



STARK COUNTY

SAFETY COUNCIL

member news

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Headphones in the Workplace-Preservation or Peril

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

Can a portable music device with headphones be considered a substitute for hearing protection? According to a recent letter of interpretation from OSHA to an inquiring employer, the answer is no. "A portable music player is not a substitute for hearing protection." The hearing protection standard requires the employer to provide protective hearing devices and those devices are to be used wherever necessary to reduce noise levels below the acceptable limits set by the agency.

Currently, there are no specific regulations that prohibit the use of headphones on a construction site or other workplaces, but the reasons for not allowing employees to listen to music should be very clear. The agency declared, "listening to music may produce a safety hazard by masking environmental sounds that need to be heard, especially on active construction sites where attention to moving equipment, heavy machinery, vehicle

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February 13, 2020

“Safety Leadership & Multi-generational Communication”

Bronwyn Weaver

President/Vision and Strategy

Ami Gignac, Executive Vice President

Q4 Impact Group, LLC

March meeting date is March 19th

February Spotlight Co.



National Safety Solutions is committed to enhancing safety cultures throughout North America by providing innovative solutions to these problems.

The Start Right 360 inspection system was designed to work with heavy equipment and company vehicles to ensure operators complete a full 360° walk around inspection prior to operating by sounding an alarm in the equipment if the inspection was not completed. This inherently removes the potential for vehicle incidents related to the operator being unaware of the condition and surroundings of the given vehicle. All inspections can be collected and stored on a secure web-based dashboard for easy assessment.

Protecting your companies' workers and assets has never been so simple. The integration of the Start Right 360 will remove complacency and increase compliance. The accountability with all employees, regardless if they are on or off-site, will increase and your assets will be protected 24/7. With this type of boots on the ground approach National Safety Solutions guarantees results with the use of their products.

For more information on National Safety Solutions and its other products visit www.nsslca.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.*

traffic, and safety warning signals may be compromised.”

“It is not at all unusual for contractors to not allow their workers to listen to the radio or music on the job, much less with headphones or earbuds,” says Attorney David E. Dubberly with the law firm of Nexsen Pruet. “It is important for workers to be able to hear equipment starting and stopping, warnings, alarms, and verbal directions from co-workers and supervisors. The same concerns apply to manufacturing environments.” Since OSHA does not have a specific regulation that bans the use of headphones, it may be permissible by management unless use increases hazards other than noise. This decision may end up being a bad idea as “struck-by” hazards are one of the four leading causes of death in construction.



So, could an employer still be held accountable if there is no standard? The answer is yes. Even in the absence of a specific regulation regarding the use of headphones, employers still could face enforcement actions if OSHA finds that they have violated the General Duty Clause. The agency stresses, “it is the employer’s responsibility to ensure that employees are not exposed to struck-by hazards while performing their work.” The General Duty clause requires all employers to maintain safe workplaces. Attorney Trevor L. Neuroth of the law firm of Jackson Lewis PC states, “the key takeaway from the letter is that employers must address employee use of headphones to listen to music on the worksite, even if there is not a specific OSHA standard prohibiting it. Employers should evaluate their worksites and determine whether a policy prohibiting listening to music on the job is appropriate.”

The employer that questioned the headphone usage also noted that some headphones are equipped with a built-in volume limiter and are marked as “OSHA Approved” for use in the workplace. Although some manufacturers may claim that their products are “OSHA Approved” or “100% OSHA Compliant.” The agency stressed “we do not register, certify, approve, or otherwise endorse commercial or private sector entities, products or services. Therefore, such claims by any manufacturer are misleading.”

Headphones are not an acceptable form of hearing protection and could create distractions that prevent awareness and reaction time and may contribute to work accidents.

References:

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/standardinterpretations/2019-09-06-0>

<https://www.ehstoday.com/construction/article/21119821/osha-issues-warning-about-headphones>

ROBIN'S CORNER

By Robin Watson, Ohio BWC Representative



Q: Does OSHA accept online safety training for compliance required topics?

A: According to a recent OSHA Letter of Interpretation dated July 11, 2019, YES, but it must be accompanied by the opportunity for workers to be able to ask questions of, and receive responses from quali-



fied trainer(s), in a timely manner. OSHA notes that one way for the employer to give workers this opportunity in the context of a computer-based program is to provide a telephone hotline so that workers will have direct access to a qualified trainer during the conduct of the online training. The letter goes on to specify online, self-paced computer-based training can be a valuable part of an effective safety and health training program. However, the use of online training by itself would not be sufficient to satisfy OSHA training requirements unless that training contains interactive and hands-on components. Online training that does not provide workers with hands-on training would not comply with OSHA's worker training requirements. Hands-on training is required because it allows an employee to interact with equipment and tools in the presence of a qualified trainer(s), allows the employee to learn or refresh their skills through experience, and allows the trainer to assess whether the trainees have mastered the proper techniques.

For more information see the Letter at <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/standardinterpretations/2019-07-11>

Valentine's Day Tips

*Provided by Troy Manion , Safety Director Hilscher-Clarke
Stark County Safety Council Steering Committee Member*

Whether you plan to celebrate on your own or with someone special, use these tips to give a gift of health to you or someone you love on Valentine's Day and all year long.

Be heart-healthy.

Make a Date with your Heart! February is American Heart Month, and Valentine's Day is a great time to start taking steps to be heart healthy.

- Prevent and control high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and diabetes.
- Avoid smoking and secondhand smoke
- Limit alcohol use
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Be active
- Eat healthy



Be food-conscious.

Consider making a healthy meal for Valentine's Day. Serve food lower in salt and fat content, provide more fruits and vegetables, and make less sugary sweets for an overall healthy Valentines Day.

Spread love, not germs.

Protect yourself from the cold and flu.

- Wash hands often.
- Avoid close contact when you or someone yhou know issick.
- Get your flu vaccine.

Be Safe.

Gear up. Are you a new, potentially risky, or unsafe activity? Be sure to use appropriate safety gear. Including seat belts, life vests, and helmets to help prevent injury.

Watch the sparks. If you decide to cook a romantic dinner, light some candles, or have a cozy fire, don't leave them unattended.

Be aware. Women are more likely to be victim of sexual violence, including intimate partner violence, than men. Risk factors such as drinking alcohol and using drugs are associated with a greater likelihood of violence.

Source: CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Safety Tip of the Month

Provided by Troy Manion, Safety Director, Hilscher-Clarke &
Vice Chair SCSC Steering Committee

Space Heater Safety

Home fires occur more in the winter months
than any other time of year!!

- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned/inspected annually
- Place space heater on a level, hard surface
- Keep anything flammable at least 3 feet away from heating source
- Turn space heater OFF when leaving the room or going to bed
- Never plug a space heater in a power strip
- Install carbon monoxide detectors to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning



From 2007-2011, space heaters accounted for
4 out of 5 home heating fire deaths!



NWSMobile



weather.gov/mob

Upcoming Events

March 11-23—Ohio Safety Congress—Details below.

March 24—Crime Prevention Breakfast—Registration at 7:30 a.m.—8-9:30 a.m. at Skyland Pines—\$15.00 per person. Registration: www.starkcountysc.com

March 31—CEO Senior Management Breakfast—Alex D. Krassas Center—8-9:30 a.m.—Safer Roads—A County Engineer's Perspective—Keith Bennett, PE, PS, Stark County Engineer—\$20.00—Registration www.starkcountysc.com

April 28—SCSC Awards Banquet—Skyland Pines—Save the Date. More details to follow.



Register:

SafetyCongress@bwc.state.oh.us

***Note: Due to this event,
the SCSC March 2020 meeting date has been
moved to March 19**

FREE BWC SAFETY CLASSES

Free BWC safety classes available at North Canton Service office. See the [BWC catalog](#) for class descriptions.



OSHA10: Construction Safety Basics—Feb 4-5—8:30-4:30 pm each day

OSHA Recordkeeping Half-day workshop—Feb. 12-8:30-Noon

Accident Analysis Half-day Workshop—Feb. 12—1-4:30 pm

Tree Work Essentials: Chainsaws, Chippers & other Safety Concerns—Feb. 25—8:30-4:30

Hazard Communication Half-Day Workshop—March 5—8:30-Noon

Go to www.bwclearningcenter.com to enroll.

Resources

- The BWC Library creates a monthly 'Safety Update' available at www.bwc.ohio.gov
- Occupational Health & Safety Administration—www.osha.gov

March 19, 2020

“The Three Headed Monster: ADA, FMLA, and Workers' Compensation”

Michael J. Bogdan, Esq.
Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths &
Dougherty Co., L.P.A.

Spotlight Company:



The March SCSC meeting will be moved to March 19th due to the 2020 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo.

Safety Council Officers & Contributing Members

Chairman: Randy Martin
(randym@beaverexcavating.com)

Vice Chair: Troy Manion
(tmanion@hilscher-clarke.com)

**Program Manager & Canton Regional
Chamber Representative:** Connie Cerny
(conniec@cantonchamber.org)

Newsletter Coordinator:
Karen L. Bostrom (kbostrom@kwgd.com)

Ohio BWC Representatives:
Robin Watson (robin.w.1@bwc.state.oh.us) and
Deb Bailey (Deborah.b.1@bwc.state.oh.us)



*Stark County Safety Council
January 2020 Luncheon Photos*

