



STARK COUNTY

SAFETY COUNCIL

member news

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OSHA is Targeting Restaurants Amidst the Changes in Covid Regulations

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

Earlier this year OSHA came out with a National Emphasis Program (NEP) for increased enforcement efforts, with particular emphasis on Covid-19 in the workplace. Several industries have come under scrutiny for lax protocols. Initially this NEP focused on the healthcare industry, healthcare providers, assisted living facilities, and home healthcare services now OSHA is turning its efforts to the Restaurant industry. With the decrease in Covid-19 cases and the increase of vaccinations the limits placed on restaurants are easing nationwide. Turning focus to this industry is to ensure that Covid protocols are in place and followed as things return closer to normal.

There are several things that restaurants can do to ensure that if OSHA shows up for an inspection all protocols are in place. Such as:

- Review OSHA 300 Logs and keep them up to date
- Review the risk assessment done for Covid-19 and update policies as needed
- Review PPE policies and documentation for compliance can be addressed quickly
- Continue to monitor employees for symptoms and keep records

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Free Live Webinar

The next monthly SCSC Webinar will be held in July.

More information will be available soon.

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- Train employees on Covid-19 sanitation, PPE, and protocols. Ensure documentation of training is current for all employees
- Review local, state and federal standards and compare them to the sanitation protocols in place
- Talk to employees about concerns they may have so issues can be addressed quickly

Over 400 companies have been cited for issues relating to Covid-19 between July of 2020 and April of 2021. Now employers are fighting back and contesting many of these cases. This is due to disagreements between employers and employees on the proper use and interpretations of the standards.

One of the most common citations has been failure to record or report “work-related” covid-19 exposures. The constant changes and updates to protocols and requirements of employers during this pandemic is another issue that has caused many citations. Companies are experiencing difficulties trying to update their protocols and get proper PPE fast enough to stay compliant.

This is a tough time for everyone but staying on top of new regulations and reviewing protocols continually will help keep exposures low and companies running as close to normal as possible.

Upcoming Webinars and In-Person Events

The Ohio BWC has announced the Ohio Safety Programs will remain virtual through July 2022. The next monthly webinar will be in July – more information coming soon.

We are excited to announced that we will have some “in person” safety events, too! We need your input. Please complete a short [survey](#) (less than 2 mins) to help us plan the events and improve our communication.

Thank you for being a member! Together we can help keep our community safe.



For the latest info on COVID-19 visit www.coronavirus.ohio.gov
For the latest information on COVID-19s effect on BWC, email
BWCCOVID19@bwc.state.oh.us.

June is National Safety Month

*By Randy Martin, Safety Director, The Beaver Companies
and Chairman, Stark County Safety Council*

Each June, the National Safety Council celebrates [National Safety Month](#). The goal is to help educate and influence safer behaviors for some of the leading causes of injury and death in the United States, particularly in the workplace.

Whether you work in construction or sit at a desk all day, there are things you can do to improve your safety and the safety of those with whom you work.

Five Ways to Avoid Injury at Work

According to the [NSC](#), nearly 11 workers die on the job each day in the United States. You can do your part to reduce these numbers by using these workplace safety tips:



1. Avoid Distractions on the Job – Distractions are as deadly at work as they are while operating a car. Whether you are using machinery or walking down a flight of stairs, be alert and attentive to what is going on around you and what you are doing. Even if your employer allows the use of cell phones while working, do not use them while operating heavy machinery or driving the company car.

2. Stay Cool – If your job requires you to be outside for extended periods, protect yourself from heatstroke. Stay hydrated, take breaks from direct sun exposure frequently, and wear light-weight, breathable fibers.

3. Follow Safety Rules and Procedures – Your company has a procedure manual and safety rules already in place, but do you follow them? Re-familiarize yourself with the company rules and make sure you use those safety precautions you were taught when you were first hired. For example, if you work in a laboratory, wear your personal protective equipment at all times.

4. Use Mechanical Aids – Instead of attempting to lift or carry heavy objects, use a conveyor belt, wheelbarrow, or other mechanical aid to help you move it. If something is too heavy, let a supervisor know you need assistance, but never attempt to move something that is heavy enough to cause injury.

5. Training – Pay attention to the training you receive. If you are unsure how to do something safely, ask a supervisor. If you are new on the job, request a supervisor shadow you for the first few days to ensure you are following proper safety protocols. Keep an eye out for new employees and offer assistance when they need it. If you ever notice employees doing something against protocol, show them the right way to do it. For supervisors, implement training refresher courses to ensure all employees remember how to stay safe on the job.

Heads Up, It's June!

*By Gust Callas, Esq., BLACK McCUSKEY SOUERS & ARBAUGH, LPA and
Stark County Safety Council Steering Committee Member*

Summer is here, this is no time to relax. With COVID fatigue setting in, we can expect more outdoor activity than we have experienced in the last 12 months. Children will be out after being “confined” for months. Distracted driving hits its peak, with beautiful sceneries (illegal texting), and multitasking of drivers, which include talking on the phone, eating, drinking, and driving with one’s knees all at once.



Children have been known to dart in front of cars while chasing a ball or riding bicycles without helmets in the middle of the street.

Safety must be first and foremost this time of year; avoiding inattentive driving, as well as tragic auto accidents by inattentive teenagers. Moreover, social distancing is still at the forefront.

If we double our efforts regarding safety, hopefully the words of the song will ring true: “See you in September”. We hope that we will all have a safe and healthy summer!

ROBIN'S CORNER

By Robin Watson, Ohio BWC Representative



Bureau of Workers'
Compensation



Q: What can I do to reduce the potential for nail gun injuries in the workplace?

A: According to OSHA “Nail gun injuries are common - one study found that 2 out of 5 residential carpenter apprentices experienced a nail gun injury over a four-year period”. The following basic steps can help reduce the potential for these injuries:

1. Consider restricting inexperienced employees to full-sequential trigger nail guns when starting out. Full-sequential firing is considered the safest option, also called single-shot firing; full-sequential is ideal for applications such as framing and carpentry, where precision is more important than fastening speed. Full-sequential firing is slower than bump firing. Some employers using more than one type of trigger on their jobs color-code the nail guns so that the type of trigger can be readily identified by workers and supervisors.
2. The safety on the nail gun relies on two basic controls: a finger trigger and a contact safety tip located on the nose of the gun.
3. Require proper PPE for your employees such as, safety shoes high Impact eye protection, safety glasses or goggles marked ANSI Z87.1 and hearing protection
4. Employers should ensure that their policies and practices encourage reporting of nail gun injuries. Reporting helps ensure that employees get medical attention and it also helps contractors to identify unrecognized job site risks that could lead to additional injuries if not addressed.

Both new and experienced workers can benefit from safety training to learn about the causes of nail gun injuries and specific steps to reduce them. Be sure that training is provided in a manner that employees can understand.



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Additional Gun Safety Tips

- Keep your fingers away from the trigger when not driving nails.
- Keep hands clear of the discharge area while firing and make sure the nail gun is pointed away from your body.
- Place the muzzle of the nail gun firmly against the work piece when firing.
- Inspect the power source, the nails, the trigger, and safety contact properly before using the nail gun.
- Pneumatic nail guns can generate high-level impulsive noises that can reach a peak level of up to 120 dBA at the operator's ear.
- Always conduct prior inspections of the nail gun. Make sure the nose guard is in working order and check the air pressure before hooking it up.
- Do not carry the nail gun by the hose or the cord.
- Do not carry the nail gun with a finger on the trigger.
- Do not press the trigger unless you are intending to fire.
- Do not point the nail gun at anyone, even if it is disconnected from the air supply or supposedly empty.
- An air brand nail gun is quick, powerful, and sometimes suffers from being corded.
- An electric brad nail gun is slower between shots compared to an air brand but is not hindered in angle or length to the compressor. It is heavier and bulkier.
- The most common injuries are puncture wounds to the hands and fingers but there can be more serious injuries and deaths that could occur using nail guns.
- Disconnect the tool from the air supply before clearing blockages, making adjustments, handing the nail gun to another worker or leaving it unattended.
- Pneumatic nail guns are among equipment powered by compressed air and these tools require caution to prevent injuries.

NAIL SAFETY!

AVOID NAIL GUN INJURIES
Use a sequential trigger. A few minutes a day can prevent nail gun injuries.

You should...

- Keep your finger off the trigger when walking around the jobsite with a nail gun.
- Be sure the nail gun is pointed away from yourself and your co-workers.
- Make sure all safety devices are enabled and working properly (based on the manufacturers' specifications).

Remember...nail guns can help get the job done, but nail gun injuries send **tens of thousands** to the hospital each year.

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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 to set up an account to use this service.

Resources

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

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

**If you have any questions,
please contact
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(330) 456-7253.**

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*Stark County Safety Council
Photos From the Archives*

