

# Safety Update

## Ohio BWC Library



### March is National Ladder Safety Month

The American Ladder Institute is celebrating the first-ever [Ladder Safety Month](#) to raise awareness of ladder safety and to decrease the number of ladder-related injuries and fatalities. Each week will have a different focus.

March 1 - 11: Why Ladder Safety and How It Affects Everyone

March 12 - 18: Ladder Safety at Work

March 19 - 25: Ladder Safety at Home

March 26 - April 1: Ladder Inspection and Disposal

The University of Texas, Arlington will host a ladder safety symposium March 2. You can participate through free live streaming. Visit this [link](#) to learn more.



#### NIOSH/CDC News

##### **Fentanyl: Preventing Occupational Exposure to Emergency Responders**

This [new National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health \(NIOSH\) website](#) contains information about the harmful health effects of Fentanyl. It also provides information how law enforcement, public health workers and first responders can protect themselves when exposed to this drug.

#### OSHA News

##### **Anti-Retaliation Program Recommendations**

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published a guidance document called [Recommended Practices for Anti-Retaliation Programs](#). OSHA developed it to assist employers in creating retaliation-free workplaces regarding occupational safety and health whistleblower activities. The document describes five elements of these programs: management commitment, compliance concern reporting and response, anti-retaliation response system, anti-retaliation training and program oversight.

##### **Disaster Response QuickCard**

The new [OSHA QuickCard](#) discusses the steps employers can take to keep employees safe during disaster response. Employers can prevent slips, trips and falls at disaster sites by following the steps outlined, including using pre-incident disaster planning, provision of protective equipment and training workers to recognize hazards.

## Grain Engulfment Stand Down

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OSHA Training Institute's Education Center at the University of Texas, Arlington is holding an event "[Stand up for Grain Engulfment Prevention](#)" March 27-31. Employers can participate by providing a focused activity or toolbox talk on topics such as lockout/tagout, walk down, fall prevention, permitting, or any other prevention measures to their employees. The website has documents regarding grain engulfment prevention and other resources. Once a company has participated, it can use a form on the website to create a certificate of participation.

## Compliance Assistance

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OSHA has a [website](#) dedicated to helping you with compliance assistance. You can find links to a quarterly newsletter outlining new products, safety cards, guidance documents, fact sheets and web resources. This site is a great way to keep up to date on new publications produced by OSHA.

## Other News

### Motor Vehicle Deaths

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If you drive on Ohio freeways, you will see signs alerting you to the number of highway deaths for the current year. The National Safety Council (NSC) recently [reported](#) that preliminary reports show that 2016 was the deadliest year on the road since 2007. It estimates it is possible that 40,000 people died in motor vehicle crashes last year. The press release lists a number of life-saving measures recommended by NSC to reduce these numbers.

### State of Tobacco Control Report

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The American Lung Association prepares a yearly report on tobacco prevention efforts by the states and the federal government. This report praises Ohio as one of only eight states with a Medicaid program having comprehensive tobacco cessation benefits. Ohio received an F grade for tobacco prevention and cessation funding, tobacco taxes, access to cessation services and minimum age for purchase. It received an A grade for smoke-free air. You can read the entire report [here](#).

### Blocked In

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The Chemical Safety Board (CSB) released a new safety video "[Blocked In](#)," which shows the events that led to an explosion and fire at Williams Olefins Plant in Geismar, La. The explosion killed two workers and injured 167. The CSB found process safety-management program deficiencies at the facility, which caused a heat exchanger to be unprotected from overpressure. You can find information on the investigation and recommendations on the [CSB website](#).

### Trends and patterns of U.S. fire losses

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The National Fire Prevention Association released a new [report](#) on fire losses, covering trends in fire and non-fire responses by fire departments. The report found that only 4 percent of fire department responses were to fires, and home fires cause the majority of fire deaths. In addition, while the number of reported fires declined, fire department responses have tripled from 1985 to 2015.

### Stop! Trains Can't

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The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Federal Railroad Administration have launched a new [railroad crossing safety ad campaign](#). The ad targets male drivers aged 18 to 49 years old and encourages them to be cautious at railroad crossings. The campaign consists of video ads that will run in 15 states with the most dangerous crossings and the highest number of incidents, including Ohio.

## Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Vulnerability Measure

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The Institute for Work & Health created the [OHS Vulnerability Measure](#) to assist employers in the measurement of workers vulnerability to OSH risks at work. The tool measures hazard exposure, workplace policies and procedures, worker awareness of hazards and their OHS rights and worker empowerment in injury and illness prevention. Employers can use this tool before and after they introduce a new program to check on the success of the intervention.

## Vintage Style Posters

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If you like a little vintage style with your safety message, check out these [downloadable posters](#) from WW Grainger Inc. safety information website, The Safety Record.

**Please contact the [library@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:library@bwc.state.oh.us) or 614-466-7388 for more information on any of these items.**