



**STARK COUNTY**

**SAFETY COUNCIL**

A committee of the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce

**news**

Volume 14 Issue 1 January 2016

StarkCountySafetyCouncil.org

**OSHA Penalties to Increase Significantly by Summer 2016**

*Provided by Curt Speck, Safety Resources Co. & SCSC Steering Committee member*

**H**idden in the Bipartisan Act of 2015 which was signed by President Obama on November 2, 2015 is an obscure provision which will raise the maximum penalties for Occupational Safety and Health violations for the first time since 1990.

Since 1990, most maximum penalties for violations of federal statutes have been inflated every four years. Until now violations of the Occupational Safety and Health Act were exempt from this provision.

Section 701 of the 2015 Budget, titled the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 removes the OSHA exemption and requires all agencies to adjust penalties annually. For the first OSHA adjustment, a catch-up adjustment based on the percentage difference between the Consumer Price Index in October 2015 and October 1990 may be applied. This would be an approximate 78.2% increase. With that used as a guide, OSHA's maximum penalties for other-than-serious, serious and failure to abate violations could

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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.*

**January 14, 2016**

*Chris Moffitt & Bob Thompson of Training Specifics, Inc.*

Topic: **A.L.I.C.E.**  
**A**lert  
**L**ockdown  
**I**nformation  
**C**ounter  
**E**vacuation



**Spotlight Company:**



**Staley Technologies** have been helping customers increase safety through better communications for over 50 years. We partner with both private companies and public agencies that are in search of new technology innovations to quickly gather mission critical information and instantly communicate that to the people that need it the most. We are able to do this because of our extensive experience with integrating two-way radio, public address, warning systems, IP camera, access control and wireless networking. For more information contact:

**Edgar VanHoose – Sales Manager**  
**Staley Technologies, Inc.**  
**1806 Navarre Ave SW, Canton, OH 44706**  
**Ph: 330-454-8404**  
**Staleytech.com**

change from \$7000, to approximately \$12,477 per violation and repeat and willful violations from \$70,000 to approximately \$124,765 per violation.

The 2015 Penalties Act does allow OSHA to limit the catch-up adjustment to less than the required amount if OSHA and the director of the Office of Management and Budget concur that increasing penalties by the maximum amount would have a negative social impact or that the social costs of increasing the penalties outweigh the benefits. Given OSHA's assistance secretary's outspoken support of increased penalties, it is expected that OSHA will seek the maximum penalty increase.

The catch-up adjustment's financial ramifications may change how employers evaluate whether to contest a citation issued by OSHA.

As an employer, how can you protect your company?

- Have written work rules and procedures to protect the safety of your employees.
- Train your employees for the work they will be performing and any hazards they may encounter.
- Monitor your employees to be sure they are following the rules and understand the safety measures needed. OSHA requires that regular and frequent inspections be performed in order to maintain compliance with the OSHA standards.
- Enforce your safety program with a written Disciplinary Action Policy.
- Regularly review your program to be sure you are addressing any new or modified work activities.

Stay up to date with the newest OSHA regulations. For instance, are you aware that there are new Hazard Communication Standard requirements and new Confined Space in Construction requirements? Updates are available on the OSHA website at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).

## Upcoming Events

**February 16** : *Crime Prevention Breakfast* at Tozzi's on 12th, 8:00 a.m.; Fee

**February 17** - *Seminar for Supervisors—"Fitness For Duty: A Fresh Perspective On Maintaining A Drug-Free Workforce"* from 8-10 a.m.; Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce; Fee

**March 23**—*CEO Breakfast*—Skyland Pines; Details to follow; Fee

**March 9-11, 2016** *Ohio Safety Congress*

**Please Note:** due to Ohio Safety Congress, our March Stark County Safety Council meeting has been moved to [March 17th](#).

March 9-11 • Greater Columbus Convention Center

Education to keep workers safe, healthy and on-the job

Expo Marketplace to simplify safety product purchases

FREE continuing education credits

Medical and Health Symposium

Safety Innovations Competition

Registration opens in January.  
**ADMISSION IS FREE.**

## ROBIN'S CORNER

By Robin Watson, Ohio BWC Representative

**Question: What safety concerns exist in office settings like call centers, administrative offices and meeting rooms and what can we do to protect workers from injuring themselves in these settings?**

**Answer:**

⇒ **Slips, Trips & Falls**

1) Office areas can become cluttered with boxes of documents and samples from vendors and the production floor. Housekeeping is important which includes having locations for the storage of these items & ensuring that walkways are kept clear. Remind office staff to keep cubical and personal office walkways clear of clutter.

2) Occasionally we need that last ream of paper in the back of the upper cabinet, so we grab an office chair with wheels to reach it. The end result is an employee falling off the chair and becoming injured. Instead strategically place step-ladders throughout the office to use to reach for those difficult items. Also ensure your frequently used items are conveniently located in easy to reach locations.

3) As we travel around the maze of cubicles we are only one step away from a collision with our co-workers. A simple fix is to install mirrors at points of intersection to avoid these unnecessary accidents.

### ⇒ Struck-By Injuries

1) Large filing cabinets provide an excellent space to store all your documents. However when draws are left open, especially the bottom drawer, injuries can occur. Remind staff the importance of keeping all file cabinet drawers closed. Also you may want to locate filing cabinets in a storage room to reduce the potential injuries from foot traffic in busy locations.

### ⇒ Fire Safety

1) Technology has brought about many great devices like cell phones, tablets, e-readers and laptops. Each of those devices requires some charging cord that has made its way in your offices. Those cords if not maintained properly can present a fire hazard. Ensure all cords are kept in good working order and off the floor.

2) Storage space is always at a minimum in offices. When storing documents and supplies ensure that you do not blocked any sprinkler heads in your office. A simple fix is to pain a decorative line 18" down from the ceiling around the room to reminder employees not to store items that they may interfere with the sprinkler heads.

Remember when completing your weekly or monthly safety audits to walk the office spaces and look for these hazards.

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## Thank you Stark County Safety Council Members!

Thank you Stark County Safety Council members for your incredible generosity. At the November meeting, 755 toys and over \$400.00 in cash was collected. All donated items stay here in Stark County.



Coming Next Month

**February 11, 2016**

**Speaker: Gust Callas**  
*Attorney at Law*  
*Black McCuskey Sauers &*  
*Arbaugh, LPA*

**Topic: Social Media and Its  
Impact on the Workforce**

*Spotlight Company:*



## **Safety Council Officers & Contributing Members**

**Chairman:** Chris Zabel (czabel@USSafetyGear.com)

**Vice Chair:** Mark Cush (mcush@youngtrucks.com)

**Program Manager & Canton Regional Chamber**

**Representative:** Connie Cerny  
(conniec@cantonchamber.org)

**Newsletter Coordinator:** Karen L. Bostrom  
(kbostrom@kwgd.com)

**Ohio BWC Representatives:**

Robin Watson (robin.w.1@bwc.state.oh.us) and  
Deb Bailey (Deborah.b.1@bwc.state.oh.us)



Division of Safety and Hygiene

**Class Schedule (North Canton)**

**339 E. Maple St. Suite 200**

**North Canton, OH 44720**

**Register at [bwclearningcenter.com](http://bwclearningcenter.com)**

**Safety Series for Industry Workshop Module 3**—Feb. 8— 1:00 p.m.—4:30 p.m.

**First Aid in the Workplace**—Feb. 17—8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

**Safety Series for Industry Workshop Module 4**—March 14—1:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Welding and Brazing Safety**—March 15—8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**OSHA Recordkeeping Half-day Workshop**—March 17—8:30 a.m.-Noon

**Accident Analysis Half day Workshop**— March 17—1:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Restaurant & Food Service Safety Workshop**—March 21-8:30 a.m.-noon

**Combustible Dust Hazards: Recognition, Evaluation & Control Recommendations**—March 23—  
8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

**First Aid in the Workplace**—March 30—8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Controlling Workers' Compensation Costs**—March 31—8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

# A New Year's Resolution for Improved Lockout/Tagout Programs for 2016

By Chris Zabel, Territory Manager, US SafetyGear Inc.  
& Stark County Safety Council Steering Committee Chairman

**I**t's hard to believe that we're already in 2016. The hustle and bustle of the Holidays are behind us and what better time to examine how to improve safety within your facility? I will first say that I personally believe it's always important to have an extra set of eyes look at any problem or challenge to gain a unique perspective. Those extra sets of eyes can include your safety committee or a qualified safety equipment distributor. I want to dig deeper into the issue of Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) because despite being on the OSHA top ten most cited list for many years, LOTO is still firmly planted in the number five position with more than 3000 citations for 2015.



The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standard for The Control of Hazardous Energy (Lockout/Tagout), Title 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1910.147, addresses the practices and procedures necessary to disable machinery or equipment, thereby preventing the release of hazardous energy while employees perform servicing and maintenance activities. The standard outlines measures for controlling hazardous energies - electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, chemical, thermal, and other energy sources.

In addition, 29 CFR 1910.333 sets forth requirements to protect employees working on electric circuits and equipment. This section requires workers to use safe work practices, including lockout and tagging procedures. These provisions apply when employees are exposed to electrical hazards while working on, near, or with conductors or systems that use electric energy.

Employees servicing or maintaining machines or equipment may be exposed to serious physical harm or death if hazardous energy is not properly controlled. Craft workers, machine operators, and laborers are among the 3 million workers who service equipment and face the greatest risk. Compliance with the lockout/tagout standard prevents an estimated 120 fatalities and 50,000 injuries each year.

The great news is that these LOTO products are relatively inexpensive to purchase. I would estimate that in most businesses the equipment cost would be in the range of \$1,000-\$5,000 dollars and increasing in cost depending on the size of the facility and the unique hazards within each business. More of the cost is likely invested in writing the programs and implementing that program through ongoing training of your employees. I urge you to take Lockout/Tagout seriously to save lives, prevent serious injuries and to stay off the OSHA citation radar for 2016. Here's to a safe and prosperous 2016!!!!

*Reference – "OSHA tips on Lockout/Tagout"*

# Stark County Safety Council December 2015 Meeting



December Spotlight Company

The logo for FASTENAL, featuring the word "FASTENAL" in a bold, italicized, black font with a registered trademark symbol, set against a white background within a blue rectangular frame.