



Safety Update

Date: July 2, 2015

AGC OF OHIO TO HOST ONLINE MEETING ON CONFINED SPACE STANDARD AND EFFORTS TO COMPLY; ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration on May 1 issued a [final rule](#) to increase protections for construction workers in [confined spaces](#). The standard goes into effect August 3.

AGC of Ohio will host an online safety meeting about confined space on July 28 at 8:30 a.m. Depending on the amount of discussion, it should conclude by 9:30 or 10:00 a.m. During the meeting, participants will discuss challenges related to the new standard and efforts to ensure proper compliance. It's a great opportunity to learn more and share information about implementing the new confined space standard.

To register for the online meeting, e-mail Andrea Ashley at andrea@agcoho.com, and she will e-mail you the appropriate links and information for participating.

Additional Information about the Standard: AGC of America hosted a two-part webinar series about the confined space standard for construction featuring Jessica Douma, Regulatory Analyst, Directorate of Construction, OSHA – who was directly involved in the creation of the standard. View the PowerPoint from the webinars: Confined Space in Construction - [What's Different](#) and [The Big Picture](#). Compliance assistance materials and additional information is available on OSHA's [Confined Spaces in Construction](#) Web page.

WORKERS' COMP NEWS

New BWC Policy Year Begins; Move to Prospective Billing

July 1 brings the start of the 2015 BWC policy year. New rates—including group-discounted rates for members filed last November in traditional group rating or in January for group retrospective rating—took effect yesterday. View a [letter courtesy of CareWorks Comp](#) for additional information. Employers should have received their *Notice of Estimated Premium* from BWC outlining their bi-monthly premium payments for the 2015 policy year. Employers have until July 15 to make any changes to their payment plan, and can do so from the BWC website, www.bwc.oh.gov/employer/services.

The new policy year also kicks off the new prospective billing process for BWC. Employers will make their first payment under the new system on August 31. Note, the first installment of the 2015 prospective year, due June 30, was paid for by the BWC. The BWC will also be paying the premium payment for employers for the January 1-June 30, 2015 payroll report period under the old system, which would have otherwise been due on August 31. View the BWC [Prospective billing overview for private employers](#) for more information.

BWC Budget Bill Signed by Governor

Earlier this week, Governor Kasich signed [HB 52](#), the BWC Budget bill. The bill did not include significant policy changes, except the creation of a study committee on health care. Under the new law, the Health Service Price Disclosure Study Committee would submit a report by the end of the year on ways insurers can provide price comparisons among providers and how consumers can compare prices of health plans available through the federal health care exchange.

FIREWORKS SAFETY RESOURCES

On average, 230 people go the emergency room every day with fireworks-related injuries in the month around the July 4th holiday (information from the Consumer Product Safety Commission's [website](#)). Check out these websites for fireworks safety information to share with employees: [Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) and [National Council on Fireworks Safety](#).



Poster available on CPSC's website.