



On-Site Safety and Health Consultation Program

WisCon Words of Wisdom

Volume 1 | Issue 3 | June 1, 2021

WI COVID-19 by the Numbers

Total Positive Cases	610,224
Total Individuals Recovered	598,415
Total Deaths	7,078
Total Individuals Hospitalized	31,073

[DHS's Wisconsin Summary Data](#)

Numbers Updated 06/01/2021

WI COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution by the Number of Doses

Allocated	5,328,515
Total Administered	5,166,869
Johnson & Johnson	208,626
Moderna	2,167,329
Pfizer	2,790,737

Check out the [latest data about Wisconsin's progress!](#)

Upcoming Webinars

COVID-19 Update / Forklift Safety	6/7
Trench Safety	6/14
Bloodborne Pathogen Program Basics	6/21
Bandsaw Safety	6/28

WisCon — Handling COVID-19 Risk

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, like many operations that could, WisCon transitioned from office life to working from home. We also made the decision to halt in person, on-site services and one of our team members took the initiative to develop our internal COVID-19 Exposure Control Plan (ECP). Our COVID-19 ECP has been a living document adjusting for the updates released by federal, state, and local agencies.

At the present time, WisCon has determined that we can perform on-site services on a county by county basis based on COVID-19 activity. Our criteria for going out to a facility is for the county the facility resides in to have a COVID-19 case burden of less than 110 cases per 100,000 people and a percent positive by test under 5%, using DHS's published data available at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/disease.htm>.

COVID-19 Vaccine Recordability

In late May, OSHA updated their COVID-19 Frequently Asked Question page in relation to OSHA recordkeeping and adverse reactions to the COVID-19 vaccine. Previously, their answer for a recordable case on an OSHA 300 log was based on whether or not receiving the vaccine was required by the employer or voluntary.

Now the [FAQ page](#) asks "Are adverse reactions to the COVID-19 vaccine recordable on the OSHA recordkeeping log?" With the answer, "DOL and OSHA, as well as other federal agencies, are working diligently to encourage COVID-19 vaccinations. OSHA does not wish to have any appearance of discouraging workers from receiving COVID-19 vaccination, and also does not wish to disincentivize employers' vaccination efforts. As a result, OSHA will not enforce [29 CFR 1904's](#) recording requirements to require any employers to record worker side effects from COVID-19 vaccination through May 2022. We will reevaluate the agency's position at that time to determine the best course of action moving forward."

Spotlight Corner—Ernie Stracener

Ernie Stracener is our WisCon Program Manager. Ernie is one of the team members that you may interact with when you first request Wiscon services. He along with our Program Assistant receive the initial phone and emailed requests. While requests for the safety discipline are forwarded on to the Safety Supervisor for assignment, Ernie assigns consultants to health related requests. He started with the program in 2013 as an Industrial Hygiene Consultant and worked his way up to where he is today. Ernie holds CSP, CIH, and CHMM credentials.



Trench Safety

SLOPE or bench trench walls, SHORE trench walls with supports, or SHIELD trench walls with trench boxes

Don't own a trench box? Rent one - trench boxes are available from many equipment rental companies.



During the month of June OSHA and the National Utilities Contractor's Association (NUCA) are focusing on trench safety. The week of June 14-18, 2021, has been designated Trench Stand Down Week. Numerous training and informational resources can be found on both of these entities web pages, [OSHA - Trenching and Excavation](#) and [NUCA - Trench Safety Stand Down](#). Some of the available resources include a trench safety toolbox talk, handouts, checklists and posters. The Trench Safety Handout entitled "[Excavation Safety](#)" found on NUCA's web page was provided by the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation and contains information on general requirements, soil classification and protective systems. OSHA's safety requirements for excavation work can be found in [29 CFR 1926 Subpart P](#).

OSHA's "5 Things You Should Know to Stay Safe" are:

1. Ensure there's a safe way to enter and exit
2. Trenches must have cave-in protection
3. Keep material away from the edge of the trench

4. Look for standing water or other hazards, such as sewer gas or chemicals
5. Never enter a trench unless it has been properly inspected

Soil moves downward and inward, but undisturbed soil stays in place due to natural horizontal and vertical forces. Excavation changes or eliminates the natural forces and the speed at which the soil moves is dependent on the soil type, moisture, vibration and surface loading.

On average, one cubic yard of dirt weighs 2,700 pounds. Even soil that is considered "stable" can be made dangerous if the soil is fissured or subject to vibration from traffic, equipment, other excavation activities or seeping water.

With the exception of excavations in solid rock, when working in trenches and/or excavation that are five feet or deeper OSHA requires that workers be protected against cave-ins. Cave-in protection includes sloping, benching, shoring and shielding (trench box). These methods can be used alone or in any combination and their use will depend on factors such as space, soil type and the excavation depth. No matter which protection method is utilized, all excavations must be backfilled as soon as possible after removal of the support system.

References: Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation, "Excavation Safety", HS98-121C (7-06).

Everyday Forklift Accident Injury Prevention

Each year, forklift related incidents account for approximately 85 deaths and 34,900 serious injuries. Forklifts are a powerful tool. Misjudging how dangerous they can be is all too common. Forklift related injuries and accidents stem from predictable every day behaviors that you can be on the lookout for and train to prevent.

Forklift Overturns account for the most forklift related deaths and are possibly the simplest to prevent. The act of putting on a seatbelt every time you operate a forklift will prevent operators from falling or jumping when a forklift overturns and then being crushed between the ground and the cage. This happens so quickly there is no chance of jumping clear of the forklift. It stands to reason that being in the habit of always snapping on your seat belt every time you use the forklift, no matter how short of duration, is the only way to ensure you have it on if some day your forklift overturns.

Forklift Overturns can be prevented. Do not overload the forklift. Slow down on corners and break gently. This is especially important when the mast is raised, which causes the forklift to become tipsy, even with light loads. Avoid turning on slopes and ramps. Any time you travel adjacent to a slope, such as when turning on a ramp, you risk overturning. When you must negotiate a ramp, go straight up or

straight down the ramp. Backing down the ramp is the norm when a load is on the forks. Beware of uneven ground, ramps, curbs, open dock doors, soft ground, and surfaces that will not support the weight of the forklift.

Worker on foot struck by forklift is the second most common cause of forklift fatalities. **Train operators** to only drive as fast as they can see ahead of them and for what their load allows. Always look in the direction of travel, especially when backing, or use a spotter for added safety. Slow down at corners and doorways and sound your horn. Do not let chatty pedestrians walk next to the forklift. Secure the load: box, band, wrap and tilt back the mast. Taller loads can be ratchet strapped to the mast. Keep pedestrians back when handling overhead loads – refuse to work until they back up.

Train workers on foot to respect forklift areas. When approaching a forklift, make eye contact with the operator before you make your way through the operating space. Use designated pedestrian walkways and man-doors. Keep your distance. Never place your body between the path of the forklift and any fixed object like a wall, storage racks, bollards, etc. Keep back from overhead loads being handled, placed or pulled from racks. This is when objects fall.

Employers must do their part by training, monitoring, and enforcing safe behaviors.

Wisconsin On-Site Consultation (WisCon) Program

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