



# STARK COUNTY

## SAFETY COUNCIL

2017 SAFETY COUNCIL OF THE YEAR

# member news

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## OSHA Inspection: Why, When & How Do They Work

*Provided by Andrew Seich, Director of Digital Media, Safety Resources Company of Ohio*

**F**ew things scare as many workplaces as the threat of an OSHA Inspection. Everyone has heard some story about a company who was nailed with a handful of OSHA violations and had to pay massive fines. At its core, OSHA is an enforcement agency, meant to ensure that employers are maintaining safe working conditions at all times. Hefty fines are its main tool in this mission, creating a financial incentive to maintain safe conditions. However, they are not OSHA's only tool, and understanding the inspection process can help you to not only avoid massive fines, but to use OSHA to improve the safety of your workplace.

First off, OSHA is required to perform an inspection of a work site any time they are notified of a potential hazard, or as part of a post-incident investigation. Any employee of an OSHA covered workplace, or a union representative of the same, can request an OSHA inspection. When employees or unions submit requests for inspections, they are frequently

*Continued on top of next page*



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## December 13, 2018

### **“Winning the Safety Championship - A Leadership PEP Talk”**

**Mike Gallina, V.P. Communications & Community Outreach, Aultcare**

*Toys for Tots Drive this meeting*

*See page 2*

### Spotlight Company

The Dell Group, Inc. has been solving problems for employers since 1989. Our clients benefit from professional consultation and training in safety management, industrial hygiene, OSHA / EPA / DOT compliance, environmental reporting & permitting, indoor air quality,



safety training, lead abatement licensing and EPA certification. We help companies develop ISO 14001 environmental management systems. We provide custom, specialized programs and training for manufacturers, contractors, municipalities, schools, universities and service industries.

The Dell Group was founded on the belief that policies and plans, without quality employee training, do not result in effective compliance. Our state-of-the-art training methodologies are field and factory proven. No boring lectures or theoretical textbooks... instead the focus is placed on site-specific, hands-on, practical skill development.

For more information please contact us at 800.259.8930 or email us at [info@dellgroup.com](mailto:info@dellgroup.com) or visit us at [www.dellgroup.com](http://www.dellgroup.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.*

doing so to try and get a safety hazard addressed, generally because they are afraid that management might not take the concern seriously. In these circumstances, the request could be avoided entirely, by maintaining a strong relationship with workers and worker representatives. If workers feel confident that their concerns will be taken seriously, then they will be far less likely to seek out help from OSHA.

Should a request still be filed with OSHA, or if OSHA decides to perform the inspection of its own volition, then you need to respond to it appropriately. First, if you have a company representative, contact them immediately. If OSHA is performing an off-site investigation, such as requesting information by mail, fax, or email, then work with your safety team to provide OSHA with the requested information. Never provide OSHA with any information that they haven't directly requested. If, however, OSHA has opted for an on-site inspection, then different steps need to be taken.

OSHA will almost never give advance knowledge of an on-site inspection unless circumstances require otherwise. In fact, it is actually illegal for an OSHA representative to give unauthorized advance notice of an inspection. As such, you generally will not know about an OSHA on-site inspection until a compliance officer arrives on-site. When the officers arrives, you are permitted to ask them to wait until a company representative arrives. An employee representative, selected either by the workers or a union, is also permitted to accompany the inspection. Employers are not permitted to select the employee representative.

Once all necessary parties are present, the inspection will begin with the Opening Conference. The purpose of this conference is to briefly cover the reason for the inspection, and the hazards that are being looked for. During this conference, the compliance officer will also determine if there are employees on-site who are employed by other companies. If so, then they may also have an employee representative.

After the Opening Conference is complete, the officer will then begin their walk around the job site. During this walk around, the officer will initially focus on the hazard or hazards that initiated the inspection. During this process, the officer may perform interviews with workers, take notes, photos, and instrument measurements, and document their findings. As the employer, you should be doing the same. Based on their findings, the officer may also opt to expand their inspection to look into newly discovered hazards. The officer may also decide that they need to return at a later date if necessary to fully complete their investigation. During this walk through, communicate with the officer about what they are finding. If they find a hazard, start taking steps immediately to correct it. This helps to show that you are willing to take the necessary steps to correct any safety hazards that are found.

After the walkthrough, the officer may perform a closing conference, or they may postpone it so until a later date. Regardless of when it occurs, your company will be provided with the compliance officer's report, as well as details on any "apparent violations" that may have been discovered. Work with your company representative and safety representatives to develop a plan to promptly and fully address these issues.

OSHA inspections can be a stressful thing to deal with, especially given the potential high costs they could bring. The key to getting through them is to stay calm, stay honest, and to know your rights. If you feel lost, consider working with a safety consulting firm to help you navigate the process.



## SCSC December Luncheon is the Toys For Tots Drive

**T**he SCSC will host a Toys for Tots Drive at the December 13<sup>th</sup>

luncheon/meeting. Spread holiday cheer to less fortunate children in our community by donating NEW, UNWRAPPED toys.

## Thank you SCSC for Giving to the Hat/Mitten/Sock Drive

**T**hanks to our members for the donations of hats, gloves, scarfs, mittens, and socks and cash. \$260 cash was also collected and used to purchase additional items. Donations will be will handed out to needy families at "Light Up Downtown" on December 6<sup>th</sup> by the Canton Fire Department. As always your generosity is overwhelming. We deeply appreciate your continued support each year!



Wishing you Happy Holidays from the Stark County Safety Council!

# How Much Can You Drink?

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

**A**s the holidays roll around once again, we are all inevitably drawn to various family and friendly gatherings. For some, this means sharing a drink or two with loved ones, and there's nothing wrong with that. But have you ever stopped and thought about how much you actually could drink? Surely you can have just one or two and be able to drive, right? Actually, it's just not that simple.

When discussing the effects of Alcohol Consumption, the main measurement used is Blood Alcohol Content. As alcohol is consumed, BAC rises, but it's not quite that simple. Body weight also plays a role. Simply put, more body weight means it takes more alcohol to raise your BAC by a given amount. You may have also heard that men can drink more than women. While true, the effect is small and only affects the absorption of alcohol, not how it impacts you. The kind of drink you have matters, too. As a general rule, one "drink" is defined as either a 1.25 ounce shot of liquor, a 5 ounce glass of wine, or a 12 ounce can of beer, and will increase your BAC by roughly 0.02%. That might not sound like much, but even this seemingly small amount can affect your motor skills. You should also remember that just as some types of liquor can be stronger than others, so to can different wines and different beers.

Apart from the relative strength, the type of alcohol you consume doesn't actually matter. In fact, as far as the human body is concerned, alcohol is no different than any other ingestible toxin, with predictable effects at a given dose. Fortunately, the human body processes and expels toxins constantly, and alcohol is no exception. The average person's body will remove 0.01% BAC for each 40 minute period. While many people may claim to have a remedy for sobering up, time is the only thing that reduces the amount of alcohol in someone's system. While the effect may seem small, it adds up over time, so keep it in mind as we continue onto the actual effects of alcohol. Also note, it also takes time for alcohol to be absorbed into a person's system as well.

Starting small, detectable impairment begins at just 0.02% to 0.07% BAC. At these levels, you generally start to feel a bit more relaxed, and display small losses in reaction time, balance, and judgment skills. At 0.08% BAC, you are considered legally intoxicated in the State of Ohio. At this point, your basic motor skills are significantly impaired, and you are no longer legally permitted to drive. At 0.12% BAC, people experience vomiting, and may suffer from hang over symptoms later.

Blackouts, or periods where a person is technically conscious, but has severely reduced judgement and no memory, start occurring at 0.2% BAC. Due to the various impairments they are experiencing, blacked out people are extremely vulnerable to exploitation and manipulation, with no memory of anything that may have occurred. For this reason, blackouts are extremely dangerous. Making them worse, blackouts tend to sneak up on people who are drinking over a long period of time. As they consume more alcohol over time, they adapt to the feeling of the effects. This sometimes causes people to lose track of their actual impairment, and by the time they start to feel ill, they are already on the way to blacking out.

At the top end of the scale, a BAC of 0.3% or higher is potentially fatal. At these levels, most people will experience loss of consciousness. Some may experience suppression of vital life functions like breathing and heart rhythm, and the higher BAC climbs, the more likely this is. In certain circumstances though, it is possible for BAC to go as high as 0.45% or even more. BACs this high are almost always fatal, and even those who survive may experience permanent nerve and brain damage.

In moderation, consuming alcohol is fine for most people. However, when alcohol is consumed irresponsibly, either in massive quantities at one time, or habitually over time, severe problems can arise. But if you are just wondering how many beers you can have before you drive home, the answer is quite simply....None.

# Safety Tip of the Month

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

## SLIPS TRIPS AND FALLS

**A**ccording to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, slips, trips, and falls were one of the leading causes of illnesses and nonfatal occupational injuries in 2013. Regardless of your industry or sector, you should always make sure floors are clean and dry in storerooms, passageways, and service rooms. A few effective daily workplace safety tips you can use to prevent slips, trips, and falls are:



- Use drip guards and pans.
- Keep all aisles and walkways clear of items.
- Quickly report and clean up all leaks and spills.
- Install warning signs and even mirrors to help with troublesome blind spots.
- Replace all damaged, ripped, and worn flooring.
- Consider installing anti-slip flooring in the areas that may not be readily able to be cleaned.
- Use platforms, mats, and other dry standing places where useful.

# ROBIN'S CORNER

*By Robin Watson, Ohio BWC Representative*

## **Q: Does my employer need to keep the building emergency exit door pathways cleared from ice and snow?**



A: Yes, OSHA regulation 29 CFR 1910.37(g)(3) and NFPA 5-5.3.9 states that the employer must protect the exit discharge and keep it free of snow and ice. There are some alternatives that could be used; a porch or small roof could be used to prevent the buildup of snow and/or ice; a snow removal company could be contracted for the season to keep emergency exits free from snow and/or ice; or the employer could have designated employees do same thing.



## **Upcoming Events**

**December 19—Trench Safety Conference—8 a.m.-noon—registration at 7:30 a.m. at the Pro Football Hall of Fame with OSHA area directors. Companies & government agencies working in residential & commercial excavation should attend. Free. For registration go to: [www.starkcountysc.com](http://www.starkcountysc.com) or 330.458-2070. includes free admission to the PFHOF Museum following event.**

**March 6-8, 2019—Save the Date! Ohio Safety Congress & Expo at the Greater Columbus Convention Center**

**OSC19**  
OHIO SAFETY CONGRESS & EXPO

March 6-8, 2019 • Greater Columbus Convention Center

# FREE BWC SAFETY CLASSES



There are a free BWC safety classes available at North Canton Service office that might benefit your company. Please consider attending one of these classes. See the [BWC catalog](#) for descriptions for each class.

**OSHA 10: Construction Safety Basics**—Dec. 4-5—8:30-4:30 p.m. each day

**Safety for the Non-safety Professional**—Dec. 12—8:30-4:30 p.m.

**Transportation-injury Prevention Tips for Truck Drivers**—Jan. 8—8:30-noon

**First Aid in the Workplace**—Jan. 17—8:30-4:30 p.m.

**Combustible Dust Hazards: Recognition, Evaluation & Control Recommendations**—Jan 31—8:30-4:30 p.m.

Go to [www.bwclearningcenter.com](http://www.bwclearningcenter.com) to enroll.

## Resources

- The BWC Library creates a monthly ‘Safety Update’ available at [bwc.ohio.gov](http://bwc.ohio.gov)”
- Occupational Health & Safety Administration—[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

## January 10, 2018

### “Fire Code Updates— What Not to Do”

**Steve Waltman, Fire Safety Director &  
Roger Clark, Fire Safety Inspector  
Ohio Division of State Fire Marshall**

Spotlight  
Company:



## Safety Council Officers & Contributing Members

**Chairman:** Mark Cush ([mcush@youngtrucks.com](mailto:mcush@youngtrucks.com))

**Vice Chair:** Randy Martin  
([randym@beaverexcavating.com](mailto:randym@beaverexcavating.com))

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

**Newsletter Coordinator:**  
Karen L. Bostrom ([kbostrom@kwgd.com](mailto:kbostrom@kwgd.com))

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



# Stark County Safety Council November 2018 Photos



## October Spotlight Company Mercy Medical Center

