



# STARK COUNTY

## S A F E T Y C O U N C I L

A committee of the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce

# news

Volume 8 Issue 4 April 2013

StarkCountySafetyCouncil.com

### OSHA ANNOUNCES WINNERS TO ITS “APP CHALLENGE” FOR TECHNOLOGY THAT PROMOTES WORKER SAFETY AND HEALTH

*By Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell, Esq.*

OSHA announced the winners for its Work Safety and Health App Challenge, awarding prizes of more than \$30,000.00 to four entrants. The four winning apps are as follows:

1. **The Safety in the Workplace Innovator Award** (\$15,000.00 grand prize) awarded to “Working Safely Is No Accident” – a website developed by the University of Tennessee Construction Industry Research and Policy Center and others, focusing on common workplace hazards and workers’ rights to a safe workplace;
2. **The Safety and Health Data Award** (\$6,000.00) – awarded to the United Steelworkers Union for its “USW Chemical Safety App” – allowing users to search MSDS for pertinent information;
3. **The Workers’ Rights Award** (\$6,000.00) – awarded to the “No Jack – Young Workers’ Safety Campaign” website developed by the Montana State Fund informing workers and employers about workers’ rights to a safe workplace; and
4. **The People’s Choice Award** (\$3,000.00) – awarded to Sidharth Gargh for his “Ergonomics iOS App,” giving ergonomic equipment setup advice in office settings, and also workplace-specific stretching exercises and programmable reminders concerning breaks.

If you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell of Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths & Dougherty Co., L.P.A. at: 330-244-2864 or jcaldwell@kwgd.com.

*NOTE: This general summary of the law should not be used to solve individual problems since slight changes in the fact situation may require a material variance in the applicable legal advice.*

**April 4, 2013**

**Where’s My Cell Phone?  
Who is Texting Me Now?...  
Distracted Driving at its  
finest—Protecting yourself and  
others around you!**

**Speaker: Sharon George  
Director of Stark County Safe  
Communities—Stark County  
Sheriff’s Office**

**Spotlight Company:**



U.S. HealthWorks has been providing occupational medicine to Stark County employers for over 24 years. We specialize in helping employers control work-related injury costs through quality medical care while effectively managing claims, returning employees to work and preventing lost time. We are a single source provider with the capability to provide employers with a full spectrum of services ranging from non-injury services to injury treatment and return to work programs. Our staff is dedicated to providing quality care and services to you and your employees. Please contact us to get more information on how we can be of service to you and your employees. Call Rob Serena at 330-453-6050 or rob.serena@ushworks.com. [www.ushworks.com](http://www.ushworks.com)

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

# ROBIN'S CORNER

By Robin Watson, Ohio BWC Representative

**QUESTION:** When must OSHA's Hazard Communication training for the new Globally Harmonized System be completed?

**ANSWER:** OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard is now aligned with the United Nations' Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals. This update to the Hazard Communication Standard provides a common and coherent approach to classifying chemicals and communicating hazard information on labels and safety data sheets. The first deadline in the implementation phase is Dec. 1, 2013, the date by which employers must train workers on the new label elements and safety data sheet.

A new [fact sheet](#) (PDF\*) discusses the training topics that employers must cover for the initial Dec. 1, 2013 deadline. OSHA has prepared a number of additional materials that explain the new changes to the requirements of the HCS, including QuickCards, fact sheets, a list of frequently asked questions and a [brief](#) (PDF\*) on labels and pictograms. These and other materials are available on OSHA's [Hazard Communications page](#).

## **Safety Council Officers & Contributing Members**

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Steve Hanna

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Coming Next Month

May 9, 2013

**Topic: The ABCs (and SDSs) of Compliance with OSHA's Revised Hazard Communication Standard.**  
*Employers will understand compliance deadlines; employer December 2013 training obligations; revisions to the Hazard Communication Standard; the new label and SDS requirements; all new employer obligations.*

**Speaker:** Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell, Attorney with the law firm of Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths & Dougherty Co., L.P.A.

## Spotlight Company:



## Upcoming Safety Events

**April 9-11**

Ohio Safety Congress at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

For registration: 1-800-OHIOBWC or ohiobwc.com

**April 23**

Electrical Safety In The Workplace—Arc Flash Training

For registration: StarkCountySafetyCouncil.org.

**April 29**

The SCSC Annual Safety Awards Banquet at Skyland Pines.

Keynote speakers: Dave Motts, Vice President Marketing/Sponsorships and Kevin Shiplett, Facilities Manager, Pro Football Hall of Fame Museum.

For registration: StarkCountySafetyCouncil.org.

# How to Select the Right Gas Monitors For Your Company

By: Chris Zabel, Sales Manager—U.S. Safety Gear  
& Vice-Chair Stark County Safety Council

**G**as Monitoring is something that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires in general industry, construction, utility work, and for oil and gas companies in the Marcellus and Utica Shale Plays. I hope this article will provide some assistance for your company to determine how to fully protect your employees. Whether you drill, frac, swab, or pump a well, you may want to use a gas monitor. If you're hauling water or oil, you're stirring up gases that can prove to be fatal. If you're entering tanks, vessels, or pits, you should consider using gas monitoring equipment from a reputable manufacturer in the safety industry.

According to the OSHA Confined Space Standard 1910.146(b) a permit required "Confined space" means a space that: (1) Is large enough and so configured that an employee can bodily enter and perform assigned work; and , (2) Has limited or restricted means for entry or exit (for example, tanks, vessels, silos, storage bins, hoppers, vaults, and pits are spaces that may have limited means of entry.); and ,(3) Is not designed for continuous employee occupancy.

Confined Spaces are not the only applications where a company should be performing some level of gas monitoring. Many companies are also using single gas monitors for Carbon Monoxide, Hydrogen Sulfide, Oxygen and many other gases. Small amounts of hydrogen sulfide occur in crude petroleum, but natural gas can contain much higher concentrations.

Some of the more common gases for which companies should measure using a standard 4 gas

monitor are Oxygen, Combustibles, Carbon Monoxide and Hydrogen Sulfide. Oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) is regularly monitored because it can easily be displaced by other gases. Some gases, such as Carbon Dioxide, Nitrogen and Argon are colorless and odorless, and thus are impossible to detect using only human senses.

OSHA says an "Oxygen deficient atmosphere" means an atmosphere containing less than 19.5 percent oxygen by volume. We need at least 19.5 percent Oxygen to support life. "Oxygen enriched atmosphere" means an atmosphere containing more than 23.5 percent oxygen by volume. This is an atmosphere that creates conditions favorable for combustion. Carbon Monoxide (CO) is produced by incomplete combustion. It will often be present when fuel powered generators or engines from vehicles are being used nearby or in a closed area. Combustibles (LEL) will often be present from the decay of plant and animal remains. These would include combustible gases like Methane. The common link with Carbon Monoxide and Combustible Gases is that they are colorless and odorless and we have absolutely no warning of their presence in the atmosphere. Hydrogen Sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) smells like rotten eggs and is also produced by the decay of plant and animal remains. Although very pungent at first, it quickly deadens the sense of smell, so potential victims may be unaware of its presence until it is too late.

*OSHA says an "Oxygen deficient atmosphere" means an atmosphere containing less than 19.5 percent oxygen by volume. We need at least 19.5 percent Oxygen to support life. "*

The most reliable way to guarantee that the atmosphere is safe is to use personal or portable

*Continued on next page*

gas monitors that are carried by the employee and used nearest their breathing zone for continuous air monitoring. The employees must be aware that all gases have different properties and that some are lighter or heavier than air. This means that we must measure the atmosphere at different levels in the confined space to ensure the safest working environment.

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ronment doesn't change from the work that the employee is performing. Stirring up water or oil in the tank may release gases. Welding, cutting or cleaning inside a tank or other confined space may also change the environment, creating an unsafe condition that can only be detected by continuous air monitoring. Areas below grade or ground level are often overlooked as potential hazardous atmosphere areas. They may be completely open at the top, such as a trench excavation or pit, but must be checked if there is any potential for accumulation of heavier than air gases (i.e.; Nitrogen, Carbon Monoxide, and Argon).

One of the most frequently asked questions about selecting personal or portable gas monitors is how often they need to be calibrated and/or bump tested? Although there are many companies that will claim they have maintenance free or disposable free gas monitors, the end result is that all reputable manufacturers will tell you that the best way to ensure that a gas monitor functions properly is to test the unit before use with a known concentration of gas. This means that you use a gas cylinder and a regulator to flow gas across the sensors to test their accuracy. The harsh reality is that many companies can't afford a unit for every employee and this means that companies most often share gas monitors. In this scenario, you have no idea what the unit may have been subjected to in the previous days use. It could have been submerged in water or damaged or dropped acci-

dentally before you get the monitor to do your work. The good news is that many gas monitor manufacturers now offer charging and auto calibration systems to make calibration much easier on the employer and employees. These systems also often incorporate data logging technology that record the serial number for each unit and the last time that gas monitor was calibrated for your record keeping procedures.

Additional good news is that the technology continues to improve with gas monitors. Calibration is easier than it's ever been and is most often accomplished through pushing a button a couple times. Battery options are more wide range than in the past. You can often run on standard alkaline batteries or use rechargeable battery powered monitors that offer battery life of up to 24 hours with an alkaline pack as a battery backup. The disposable single gas monitors often will last around 24 months and never need recharging. The cost for all gas monitors continues to be more affordable making it possible for more companies to own this life saving safety device. The other important change to note is that the portable 4 gas monitors are now available with a much longer sensor life and warranty. One manufacturer offers a three year sensor warranty on the gas monitor and each of the sensors. That's a significant improvement over what was available just a few years ago.

This is all part of a much larger safety program relating to confined spaces and gas monitoring that should include ventilation, fall prevention and rescue equipment, communications equipment, non-sparking tools and of course a written program and employee training regarding the specific hazards for your workplace.

*Submitted by Chris Zabel, Sales Manager at US Safety Gear Inc. [www.ussafetygear.com](http://www.ussafetygear.com) 1-800-686-1459*

*References:*

*"Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Standards, General Environmental Controls, Permit Required Confined Spaces 29CFR 1910.146  
[http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=standards&p\\_id=9797](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=standards&p_id=9797)*

# REMINDER!

This is a reminder that if your company/organization is eligible for the BWC Safety Council rebate program you are allowed for two of the 10 required attendance credits to be through external training.

It is the employer's responsibility to submit documentation of external training to the Safety Council. Certificates should be submitted to the Safety Council at the time of receipt. Attendance credit will not be granted for external training certificates received after June 30, 2013.

There are a variety of ways in which employers can earn external training credit for the safety council rebate program. They include:

- Ohio Safety Congress – maximum of one meeting credit per event, no matter the number of sessions or days attended;
- Division of Safety & Hygiene classroom courses – maximum of one meeting credit per course;
- Industry-specific safety training – maximum of one meeting credit per scheduled training with at least one hour of safety curriculum;
- Seminar, conference or special event hosted by another safety council (not safety council monthly meetings);

External training must feature at least one hour of occupational safety and health training a certificate of attendance must be provided for the employer to submit to the safety council for recordkeeping purposes.

The following does not qualify for external training:

- any training that occurs in the employer's workplace, no matter the source of the training,
- online courses or webinars

**April 30<sup>th</sup> is the Deadline for Most Programs- Don't Miss Out!**

## Destination: **EXCELLENCE**

Design a safety and return-to-work plan that meets your needs!



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### **Destination: Excellence**

is BWC's bundle of programs that can help your organization:

- Improve workplace safety;
- Enhance injured worker care;
- Lower workers' compensation costs.

With Destination: Excellence you choose the options that work best for your company and your employees.

For more info or to apply, visit us at [ohiobwc.com/DestinationExcellence](http://ohiobwc.com/DestinationExcellence).

**Ohio** | Bureau of Workers' Compensation