



**STARK COUNTY**

**SAFETY COUNCIL**

**member news**

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## COVID-19 and Your OSHA Log

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

**T**here is a lot of confusion regarding whether employee COVID-19 cases are recordable on your OSHA log. OSHA has issued Revised Enforcement Guidance for recording cases which offers assistance.

Under the basic OSHA Recordkeeping requirement, COVID-19 does qualify as a recordable illness if several of the following criteria are met. The case must be confirmed (as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), the case must be work related and the case involves one or more of the general recording criteria (29CFR §1904.7). While the first step is relatively easy to establish with a simple review of medical documentation, the others are a bit trickier.

Work relatedness is difficult to determine due to the possibility for workers to be exposed both in and out of the workplace. The following should be considered when trying to establish work relatedness:

1. The employees belief of how they contracted the virus – this can include discussion with the employee about any out-of-work activities that may have led to exposure. It is critical that the employees right to privacy during conversations regarding health be respected.

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**SCSC**

**Live Virtual Webinar**

**January 14, 2021  
11 a.m.—12 Noon**

**“Goal Setting  
Safely in 2021”**

**Speaker: Kevin  
West, Founder &  
CEO of Invisible  
Insights, Inc.**

ALL are welcome.

Registration required.

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

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## 2. Review of the work environment for potential exposure.

Evidence that may weigh in favor of an illness being contracted at work includes: several cases developing among workers who work closely together when there is no alternative explanation, when the illness was contracted shortly after lengthy exposure to a customer or coworker who have a confirmed case of COVID-19 when there is no alternative explanation, or when the worker has frequent close exposure to the general public in locations with ongoing community spread when there is no alternative explanation.

Worker illness is not likely to be work related if the worker closely and frequently associates with someone outside the workplace who is not a co-worker that has COVID-19.

All reasonably available evidence that the illness was contracted at work should be taken into consideration when making the decision to record or not to record. If additional evidence becomes available after the initial determination, it should be taken into account and the log adjusted accordingly.

## 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 Angie Glancy with any questions by email [scsc@cantonchamber.org](mailto:scsc@cantonchamber.org) or leave a message at (330) 456-7253.



Registration opens in December. It's **FREE!**

*We've Got You Covered*

The 2021 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo (OSC21), sponsored by the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, helps businesses keep their workforce safe, healthy and productive. This year we're offering online learning sessions and a [digital expo](#), allowing participants to learn remotely and chat virtually with presenters and exhibitors. Learn more about expo options [here](#). As always, attendance is FREE, and registration for the virtual event opens in December. **Mark your calendar and join us. March 10-11, 2021** [Now accepting expo applications!](#)

**Important note:** The new March 10 – 11 dates are a change from the original dates of March 31 – April 2 we announced earlier this year. For more info: [www.ohiosafetycongress.com](http://www.ohiosafetycongress.com)

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).

# Don't Crowd The Plow

By Stephen Gronow, Stark County Engineer's Office

**W**inter has officially started, and our office has already had to deal with slick snow covered roads in Stark County. The County Engineer along with other local departments are working around the clock to help clear roads and keep drivers safe. In snowy conditions, our office has a specific plan that keeps snow removal running smoothly. Each driver is assigned to a route and every route is about 19 to 22 miles long. Our drivers have a particular road or a particular segment of road, drivers hit the north bound lane, they turn around and then they hit the south bound lane, or east and west. They keep maintaining their roads by applying salt, or breaking any kind of snow pack on their route like a loop, and they're looping constantly. When the snow falls for a twenty-four hour period, there is always more snow and more roads to clear. A snow route takes about 1 to 2.5 hours, but it all depends on the conditions such as wind, freezing rain, ice, time of day and traffic. Even though there are twenty-three plows for county road routes it's important to be cautious when driving in snowy conditions because an accident can take a single plow off its route slowing the clearing of the roads. We have large trucks with reflective material and flashing lights, and still drivers follow too close and hit our trucks. Please, *Don't Crowd the Plow!* Our driver's are plowing the snow, salting the roads, and watching out to see what the public is doing. Being cautious also means to stay clear of a snow plow while it's in action. A plow can see what's ahead of traffic better than the car behind it. Let our drivers do their jobs. They work from 8 to 16 hour shifts with small breaks when they come in for fuel, and to reload material. It's hard work to be in that plow for those hours and our drivers are on watch the whole time so give them the space they need. Drivers can rest assured that the Engineer's Office (as well as the other road departments) work until the snow stops and the roads are clear.



Here's a reminder of what you need to know about driving around snow-plows:

**Distance:** Give snowplows room to work. The plows are wide and can cross the centerline or shoulder. Don't tailgate and try not to pass. If you must pass, take extreme caution and beware of the snow cloud.

**Speed:** Snowplows travel below the posted speed limit. Be patient. Allow plenty of time to slow down. Remember, Ice and Snow, Take it Slow.

**Vision:** A snowplow operator's field of vision is restricted. You may see them, but they don't always see you. Keep your distance and watch for sudden stops or turns.



# ROBIN'S CORNER

By Robin Watson, Ohio BWC Representative



## Ergonomic Risk Factors

**Q:** How do I identify ergo risk factors for a job?

**A:** Ohio employees complete many work tasks that require manual force which can place them in postures and situations where their bodies are exposed to ergonomic type risk factors. Examples of these can be force, static or awkward posture, bending, vibration or repetition. The BWC has Ergonomists that can help you identify risk factors and learn more about this process. The BWC also has online classes and materials available on the [website](#)



**Knowledge Check:** This employee is shown dumping a bin. The bin is balanced but requires control to safely tilt over to dump the contents. The contents are metal shavings, but the weight is all the bin, not the shavings.

Choose the work risk factors this employee must deal with?

- A. Shoe wear – posture – manual force.
- B. Awkward posture – gloves – shoe wear
- C. Grip point – Awkward posture – Floor surface – manual force
- D. Forget it – 2-person job
- E. All the above

**C – correct answer**

# 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 Angie Glancy at [scsc@cantonchamber.org](mailto:scsc@cantonchamber.org) or (330) 456-7253.**

## Safety Council Officers & Contributing Members

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*Stark County Safety Council  
Photos From the Archives*

