

# Safety Update

## Ohio BWC Library

### 2013 Drive Safely Work Week

#### NETS Drive Safely Work Week Toolkit Available for Free Download

Oct. 7–11 is Drive Safely Work Week (DSWW). The theme of the 2013 campaign is “Gear up for safe driving: Mind • Body • Vehicle.” The Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS), a public-private partnership that promotes road safety on and off the job, develops DSWW. The DSWW toolkit provides easy-to-use Web-based resources for employers, including downloadable graphics and activities tailored for each day of the campaign week. [www.trafficsafety.org](http://www.trafficsafety.org)

#### Work - Related Motor Vehicle Crashes: Preventing Injuries to Young Drivers What Employers Should Know

This [NIOSH fact sheet](#) will help employers be more aware of the risk of motor vehicle crashes among younger workers. It gives information about federal and state laws that cover workplace driving and offers recommendations to employers for preventing motor vehicle crashes among younger workers. Finally, it provides links to useful resources on the Internet.

### CDC/NIOSH Resources

#### CDC Foundation

Congress established the [CDC Foundation](#), as an independent, nonprofit organization. It connects the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with private-sector organizations and individuals to build public health programs that make our world healthier and safer.

A new feature from the Foundation that offers businesses useful resources from the CDC is Business Pulse. Explore benefits associated with CDC’s work to protect Americans, including businesses and their workforces from chronic threats that impact health and productivity to major health emergencies. Produced by the CDC Foundation, Business Pulse focuses on a different topic each quarter. In this first issue, [Business Pulse](#) highlights CDC’s role in public health preparedness and response, including CDC’s resources that advance business preparedness and continuity efforts.

#### Evaluating Health Promotion at Worksites

The newly released CDC [Worksite Health ScoreCard](#) (HSC) is a tool designed to help employers assess the extent to which they have implemented evidence-based health promotion interventions in their worksites.

The HSC assists employers in identifying gaps in their health promotion programs. It also helps them to prioritize high-impact strategies for health promotion at their work sites across many health topics. Topics include organizational supports; tobacco control, nutrition; physical activity; weight management; stress management; depression; high blood pressure; high cholesterol; diabetes; signs and symptoms of heart attack and stroke; and emergency response to heart attack and stroke.

## Health-Care Workers Resource to Identify NIOSH Approved Respirators

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A new [publication](#) from NIOSH explains how health-care workers can verify that a respirator has received the agency's approval.

NIOSH-approved respirators have approval markings on the facepiece or straps. Counterfeit respirators may contain fake approval markings. If the respirator does not appear on this NIOSH [list of approved respirators](#) or has no testing and certification approval number (beginning with "TC") printed on the product, packaging or instructions, then it likely is not NIOSH-approved.

### OSHA Resources

## Silica Proposal Updates 40-Year-Old Permissible Exposure Limit

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Millions of workers each year are exposed to crystalline silica. This puts them at risk of developing silicosis, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and kidney disease. On Aug. 23, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced a proposed rule to lower that risk. The proposal would update the current permissible exposure limit, which is more than 40 years old. Exposure to airborne silica dust occurs in operations involving cutting, sawing, drilling and crushing of concrete, brick, block and other stone products. It also occurs in operations using sand products such as in glass manufacturing, foundries and sand blasting. Based on extensive scientific analysis and review, the rule would save hundreds of lives per year and prevent 1,600 new cases of silicosis annually, once work sites realize the full effects of the rule.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Read the Blog Post](#)
- [Learn More About the Proposal](#)

## Opportunity to Comment on the Silica Proposed Rule

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The [Federal Register](#) published the notice of proposed rule making for crystalline silica on Sept. 12. This officially opened the rule's public comment period. This is a proposal, not a final rule. OSHA encourages the public to participate in development of the rule by submitting comments and participating in public hearings. Your input will help OSHA develop a rule that ensures healthy working conditions for employees and is feasible for employers. For information on how to participate see the OSHA silica [website](#), and click on the tab marked Public Participation.

## National Association of Women in Construction and Joint Commission Ally with OSHA to Protect Workers

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OSHA has formed an alliance with the National Association of Women in Construction to develop training resources to protect women in the construction industry. The agency also unveiled its new [Women in Construction Web page](#), which addresses safety and health issues specific to female construction workers. For more information on the alliance, visit the [OSHA-NAWIC Web page](#).

## Two Videos on the Health Effects of Sitting and What You Can Do About it

[Office Posture Matters](#), a new animated video details things office workers can do to curb the effects of excessive sitting.

[What If...](#), a three-minute video on the topic of standing more (even one hour more of standing a day can make a difference).

## Work Inspection Podcast from Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS)

Hazards can exist under desks, on the plant floor, in the air and pretty much any place people work. Inspecting the workplace regularly for hazards is an essential part of a health and safety program. Inspections help to prevent injuries and illnesses by identifying and eliminating existing and potential hazards. This [podcast](#) discusses how regular, thorough, workplace inspections by a trained inspection team can help keep workers healthy and safe.

## USEPA ChemView

[ChemView](#) displays health and safety data, making it possible to compare chemicals by use and by health or environmental effects. It also allows searches by chemical name or Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) number, use, hazard effect or regulatory action. It links to information on manufacturing, processing, use, and release data reported under the Chemical Data Reporting Rule and the Toxics Release Inventory.

## 2012 On-duty Firefighter Deaths

On-duty firefighter deaths totaled 81 in 2012, according to a [U.S. Fire Administration report](#) released Sept. 17.

Included in the 81 deaths are 12 firefighters who died from heart attack or stroke within 24 hours of strenuous on-the-job activities. These conditions were not included in the totals until after the passage of the Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefits Act in 2003.

As in prior years, stress and overexertion were the most frequent causes of death, accounting for 45 deaths – or 56 percent of the total – in 2012. Most of these deaths – 39 – were due to heart attacks.

## New Study Finds Link Between Occupational Safety and Health and Improved Financial Performance

In a study published by the *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, September 2013; Volume 55, issue 9, pages 993-1000, researchers have found that superior management of worker safety and health is linked to improved stock market value and returns. The study compared the performances of companies that had won an award for effective injury and illness prevention with those of the 500 leading companies publicly traded in the U.S. stock market during a 15-year period. The safety award winning businesses outperformed the other firms, proving that preventative safety and health management correlates directly with a company's bottom line.

Please contact the [library@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:library@bwc.state.oh.us) or 614-466-7388 for more information on any of these items.