

AultComp MCO's Lifeline

Don't learn safety by accident

February, 2018

Welcome to February!

As a reminder, many jobs require workers to be outside when temperatures are low. Poor weather conditions can lead to several health problems, such as frostbite or hypothermia. You also need to keep in mind precipitation and wind hazards. Cold, wet, and windy weather can be extremely hazardous even if temperatures are not below freezing. It is important to know the signs of cold stress to look for in yourself or fellow employees when working outside in cold temperatures. Please review some helpful tips on the right.

Mark Your Calendars

Mark your calendars! Please be sure to attend our workers' compensation seminar presented by AultComp MCO and Lorrie Goodnight from the BWC. The seminar will take place on Tuesday, March 27, 2018, at Aultman North from 7:30 am - 10:30 am. We will discuss a variety of topics including reviewing employee injury reports to prevent future injuries, best return to work practices and controlling your cost of workers' compensation injuries. [Please register here.](#)

Ohio Safety Congress Info

If you are planning to attend the [Ohio Safety Congress & Expo in Columbus March 7-9](#), be sure to stop by the AultComp MCO booth # 831. We hope to see you there! As always, thank you for choosing AultComp MCO to manage your workers' compensation claims.

Sam Randazzo
Employer Liaison
330-830-4919 ext. 108



REMINDER: BE SAFE

TOP 6 DEADLIEST WINTER DRIVING MISTAKES YOU SHOULD AVOID

- 1 Driving too fast
- 2 Failing to clear snow off the car
- 3 Following others too closely
- 4 Overcorrecting on ice
- 5 Not getting your car ready
- 6 Driving fatigued



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Winter Weather and Workers' Compensation Injuries

- Employers should make sure that they have arranged for parking lot and outside walkway snow removal to be completed before employees arrive and leave for work.
- If ice cannot be removed immediately from walkways or parking lots, then these areas should be salted and sanded. It is also a good idea to have containers filled with salt or sand that employees can access.
- When plowing parking lots, make sure that the snow is being stored in areas that will not hamper or obstruct views.
- Make sure that the runoff from the stored snow is away from where employees will be walking in order to avoid ice forming on walkways.
- If there are areas where the snow or ice is causing a dangerous hazard, close those areas off.
- Cold weather and ice can do a number on hardtop surfaces. Make sure parking lots and walkways are inspected on a regular basis for any potholes or cracks, which could cause an employee to fall.
- Check to make sure that all outside lights are working. Do not let employees navigate in the dark as they arrive in the early morning or depart in the evening.
- Take frequent, short breaks in a dry area to allow your body to warm up.
- Layer loose clothing to adjust to changing temperatures. Several layers of light clothing are better than one bulky layer of clothes.
- Wear boots that are insulated and waterproof.
- Try to stay as dry as possible. Wear a hat and gloves that will keep water away from the skin.
- Use the buddy system; always work in pairs or groups. Be aware of any symptoms your co-workers may be exhibiting.
- The extremities are most affected in cold weather, so be sure to cover areas such as fingers, toes, nose and ears.
- Keep extra shirts, socks, blankets, gloves, hats, etc. nearby when working in cold weather. If any of your clothing gets wet, try to change it as soon as possible.
- All employees should be trained in the symptoms of frostbite and hypothermia as well as proper first-aid. They should also be trained in the precautions that should be taken when working outside in cold weather.



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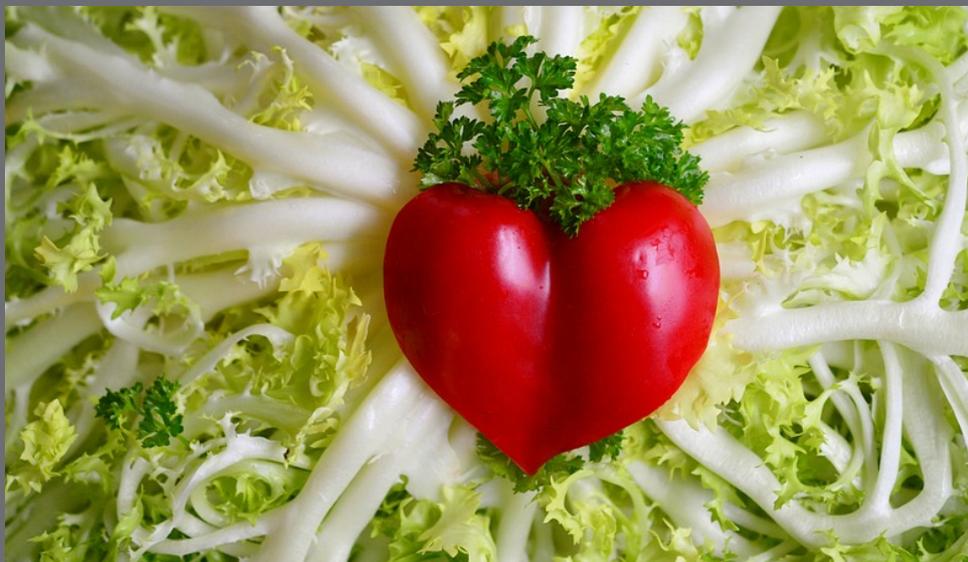
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2018	Classroom	Day(s)
Feb. 7	Combustible Dust Hazards: Recognition, Evaluation and Control Recommendations	1.0 Day
Feb. 12	Safety Series Workshop Module 4	0.5 Day p.m.
Feb. 13	First Aid in the Workplace	1.0 Day
Feb. 22	Noise and Hearing Conservation Half-day Workshop	0.5 Day a.m.
Feb. 22	Electrical Basics	0.5 Day p.m.
Feb. 26-27	Fall Hazards in Construction and Maintenance	2.0 Days



OHIO BWC NEWS

Want to start an employee health and wellness program at no cost to you? Learn more about the BWC's Better You, Better Ohio. The Ohio Bureau of Workers' compensation will be launching a new health and well-being program. The program helps Ohio employers with 50 or fewer employees in certain industries* start a comprehensive wellness program with no cost to them or their workers when they join. For **more information**, contact 1-800-644-6292.

*Agriculture; automotive repair and service; construction; firefighters; health care; manufacturing; police and public safety; public employers; restaurant and food service; transportation and trucking; trash collection; wholesale and retail

REMINDER

Public employers must submit annual recordkeeping, 300AP, by Feb. 1



OSHA Adjusts Penalty Amounts for 2018

On Jan. 2, civil [penalty amounts](#) for violations of workplace safety and health standards increased by two percent from last year. In accordance with the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015, the Department of Labor is required to adjust penalties for inflation each year. New penalties for willful and repeat violations are \$129,336 per violation; serious, other-than-serious, and posting requirements are \$12,934 per violation; and failure to correct violations is \$12,934 for each day the condition continues.

Manager Tip Three Ways to Avoid Communication Breakdowns

Provide context. For people to understand a message, they have to know why it's important. Give people enough information so they know where things fall on the priority list.

Encourage questions. Don't just ask if people have questions, encourage them to raise concerns. This type of interaction helps people absorb information and understand messages so they can pass them on.

Stay connected. People respond to communications very differently, even when they're hearing the same information. By being in tune with your employees, you can anticipate their reactions and better understand how to deliver messages.

