



**STARK COUNTY**

**SAFETY COUNCIL**

**member news**

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## What if OSHA Showed Up Right Now?

*Provided by Curt Speck, President,  
Safety Resources Company of Ohio and SCSC Steering Committee Member*

**W**ould you let them in? Would you call your boss? Would you call your attorney? Would you call your safety consultant? Would you turn them away?

The fact is, there are very specific rights you have if OSHA comes knocking.

Normally, OSHA inspections are performed without advanced notice. However, employers do have the right to require compliance officers to obtain a warrant before entering the workplace. Make sure you are familiar with your company policy before OSHA shows up so you know how to respond appropriately.

OSHA inspection guidelines require that compliance officers present their credentials at the very beginning of an inspection. These credentials are official and include a photograph – a business card alone is not an appropriate presentation of credentials.

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### SCSC Webinar

**December 10, 2020  
11 a.m.—12 Noon**

**“What’s Wrong  
with That?  
A Look At Fire  
Hazards”**

**Speaker: Steve  
Waltman**

Join us for the December Safety Council Webinar featuring Steve Waltman a Fire and Life Safety Educator with the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal. This webinar will give the audience the chance to recognize fire hazards within their facilities. You do not need to be a SCSC member to attend - ALL are welcome.

Registration required.

Register at  
[www.cantonchamber.org/scsc-webinar](http://www.cantonchamber.org/scsc-webinar)



Like us on Facebook-[www.starkcountysc.com](http://www.starkcountysc.com).

**Stark County Safety Council Mission Statement:** *To provide a forum for safety and health information, education and networking through leadership, innovation, facilitation, programming, and support, in partnership with other public and private organizations.*

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You have the right to know why a compliance officer is seeking entry into your facility. OSHA cannot randomly walk onto your worksite. There must be at least one condition which allows an inspection to begin. These include imminent danger situations, a severe illness or injury was reported, a worker complaint, a referral from another federal, state or local agency, a targeted high-hazard industry and follow-up inspections. Following the presentation of credentials the inspector will perform an opening conference which explains why they are there and the scope of the inspection. At this point you can select a representative(s) to accompany the officer during their inspection. An employee representative also has the right to accompany the officer during the inspection.



Following the opening conference a walkthrough of the portions of the workplace covered by the scope is performed. This can include photos, recordings and measurements. The inspector may also review illness and injury records at this time. The inspector may also point out any apparent violations. Interviews may be held with workers at this time. Inspectors may also make requests for documents and policies related to safety. It is important that you understand your rights under the law and also your company policy so you respond appropriately to these requests.

Following the walkaround and any employee interviews, a closing conference is held to discuss the findings and courses of action you may take after the inspection including informal conference, contesting citations and proposed penalties. At the end of the closing conference, the fact finding portion of the inspection is completed.

If any violations of standards of serious violations are identified, OSHA may issue citations and fines. OSHA must issue citations and proposed penalties within six months of the violation's occurrence. Citations issued describe OSHA requirements violated, proposed penalties and assign deadlines for correcting the alleged hazards.

As you can see, navigating OSHA inspections and citations can be a complicated process. Make sure you are familiar with your company's policy regarding OSHA inspections on site. Know how to protect both your workers and your company. If you require assistance, help can be obtained from legal professionals specializing in OSHA cases and private safety and health consulting firms. The steps you take at the beginning of an OSHA inspection are crucial to the outcome of the inspection.

## Safety Tip

# Holiday Celebrations & Small Gatherings

Information provided by The CDC  
By Randy Martin, Safety Director, The Beaver Companies and  
President, Stark County Safety Council

**E**njoy the holidays and take steps to protect yourself from getting or spreading COVID-19.

Below are excerpts from the CDC's article on staying safe during the holiday season. For the complete article go to: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/personal-social-activities.html#event>



More than 1 million COVID-19 cases were reported in the United States over the last 7 days. As cases continue to increase rapidly across the United States, the safest way to celebrate the holidays is to celebrate at home with the people you live with.

Gatherings with family and friends who do not live with you can increase the chances of getting or spreading COVID-19 or the flu.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been stressful and isolating for many people. Gatherings during the upcoming holidays can be an opportunity to reconnect with family and friends. This holiday season, consider how your holiday plans can be modified to reduce the spread of COVID-19 to keep your friends, families, and communities healthy and safe.

CDC offers the following considerations to slow the spread of COVID-19 during small gatherings. These considerations are meant to supplement—**not replace**—any state, local, territorial, or tribal health and safety laws, rules, and regulations with which all gatherings must comply.

### **Considerations for Small Gatherings of Family and Friends**

Celebrating virtually or with members of your own household (who are consistently taking measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19) poses the lowest risk for spread. Your household is anyone who currently lives and shares common spaces in your housing unit (such as your house or apartment). This can include family members, as well as roommates or people who are unrelated to you. People who do not currently live in your housing unit, such as college students who are returning home from school for the holidays, should be considered part of different households. In-person gatherings that bring together family members or friends from different households, including college students returning home, pose varying levels of risk.

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Organizers and attendees of larger events should consider the risk of virus spread based on event size (number of attendees and other factors) and take steps to reduce the possibility of infection, as outlined in the Considerations for Events and Gatherings.

Several factors can contribute to the risk of getting and spreading COVID-19 at small in-person gatherings. In combination, these factors will create various amounts of risk:

**Community levels of COVID-19** – High or increasing levels of COVID-19 cases in the gathering location, as well as in the areas where attendees are coming from, increase the risk of infection and spread among attendees. Family and friends should consider the number of COVID-19 cases in their community and in the community where they plan to celebrate when deciding whether to host or attend a gathering. Information on the number of cases in an area can often be found on the local health department website.

**Exposure during travel** – Airports, bus stations, train stations, public transport, gas stations, and rest stops are all places travelers can be exposed to the virus in the air and on surfaces.

**Location of the gathering** – Indoor gatherings, especially those with poor ventilation (for example, small enclosed spaces with no outside air), pose more risk than outdoor gatherings.

**Duration of the gathering** – Gatherings that last longer pose more risk than shorter gatherings. Being within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more greatly increases the risk of becoming sick and requires a 14-day quarantine.

**Number and crowding of people at the gathering** – Gatherings with more people pose more risk than gatherings with fewer people. CDC does not have a limit or recommend a specific number of attendees for gatherings. The size of a holiday gathering should be determined based on the ability of attendees from different households to stay 6 feet (2 arm lengths) apart, wear masks, wash hands, and follow state, local, territorial, or tribal health and safety laws, rules, and regulations.

**Behaviors of attendees *prior to the gathering*** – Individuals who did not consistently adhere to social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart), mask wearing, handwashing, and other prevention behaviors pose more risk than those who consistently practiced these safety measures.

**Behaviors of attendees *during the gathering*** – Gatherings with more safety measures in place, such as mask wearing, social distancing, and handwashing, pose less risk than gatherings where fewer or no preventive measures are being implemented. Use of alcohol or drugs may alter judgment and make it more difficult to practice COVID-19 safety measures.

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**If you decide to travel, follow these safety measures during your trip to protect yourself and others from COVID-19:**

- Wear a mask in public settings, like on public and mass transportation, at events and gatherings, and anywhere you will be around people outside of your household.
- Avoid close contact by staying at least 6 feet apart (about 2 arm lengths) from anyone who is not from your household.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol).
- Avoid contact with anyone who is sick.
- Avoid touching your face mask, eyes, nose, and mouth.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION RE: UPCOMING SAFETY COUNCIL EVENTS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

The Stark County Safety Council has is planning some great speakers and topics for the FREE safety webinars. We hope that you will join us by staying safe and engaged throughout FY21. Even though we cannot meet in person we are still available for your safety needs. Please feel free to contact Monique Thompson with any questions by email at [moniquet@cantonchamber.org](mailto:moniquet@cantonchamber.org) or call (330) 456-7253.

**March 31-April 2, 2021 Ohio Safety Congress—Save the date!**

**For the latest info on COVID-19 visit [www.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov)  
For the latest information on COVID-19s effect on BWC, email  
[BWCCOVID19@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:BWCCOVID19@bwc.state.oh.us).**

# ROBIN'S CORNER

By Robin Watson, Ohio BWC Representative



## Interlocks vs LOTO

**Q:** When performing maintenance in a machine cell with perimeter fence guarding, can the operator put a lock on the cell's interlocked gate instead of doing a complete lockout/tagout? When the gate is open the machine stops and doesn't start back up until the gate is closed. Wouldn't this be the same as locking out the disconnect switch?

**A:** In short, NO, an interlock is not a lockout point. According to OSHA's Control of Hazardous Energy (Lockout/Tagout) standard for General Industry (1910.147), a machine or equipment must be locked and tagged out when:

- 1910.147(a)(2)(ii)(A) - An employee is required to remove or bypass a guard or other safety device; or
- 1910.147(a)(2)(ii)(B) - An employee is required to place any part of his or her body into an area on a machine or piece of equipment where work is actually performed upon the material being processed (point of operation) or where an associated danger zone exists during a machine operating cycle.

When the operator enters through the interlocked gate, they are bypassing a guard and therefore, would need to follow proper lockout/tagout procedures. In order for the machine to be properly locked out, the machine must be isolated from the energy source through the use of an energy **isolation device**.

An **Energy Isolation Device (EID)** is a mechanical device that **physically** prevents the transmission or release of energy. (Ex. Disconnect switch, line valve, block, or manually operated circuit breaker). An interlock is considered **Control Circuitry** which is a type of circuit that uses control devices to determine when loads are energized or de-energized by controlling current flow. (Ex. Interlocks, push buttons, selector switches, emergency stop buttons).

These circuits can fail to control the energy and thus cannot be used as a substitute for lockout tagout since they are electronically (not mechanically) controlled. The only way, controlled circuitry can be considered satisfactory alternative protection is if the maintenance/service meets all the requirements of the minor service exception. Your BWC safety consultant can help determine if it meets the exception.

# FREE BWC SAFETY CLASSES



All BWC “in-person” classes have been cancelled until further notice.

The BWC Library has a “Streaming Videos” service from “Training Network NOW”. There are approximately 260 videos that can be streamed for **FREE**. The videos are anywhere between 4 minutes – 20 minutes long. Please email the library at [www.library@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:www.library@bwc.state.oh.us) to set up an account to use this service.

## Resources

- For the latest info on COVID-19 visit [www.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov)
- For the latest information on COVID-19s effect on BWC, email [BWCCOVID19@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:BWCCOVID19@bwc.state.oh.us).
- The BWC Library creates a monthly ‘Safety Update’ available at [www.bwc.ohio.gov](http://www.bwc.ohio.gov)
- Occupational Health & Safety Administration—[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

**Your Stark County Safety Council is hoping you are well and staying safe.**

**Please note that Connie Cerny, SCSC Program Manager, is out of the office on medical leave.**

**If you have any questions, please contact Monique Thompson at [moniquet@cantonchamber.org](mailto:moniquet@cantonchamber.org) or (330) 456-7253.**

## Safety Council Officers & Contributing Members

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*Stark County Safety Council  
Photos From the Archives*



## OHIO BWC UPDATE

- **\$5 Billion Dividend** : At the request of Governor DeWine, BWC's Board of Directors approved a \$5 billion dividend to ease the financial pressures that employers may be experiencing amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This is BWC's third dividend in 2020. The checks will go out in mid-December. The December dividend will be 327.46% of an employer's 2019 net premium. As with past dividends, BWC will apply any outstanding balances and any amounts exceeding the outstanding balance will be sent to the employer. Employers must be in good standing as of 10/2/20 to receive this dividend.
- **Second Round of Masks**: BWC has shipped over 20 million masks to employers since May as part of our "We Got You Covered" program. We will be distributing a second round of face coverings to employers starting in December. These masks are to support and enhance any workplace safety and health efforts employers already have in place. Employers don't need to request these masks. There is no extra charge to employer premiums. If an employer does not need these, we ask they donate them to others.
- **Virtual consulting**: Like many employers, BWC is adapting to new ways to keep our organization running smoothly while providing seamless service to our employer customers. In my role as a business consultant, I work with employers to review ways to lower premiums and evaluate potential BWC's programs. I also work closely with our safety teams who can assist employers with their safety programs. Working remotely has not stopped us from being able to work effectively with employers. Employer Service Specialists, Business Consultants and Safety Consultants can schedule virtual visit with employers. We are still here to help.
- **Retail Compliance Unit**: Governor DeWine announced the creation of a statewide Retail Compliance Unit to monitor, encourage, and assist retail establishments with the updated mask and distancing order. Working in partnership with the Ohio Department of Health, BWC will be instrumental in this compliance effort by assisting in administering the program. This is to protect the safety and health of frontline workers. I have attached a document from the Ohio Department of Health to assist with any employers with questions on this requirement.
- **New Administrator**: BWC has a new administrator. John Logue joined the Bureau of Workers' Compensation as Chief of Strategic Direction in April 2019. John is a veteran of Ohio workers' compensations system with a background that includes more than 25 years of experience in various client service and leadership roles.