



STARK COUNTY

SAFETY COUNCIL

member news

Volume 18 Issue 8 August 2020

starkcountysc.com

Coronavirus and OSHA Compliance

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

There has been a lot of news about OSHA being under pressure for a lack of Emergency rules addressing employers' responsibilities regarding the Coronavirus pandemic. One particular complaint has been that the agency has failed to issue an Emergency Temporary Standard to deal with the disease. Virginia was widely reported as being the first state with an emergency rule; however, Washington had issued an emergency rule in May. At this time Oregon is also said to be developing its own set of rules which is expected in September.



With all of that said, it is important to keep in mind that OSHA has developed a series of detailed guidance documents and frequently asked questions that address the coronavirus. These materials have continued to evolve since the pandemic began and were developed with the assistance of the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention. It is also important to note that OSHA can take action for some of the same issues referred to in its guidance under existing regulations – such

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See page 6 for important updates to the BWC Safety Council Program for the upcoming fiscal year that started July 1st.

Save the Date!
The 2020 Ohio Safety Congress has been postponed to March 31-April 2, 2021



OHIO SAFETY CONGRESS & EXPO

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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as respiratory protection. OSHA can also take enforcement action under the General Duty Clause which requires employers to have an overall obligation to provide a safe and healthy workplace for their employees.

At this time our local OSHA offices are investigating coronavirus related situations – particularly employee complaints. Common areas of concern include respiratory protection and other protective gear, cleaning and disinfection, physical distancing and social distancing. One recent inspection of a healthcare company has resulted in two serious citations for violations of the respiratory protection standard. Pending penalties total \$40,482.



The fallout of the Coronavirus is not likely to go away any time soon. All employers are responsible for assessing their workplaces for hazard and developing corrective measures to eliminate those hazards. There are a number of sources of assistance for employers looking to develop workplace strategies to protect employees and stay in compliance with OSHA standards, health organization recommendations and state guidelines such as the CDC website, state department of health websites and OSHA guidance documents.

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 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
For the latest information on COVID-19s effect on BWC, email
BWCCOVID19@bwc.state.oh.us**

ROBIN'S CORNER

By Robin Watson, Ohio BWC Representative



Q: What are the requirements for Pathway Lighting and maintenance of Emergency Lights?

A: Many folks are aware of OSHA 29 CFR 1910.37 Exit Routes and Emergency Planning requirements for Exit signs and routes. However, for the requirements for pathway lighting to exits and maintenance, you must refer to the **Ohio Fire Code**.

Section 1008 “Means of egress illumination”

1008.3 Emergency power for illumination. The power supply for means of egress illumination shall normally be provided by the premises' electrical supply

and 1008.3.1 General. In the event of power supply failure in rooms and spaces that require two or more means of egress an emergency electrical system shall automatically illuminate all of the following areas: aisles, corridors and exit access stairways and ramps.



For Testing and Maintenance look at Ohio Fire Code **604.6 Emergency lighting equipment**.

604.6.1 An Activation test - shall be completed monthly. The activation test shall ensure the emergency lighting activates automatically upon normal electrical disconnect and stays sufficiently illuminated for not less than 30 seconds. 604.6.1.1 Activation test record. Records of tests shall be maintained and shall include the location of the emergency lighting tested, whether the unit passed or failed, the date of the test and the person completing the test.

604.6.2 Power test - For battery-powered emergency lighting, a power test of the emergency lighting equipment shall be completed annually. The power test shall operate the emergency lighting for not less than 90 minutes and shall remain sufficiently illuminated for the duration of the test.

604.6.2.1 Power test records. Shall be maintained. The record shall include the location of the emergency lighting tested, whether the unit passed or failed, the date of the test and the person completing the test.

Now is a great time to incorporate your monthly test with your other inspections. You can add them to your Fire Extinguisher check list. You can also add the yearly testing to your preventative Maintenance program to ensure annual testing is completed.

How Can We Grow Our Workforce and Organizations During Times of Uncertainty and Change?

Provided by Katie Woodhall, Managing Partner, Sparrow Tale

In the past couple months we have experienced federal and state mandated closures, unplanned work slowdowns and layoffs, and devastating financial losses during a global pandemic. What have we learned from government and business leaders that were forced to make tough decisions in a time of uncertainty and how can we use those decisions to guide our own leadership and organizations? Managing through crisis and forced restructure can be difficult, but it can also be a time to grow and transform. Here are six lessons learned from managing through changing times or a crisis like COVID-19.



1. Culture Creation

Take a hard look at your organization's culture. Do it with fresh eyes, maybe including mid level managers or an outside resource all together. Remember that culture is shown, not told, and it is an action and a choice. For employees it is an experience, and more often than not, it is something that is felt. Culture creation is intricately woven from our professional life to our personal life. Transparency and connection is key. This is true for an organization's mission statement, value propositions, and its safety culture. Be clear in times of change what the goal is and how your organization will reach it and then follow through with your plan. This will create trust, and trust creates loyalty.

For any culture to shift or to be long lasting, robust, and teachable it has to be modeled through living the ideal(s). It must be cultivated and tended to.

For any shift in our organizations, our families, and our intimate circle we must be committed to modeling what we wish to see and be a part of. This could be safety behaviors, purposeful actions that are inclusive and celebrate diversity, and what our organizations reveal as their true self during times of prosperity and crisis.

2. Strategic Patience

We talk about having patience and grace during tough times, but is COVID-19 an excuse for poor decision making, the lack of courage to communicate tough messages or simply having an ugly attitude when we're all in this together?

Probably not.

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We absolutely need to be understanding during these unpredictable times, but you must also be strategic with your patience. We all know someone that is frustrated with company decisions, unsustainable workloads, and family members that are cranky and losing motivation because they're expected to do more with less. These are the moments that we need to be strategically patient - watch how our peers, managers, companies, and customers are reacting - and then make a plan to surround yourself with positive energy while exploring new solutions and approaches to problems new and old.

3. Flexibility

Especially in times of change and crisis it is imperative to remain agile and open to new opportunities. Making the best of a bad situation is just not for when you forget an ingredient at the super market for that night's dinner, it is really a skillset. The most successful stories involve leaders and organizations that are able to bend in hard times and not break in their rigidity. Get to know your team, your clients, and customers. Embrace the "start up" mentality where you are ridiculously committed to your vision and values. Consider the transferable skills in your team to create support plans for shifting business needs and market climates and then cross train. A strong, united team will nearly always navigate crises effortlessly.

4. Discover & Evolve

Professionally this is an excellent time to assess your business' health by examining your workforce, financial performance and cash position, systems and processes, and brand messaging internally and externally. It's a great time to invest in safety programs, leadership training, transferable skill assessments, and personal development plans. During any time of crisis or uncertainty it is best to reassure your workforce that they are a valuable asset to the success of your organization. Top level management can use the time to creatively find ways to adjust teams or processes to streamline efficiencies, safety measures, and development of the next generation of leaders.

Personally? Use this time to discover your passions and evolve! Maybe starting a new business during a pandemic seems a bit risky, but how about taking on a new hobby, committing to a healthy goal, or just starting a new habit? It's all really the same... make a solid plan, find an accountability buddy, track your progress and be willing to adjust when needed.

5. Courage to Communicate

It is better to over communicate than under communicate, especially in a time of crisis. Create a plan for communication that takes into account all the facts and circumstances surrounding the need to connect. Make sure to speak or write in a calm manner so that you are heard and do not shy away from the tough conversations. To avoid creating anxiety in those we are communicating with be clear and timely, instead of secretive and illusive. When we do not communicate we are still communicating. Be hyper aware of both the messaging you want to avoid penetrating your organization and what you want your workforce to know as certainty. Have that guide the who, what, where, when and why. And remember: Clear is kind, unclear is unkind.

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6. Done Beats Perfect

We are all hyper conscious of the details and the impression we make on others. If we're going to evolve and make a big change, we want the result to be perfect! But speaking from our experience, in these tough times you will find success if you just do something while remembering that it can always be a work in progress.

DONE BEATS PERFECT

And by doing this you will show your employees, family, customers and community that you have the courage to be flexible and able to evolve in these tough times.

UPDATES TO THE BWC SAFETY COUNCIL PROGRAM FOR THE UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR, THAT STARTED JULY 1.

By Michelle Francisco, BWC Safety Council Program Manager

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Ohio Safety Councils will conduct all meetings virtually (online only) this fiscal year. This is the safest way to hold meetings as we work to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Ohio. We expect most safety councils will choose to host virtual meetings this year. However, if that is not the case with your local program, we will connect you with a neighboring safety council that will host you until in-person meetings resume.

The decision to go virtual will also make participation as easy as possible for you as you focus on resuming your operations and keeping your workforce safe.

In light of the difficult and unusual times, we will not be offering a rebate for participation nor the performance rebate (for those eligible) to employers who participate in the BWC Safety Council program.

While this is not the usual direct financial reward for attending, we believe your business will still receive valuable workplace safety information and resources by attending meetings online. What you learn at upcoming virtual meetings can help with cost savings and keeping your workers safe from injuries and illness at work.

Look to your local safety council for information on upcoming meetings and programming as they remain your source for occupational safety and health and workers' compensation information and resources!

Hand Sanitizer Hazards

*Provided by Randy Martin, Safety Director, The Beaver Excavating Company
& Chair, Stark County Safety Council*

Hand sanitizer is a popular hygiene product that provides important health benefits in terms of preventing the spread of germs and harmful bacteria; however when storing or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, fire hazard potential should be considered and steps should be taken to minimize risks. When stored properly and used as directed, the likelihood of experiencing a fire associated with hand sanitizer is minimal. However, as with any flammable liquid, it is necessary to exercise caution.



Most hand sanitizer products contain a high volume of alcohol, which is the reason for hand sanitizer fire hazard concerns. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are classified as Class I Flammable Liquid substances, which means they have a flash point of less than 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Hand sanitizer vapors can be flammable too. Do not store hand sanitizer near heat sources or open flames/sparks. Use an ABC fire extinguisher on these types of fires.

Follow the instructions on hand sanitizer to ensure it is disinfecting to its full capacity. Start by cleaning off your hands as best as possible to remove dirt, etc. Apply at least a dime sized amount of hand sanitizer and rub hands together covering all surfaces of hands and fingers. Rub until hand sanitizer is absorbed. The high concentration of alcohol in hand sanitizers can cause skin sensitivity. Use moisturizer often to help keep skin in good condition. If a specific brand of hand sanitizer causes sensitivity issues, try a different brand or one made from different ingredients. **DO NOT** use hand sanitizer made from methanol. FDA is warning consumers and health care providers that the agency has seen a sharp increase in hand sanitizer products that are labeled to contain ethanol (also known as ethyl alcohol) but that have tested positive for methanol contamination. Methanol, or wood alcohol, is a substance that can be toxic when absorbed through the skin or ingested and can be life-threatening when ingested.

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 BWC-COVID19@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.

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 or (330) 456-7253.

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*Stark County Safety Council
Photos From the Archives*

