



STARK COUNTY SAFETY COUNCIL

member news

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Unsafe Substitution – The Issues with Improvised PPE

*Provided by Curtis Speck, President
Safety Resources Company of Ohio, Inc.*

Everyone knows that adequate Personal Protective Equipment is not an optional practice. After all, workplace hazards don't wait for you to be adequately prepared for them. But while not having the correct PPE can be a significant problem, using improvised equipment can be just as bad or possibly even worse. Improvised PPE is any device or piece of equipment that is used in place of the correct piece of equipment, but is not actually designed for the purpose of protecting workers from a given hazard. One example is the use of mountain climbing equipment in place of proper fall protection. While they may seem similar, harnesses designed for recreational climbing may not be designed to withstand the conditions of industrial or construction work. Because of this, a recreational climbing harness could fail in the event of a fall. Other examples include using sunglasses in place of eye protection, rigging multiple ladders together to extend their reach, or using a thick, wet shirt in place of proper FR clothing. All of these "solutions" may seem to address the problem, but in reality they only serve to provide workers with a false sense of security.



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May 10, 2018

“OUPS: Call Before You Dig ”

Speaker: Matt Hennis
**Public Awareness / Service
Coordinator**
Ohio Utilities Protection Service

Spotlight Company

Burkins Ritchie & Associates



Established in 2001, Burkins Ritchie & Associates is a Stark County company specializing in helping employers to maintain safer, more-productive workplace environments. With an emphasis on making participation in the Drug-Free Safety Program as valuable, as affordable, and as user-friendly as possible, our company has provided effective Drug-Free Safety Program training, compliance assistance and EAP counseling services for hundreds of Ohio employers. Our company is also a Licensed Training Provider for the American Red Cross.

Contact: Arthur Ritchie, Director of Operations
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(330) 479-8248 Office Phone
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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.*

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Frequently, PPE is improvised when the proper gear is not readily available, such as being left in a vehicle, or when performing a new or infrequent task. Other times, improvisation is the result of insufficient training. Fortunately, employers who follow OSHA's guidelines for providing adequate training and PPE will generally have these circumstances covered ahead of time. By taking steps to make appropriate PPE more convenient than rigging up an inadequate solution, you can further help to prevent workers from using improvised safety gear.

It is also important to make sure that workers are using the correct PPE. Having supervisors periodically inspect PPE in use is a great place to start, and there are other options that you can take as well. For example, many employers encourage workers to correct each other on simple mistakes, such as safety glasses or ear plugs. Policies like this tend to be effective because they encourage workers to actively think about safety, without having to worry about being punished for it.

To wrap up, improvised PPE can be just as serious an issue as not using the correct PPE at all, and OSHA agrees. By failing to ensure that correct and reliable safety equipment is being used, employers could face hefty OSHA violation fines. But worse than any fine is the potential danger that workers can face. When workers rely on improvised PPE, it could only be a matter of time before it fails on them.

Upcoming Events

May 23—Fall Protection Training and Demonstration - 8-10 am—At Local 33 Sheet Metal Workers Union Hall , Massillon—To register: Starkcountysafetycouncil.org

NOTE: The FY19 season passes will be available mid-May.

Thank You SCSC Members for "Stuffing" the Truck for Harvest for Hunger!

Thank you SCSC members for your generosity. In addition to the \$751 collected, we donated an additional 759 pounds! Together this will provide 3,637 meals. Congratulations on another tremendous collection.



Effective Workplace Safety Review

*Provided by Bob Nicoll Program Manager, CareWorksComp
And Stark County Safety Council Steering Committee Member*

Do you ever wonder how your safety process compares with best practices? You may already be familiar with these guidelines but if you are taking care of these items you will be moving in a positive direction.



1. **Visible Senior Management Leadership:** Do you or other senior leadership actively support all aspects of safety and associate involvement?
2. **Associate Involvement and Recognition:** Do your associates have the opportunity to share ideas or concerns? Do you recognize accomplishments?
3. **Timely reporting of incidents/accidents:** Do your associates understand the process to report incidents/accidents timely? Do supervisors conduct the review process? Is there a process to report claims timely to your MCO?
4. **Effective Communication:** Is there a process to share information with your associates? Are there opportunities for feedback?
5. **Early Return to Work:** Do you have a process in place that ensures prompt treatment for injuries and encourages associates to return to work after injury or illness? Is there a process to communicate with them while they are off?
6. **Safety Process Coordination:** Who in your organization has responsibility for safety? Are they provided with adequate time and monetary resources in order to be successful?
7. **Orientation and Training:** Do all of your associates go through orientation and participate in regular training? Is there an audit process to ensure effectiveness?
8. **Documented Safe Work Practices:** Do you have written and communicated safe work practices and rules? Is there access/instruction for appropriate PPE?
9. **A Written Safety and Health Policy:** Does your organization have a written and communicated safety policy?
10. **Internal Process Verification:** Do you have an audit process to ensure all safety/work requirements are implemented and effective?

If you have questions or would like additional information please contact Bon Nicoll at CareWorksComp at 330-418-1824.

The Stark County Safety Council Honors Safety Award Winners at April Banquet

What an amazing night of safety recognition for Stark County Safety Council members. The event was held on April 17, 2018 at Skyland Pines Banquet Center. A special thank you to Abe Al-Tarawneh, Superintendent of the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation for being the special guest speaker.

The Council was honored to recognize two very important individuals who played an essential part in growing the SCSC to what is today. Cameron Speck (who sadly passed away recently) and Norm Hostetler were presented with Distinguished Service Awards and special gifts of appreciation. Accepting for Cameron was his wife Barb and son Curt. It was a wonderful evening!



ROBIN'S CORNER

By Robin Watson, Ohio BWC Representative

Q: What should I consider when selecting a Shelter-in-Place (Tornado Shelter) location at work?

A: We are entering tornado season which usually runs spring through summer. Do you know where to shelter at work if there would be a tornado right now? Is the room large enough to accommodate your employees and any visitors? What is a business required to do?



OSHA's shelter-in-place guidance recommends the following:

- Select interior room(s) above the ground floor, with the fewest windows or vents.
- The room(s) should have adequate space for everyone to be able to sit. Avoid overcrowding by selecting several rooms if necessary.
- Large storage closets, utility rooms, pantries, copy and conference rooms without exterior windows will work well.
- Avoid selecting a room with mechanical equipment like ventilation blowers or pipes, because this equipment may not be able to be sealed from the outdoors.

Many businesses will use rest rooms that are on interior walls. Interior stair wells away from windows on the lowest level will also work. If you need assistance with your shelter in place procedure you can review the document links below:

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/evacuation/eap.html>

<https://www.fema.gov/fema-p-320-taking-shelter-storm-building-safe-room-your-home-or-small-business>

<https://www.ready.gov/shelter>

We are the Champions!

For the second year in a row the BWC Canton/Cambridge safety staff is hosting a Safety Council Challenge during the month of May in honor of OSHA's "National Stand-down to Prevent Falls" campaign.

What is a Safety Stand-Down?

A Safety Stand-Down is a voluntary event for employers to talk directly to employees about safety. Any workplace can hold a stand-down by taking a break to focus on "Fall Hazards" and reinforcing the importance of "Fall Prevention". Employers of companies not exposed to fall hazards, can also use this opportunity to have a conversation with employees about the other job hazards they face, protective methods, and the company's safety policies and goals. It can also be an opportunity for employees to talk to management about fall and other job hazards they see.

How Will the Safety Council Challenge Work?

1. Watch your e-mail for the Safety Council Challenge participation form, Training Resources, and Strategies for reducing falls to the safety council member employers sent from the SCSC via email.
2. The safety council member employer conducts a "Stand-down" event in May; (the event can be given at any time for any length of time by any person) Training can be as small as a 2 – 5 minute tool box talk or can be in a 30 – 60 minute meeting, once or daily. The Employer chooses how and when to conduct the training.
3. The safety council member employer will complete the form provided to them via email and email it to Connie Cerny (conniec@cantonchamber.org) or Robin Watson (robin.w.1@bwc.state.oh.us)

HOPEFULLY everyone will participate so Stark County Safety Council can continue reigning as the Champion!!!

Safety Tip of the Month

Provided by SafetyNow.com

Four Steps to Active Listening

Communication is a large part of your role as a supervisor or safety person, but it's not necessarily something you are taught to do or feel comfortable doing. The good news is picking up just a few key communication strategies can make a big difference. Practicing active listening is one way you can improve your communication skills overall. Here are four steps to help you become a more active listener.

1. **Tune In**
Don't interrupt. Make a quick note of the thought and come back to it when it's your turn to speak.
2. **Show You're Listening**
Use encouraging words such as yes, mm hmm, or go on.
3. **Repeat And Confirm**
Check for understanding by repeating and summarizing, in your own words.
4. **Thoughtful Follow Up**
Continue to ask clarifying questions and answer their questions.



Class Schedule (North Canton)
339 E. Maple St. Suite 200
North Canton, OH 44720
Register at: bwclearningcenter.com



Violence in the Workplace—May 1—8:30-noon
Powered Industrial Trucks: Developing a Training Program Half-day Workshop—
May 1—1-4:30
Emergency Preparedness Planning—May 8—8:30-4:30
FirstAid in the Workplace—May 10—8:30-4:30
Industry Safety Elements (OSHA 10) - May 14-15—8:30-4:30 each day
**Nonviolent Strategies for Caregivers and Other Staff Working Directly with the
Public**—May 17—8:30-4:30
Ergonomics: Developing an Effective Process—May 22—8:30-4:30
NEW! Flammable Liquid and Gas Safety Basics—June 5—8:30-4:30
Safety Series Workshop Module 8—June 11—1-4:30
Personal Protective Equipment Selection Criteria—June 13—8:30-noon
Job Safety Analysis—June 13—1-4:30

Resources

The BWC Library creates a monthly 'Safety Update' available at bwc.ohio.gov"

June 14, 2018

“The Impact of Distracted Driving”

*Major CJ Stantz
The Stark County Sheriff's Office*

Spotlight
Company:



Safety Council Officers & Contributing Members

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Stark County Safety Council April Luncheon 2018 Photos



**April Spotlight
Aultcomp MCO**

