach

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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.*

# ROBIN'S CORNER

By Robin Watson, Ohio BWC Representative

**Q: What are the requirements for powder-actuated tools?**

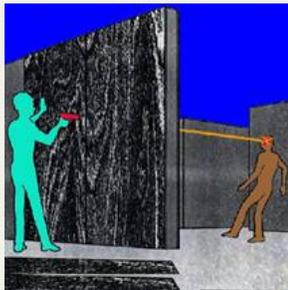
**A:** These tools are designed to fire a special nail or fastening device into concrete, steel and masonry using a small caliber charge as a firing device. [See 1926.302(e)]



The number one safety rule to remember is – **only properly trained and qualified operators should ever use** powder-actuated tools. Users should possess “Qualified Operations Cards” which, after thorough training, are issued by a particular manufacturers authorized dealer or distributor or other competent source.

When using the tool it must be held firmly against and perpendicular to the surface into which the fastening device is being driven. Never shoot into a blind surface. Take the necessary time to check the other side. Many innocent construction workers have been injured, and some even killed, from being struck by a wayward fastening device which ricocheted off or went completely through the target.

Personal protective equipment must be worn by the operator, and the face should be protected if there is any danger of spilling materials. Check with your supervisor on the type of safety goggles required. [See 1926.102 Table E-1]



All powder-actuated tools must be tested daily – **before use** – and all defects discovered before or during use must be corrected. Tools must not be loaded until immediately before use. Loaded tools must not be left unattended. Keep your hands clear of the muzzle end.



Powder-actuated tools should never be stored or used in explosive atmospheres, or in the vicinity of highly flammable materials, or anywhere non-sparking tools are required.

When you are through using a powder-actuated tool, unload it and dispose of firing rounds properly; **never** leave them lying around. For proper training check with your powder-actuated vendor, who will often come to the work site and conduct a safety class. Finally, if you are not qualified to use the tool, **don't!**

## Coming Next Month June 12, 2014

Heroin is **NOT**  
a Superhero!

*Learn What it is and  
How to Deal with It!*



**Lt. John Oliver, Agent in Charge  
Stark County Metropolitan Narcotics Unit**

The Stark County Sheriff's Metropolitan Narcotics Unit is a multi-jurisdictional task force and one of the oldest existing Drug Units in Ohio, which started in 1969. Their mission is to identify, investigate and take enforcement action against illegal narcotic trafficking and related criminal activity in conjunction with, but not in place of, local, state and federal enforcement efforts.

SPOTLIGHT  
COPMANY:



## UPCOMING SCSC EVENTS & DATES

**May 15—Safe Kids Day—4:30-7:30 p.m.** Plain Township Fire Station, 1742 Schneider St. NE; across from GlenOak High School

**May 17—The Seatbelt Challenge—9:00 a.m.** at Fawcett Stadium, 1835 Harrison Ave. NW, Canton

## Safety Council Officers & Contributing Members

**Chairman:** Deb Schlabach

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**Vice Chair:** (Chris Zabel czabel@USSafetyGear.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell  
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**Ohio BWC Representatives:** Robin Watson

(robin.w.1@bwc.state.oh.us) and

Steve Hanna

(stephen.h.1@bwc.state.oh.us)

# The Best Defense in Safety

*Submitted By: Curt Speck, President, Safety Resources Company of Ohio  
Member, Stark County Safety Council Steering Committee*

**When it comes to safety, the best defense is a good offense.**

Let's talk offense first...

A good "safety offense" for your company must include:

- Developing written work rules and policies
- Training your managers and employees then testing their knowledge.
- Auditing and monitoring your workplace and work-force
- Correcting negative audit findings and correcting your workers with a progressive disciplinary program



"This may sounds like a lot of work but a good coach can pull this together for you with ease."

**How this becomes the Defense...**

## SCENARIO 1

OSHA just showed up at the door and wants to do an inspection. The compliance officer takes issue with your company for alleged violations of the OSHA standards. You provide them with training documents (part 1 of your defense), a copy of your work rules which your employees have been trained on (part 2 of your defense) and a copy of your progressive disciplinary program with several examples of how you have followed that program (part 3 of your defense). OSHA may now realize that your company is being proactive with safety (your offense) and that it is not where they need to be.

## SCENARIO 2

An employee gets hurt on the job and a Violation of Specific Safety Rule (VSSR) is looming against your company. You think to yourself "We have a good safety program. My employees are trained, we monitor the workplace for safety issues, we have written work rules and enforce our policies." The hearing officer looks at your program and makes the determination that your company is not guilty of a VSSR because the specific safety rules that need to be adhered to have been followed with your safety program.

## SCENARIO 3

A civil action lawsuit has been filed against your company. Your attorney or your insurance company review the defense strategy. They realize that your company has put together the key components that they need for defense when they open up the file and see your policies and programs, employee training records, monitoring and enforcement of the company disciplinary program... again.....you saved the day!

An excellent safety program will help to protect you and your company from the liabilities that are out there. Remember... teamwork with an emphasis on TRAINING, MONITORING, ENFORCEMENT AND WRITTEN WORKPLACE RULES are the Key to a great Defense.

Be Safe

# April's "Stuff The Truck"

## Harvest For Hunger

# Thank You!

