



STARK COUNTY

SAFETY COUNCIL

member news

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Keeping Employees Safe While Working From Home

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

Covid-19 case numbers, hospitalizations and deaths are declining rapidly and we now have three versions of the vaccine available and being administered at a fast and furious pace. Hopefully we will soon be able to get back to a more normal world, but, until then we still have workers trying to juggle work life from home.

There are several types of common workplace illness and injuries associated with working remotely including ergonomic issues, slips/trips and falls, and work-related stress including mental health. Long-term issues can include neck or back pain and eyestrain.

It is important to assess “workplace” risks in order to reduce and control injuries - even when that workplace is in your own living room. While it would be impossible for employers to assess each worker’s individual work space, they should provide employees with guidance to assist them to assess and implement and necessary safety measures.

The following guidelines are helpful when evaluating a remote workspace:

- Make sure lighting is adequate
- A desk or table that is removed from busy family areas will allow for better comfort and focus during work hours.

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SCSC
Free Live Webinar

Thursday, March 18
11 a.m.

"Solutions to Safety Hazards in the Workplace"

Featuring experts from Safety Resources Company of Ohio.

This event is free, but please register online
www.cantonchamber.org/scsc-webinar



See page 6 for BWC's Distance Learning webinars for this month.



Like us on Facebook-www.starkcountysc.com.

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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- Keep your computer screen adjusted properly. It should be placed at eye level to avoid neck strain and pain.
- Chose a chair that keeps your knees at or below your hip line and check your posture to reduce pressure on the spine and reduce back pain.
- Eliminate slip/trip hazards from the area - this includes files, electrical cords and household goods such as toys or rugs. It is easy to become distracted when navigating the home work space but be sure to watch your step particularly when using stairs.
- Added electrical cords can create a fire safety hazard. Avoid overloading outlets and be sure to inspect all electrical cords to be sure they are in good condition. Any cord that feels hot or should be unplugged.
- Make sure you have a working fire extinguisher available in case of emergency.

Employee stress levels are at a high point. Employers should remain engaged in their employee's day to day well-being. Stay in regular contact with employees. It is easy for workers to become disengaged. Try to set aside time for more personal conversations that would be part of a typical day at the office. Encourage workers to take regular breaks and lunch periods as well as work standard business hours to avoid inadvertently overworking. Lastly, provide workers with methods for discussing remote work issues and concerns should they arise.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION RE: UPCOMING SAFETY COUNCIL 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 safe-



ty needs. Please feel free to contact the Stark County Safety Council with any questions at (330) 456-7253 or scsc@cantonchamber.org.

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.

March is Eye Safety Month

By Oregon State University, Environmental Health & Safety

More than 2,000 eye injuries occur on the job every day and about one in 10 of them require missed work days to recover. Of the total amount of work related eye injuries, 10 – 20 percent will cause temporary or permanent vision loss in the affected employees. And, while many people think eye injuries occur in manufacturing, construction or trade jobs, nearly 40 percent of work related eye injuries occur in offices, healthcare facilities, laboratories and similar environments.

Flying objects, tools, particulates, chemicals and harmful radiation, are the causes of most eye injuries. And in many cases, implementing safe work practices and utilizing appropriate personal protective equipment could prevent them entirely.

March is Workplace Eye Safety Awareness Month and that is why we are taking this opportunity to remind you of a few tips to help protect your eyes while on the job.

- Always wear the appropriate safety eyewear for your job site or role, even if you are just passing through a hazardous area.
- If working in an area with particles or dust, be sure to wear safety glasses with side shields to protect against flying objects.
- When working with chemicals, always wear safety glasses or face shields to protect against splashing.
- When working around hazardous radiation like welding, lasers or fiber optics, be sure to use special purpose safety goggles and helmets designed specifically for the task.

Remember- something as simple as putting on a pair of safety glasses can prevent serious eye injuries. These injuries are painful, cause many lost workdays and sometimes lead to permanent vision loss. During the month of March, and year round, remember to wear your safety glasses!



ROBIN'S CORNER

By Robin Watson, Ohio BWC Representative



Q: I have a lot of alcohol-based hand sanitizer on hand, due to the pandemic. Is there anything special about storage or placement of dispensers that I should know?

A: Yes, alcohol-based hand sanitizer that is greater than 20% alcohol falls under a Class 1B flammable liquid according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Here are some requirements to consider:

- Individual dispensers located in a hallway must be 0.5 gallons or less (no gallon jugs).
- Dispensers must be installed at least 1 inch away from electrical receptacles and light switches and must be separated from another dispenser by at least 4 feet horizontally.
- Dispensers must not be installed above carpeted floors, unless the area is sprinklered.
- Automatic dispensers (touch free) are required to be tested each time they are refilled, can only activate when the object is within 4 inches of the dispenser and will only dispense the amount required as determined by the United States FDA.



The Ohio Fire Code requires the storage of more than 10 gallons in a flammable liquid cabinet or flammable liquid storage room. The NFPA 30 code dictates storage considerations starting at 5 gallons. No storage is permitted in basements.

If you have specific questions about safe storage and handling, consult the Safety Data Sheet for the product or call your local Authority Having Jurisdiction for fire code enforcement.

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
Angie Glancy at
scsc@cantonchamber.org or
(330) 456-7253.**

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*Stark County Safety Council
Photos From the Archives*

