CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Partner of the American Job Center Network

CONN-OSHA QUARTERLY
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# Body Armor

The Bureau of Justice Assistance will once again be providing funding for Bulletproof vests (BVP) in fiscal year 2019. Applications for funding are expected to be available sometime after April 1, 2019 for a six week period. In the past applications were only accepted using the online application. For information on 2019 applications and to apply; visit the website https://ojp.gov/bvpbasi/home.html

**NEW:** Law enforcement agency administrators and jurisdiction CEOs can obtain a copy of the Body Armor Model Policy and Issues Paper (developed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police) by contacting the **Bulletproof Vest Partnership** Help Desk at 1-877-758-3787 or by email at vests@usdoj.gov.

To see the complete list of 2017 recipients, go to FY 2017 BVP awards

## Overview

Firearms are one of the most dangerous threats faced by law enforcement officers in the United States. During the past three decades, ballistic-resistant soft body armor has saved the lives of thousands of police officers. Since 1999, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership program, created by the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998, is a unique U.S. Dept. of Justice initiative designed to provide a critical resource to state and local law enforcement.

Since 1999, the BVP program has reimbursed more than 13,000 jurisdictions, a total of $375 million in federal funds for the purchase of over one million vests (1,146,909 as of December, 2013). Based on data collected and recorded by Bureau of Justice Assistance staff, in FY 2012, protective vests were directly attributable to saving the lives of at least 33 law enforcement and corrections officers, in 20 different states, an increase of 13.7% over FY 2011. At least 14 of those life-saving vests had been purchased, in part, with BVP funds.

Following two years of declining law enforcement officer line-of-duty deaths, the country realized a dramatic 37 percent increase in officer deaths in 2010. Fifty-nine of the 160 officers killed in 2010 were shot during violent encounters; a 20 percent increase over 2009 numbers. Due to the increase in the number of law enforcement officer deaths, coupled with renewed efforts to improve officer safety, beginning with FY 2011, in order to receive BVP funds, jurisdictions must certify, during the application process, that all law enforcement agencies benefitting from the BVP Program have a written "mandatory wear" policy in effect.

## Employer Responsibility

The Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Act provides workers the right to a safe and healthful workplace. Section 5(a)(1) of the OSH Act states: "Each employer shall furnish to each of his employees employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to his/her employees." A safe and healthful workplace means that hazards are removed and workers are trained. If a hazard cannot be removed completely, protection (for example, personal protective equipment such as body armor) must be provided.. Officer training techniques in place and should not alter this approach.

*Cont. on page 2*

***Reminder ~ Electronic Submission of Injury and Illness Records***

The date by which **certain** employers are required to submit to OSHA the information from their completed 2017 Form 300A is July 1, 2018. For additional information, go to:

https://www.osha.gov/injuryreporting/index.html

# Body Armor cont.

**Risk Assessment**

The OSHA Personal Protective Equipment Standard 29CFR1910.132(d)(1) requires the Employer to "assess the workplace to determine if hazards are present, or are likely to be present, which necessitate the use of personal protective equipment (PPE)". OSHA Standard 29CFR1910.132(d)(1)(i) then goes on to require: "… If such hazards are present, or likely to be present, the employer shall: Select, and have each affected employee use, the types of PPE that will protect the affected employee from the hazards identified in the hazard assessment".

Body armor is considered to be Personal Protective Equipment and is designed to prevent serious injury and death. It does not make the wearer invulnerable to attack; but is designed to provide protection against unexpected threats. Body armor compliments the other types of PPE that law enforcement officers are issued to help protect them. It is not unreasonable to require all law enforcement officers, and police community support officers to use the issued PPE, including body armor.

**Employee Responsibility**

Section 5(b) of the OSH Act states: "Each employee shall comply with occupational safety and health standards and all rules, regulations, and orders issued pursuant to this Act which are applicable to his/her own actions and conduct". This would include supervisory officers observing their duty of care and ensuring that staff wears their body armor in accordance with the training/instructions provided for its use and the mandatory use policy.

**Body Armor, the Final Word**

Police use of body armor has been a source of contention, for a variety of reasons. But officer safety cannot be taken too lightly, especially for the families of the officers. Body armor not only can reduce the severity of a firearm-related incident, it can protect officers in car accidents and in knife attacks. Families of law enforcement personnel expect their love ones to come home from work *every* day. No chief wants to be put in a position of having to present a folded flag to a loved one of a police officer when there was something that could have been done to prevent a death.

# How to Remove a Tick

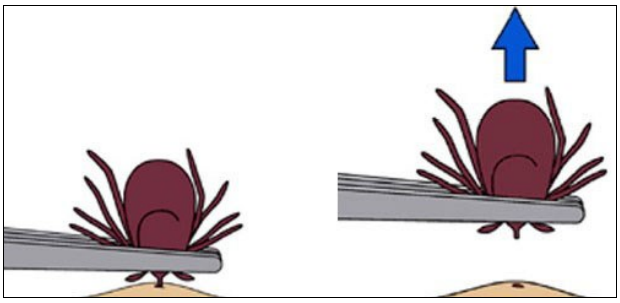
If you find a tick attached to your skin, there's no need to panic. Several tick removal devices are available on the market, but a plain set of fine-tipped tweezers will remove a tick effectively.

**How to remove a tick**

- Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
- Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick; this can cause the mouth-parts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouth-parts with tweezers. If you are unable to remove the mouth easily with clean tweezers, leave it alone and let the skin heal.
- After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol, an iodine scrub, or soap and water.

Follow-up

If you develop a rash or fever within several weeks of removing a tick, see your doctor. Be sure to tell the doctor about your recent tick bite, when the bite occurred, and where you most likely acquired the tick.



Dispose of a live tick by submersing it in alcohol, placing it in a sealed bag/container, wrapping it tightly in tape, or flushing it down the toilet. Never crush a tick with your fingers.

https://www.cdc.gov/lyme/removal/index.html

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# *A Brief Reminder ; Tick Born Diseases*

Recreational and work activities sometimes take us into tick infested areas. The tick does not know or care what we are doing- it just sees a meal. As the tick "snacks" on us, it is possibly giving us a gift; a Tick Born Disease (TBD). Knowing where ticks are found and the symptoms of TBD becomes essential; it is your best defense.

If you are working or recreating in an "outside" job in tick infested areas, without preventive measures, contracting a tick-borne disease may be considered a natural and probable result, a recognized hazard. If we are working for pay, we are in an employer/employee relationship and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is involved. OSHA requires that employers provide employment and places of employment that are free of recognized hazards. If Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is used to control these hazards, a Workplace Hazard Assessment must have been conducted.

A Workplace Hazard Assessment, aka Hazard Analysis, is an OSHA directed workplace certification and technique that focuses on job tasks as a way to identify hazards before they occur. The assessment identifies uncontrolled hazards and also identifies methods of eliminating or reducing these hazards. Where exposure avoidance is not practical or possible, selections of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are made, and employee training is implemented as a new element to the employer's safety and health program.

In the State of Connecticut (CT), Public Sector employees Safety and Health fall under the jurisdiction of CT Department of Labor, OSHA division (CONN-OSHA). CONN-OSHA requires that public sector employees who are required to work in tick infested areas should be trained in the methods of protecting themselves from tick bites and the signs and symptoms of TBD. TBD prevention and control must be included in the workplace hazard assessment of the OSHA Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) General Industry Standard, section 1910.132. CONN-OSHA's Safety and Health Consultation Program is available to help Connecticut employers with this initiative.
https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=9777

In CT thousands of private and public sector employees in outdoor workplaces experience daily casual exposures to the risks of tick bites. Some of the many job titles include:

- Line, utility, and tree workers
- Public Works Operators and Maintainers
- Department of Transportation employees
- Facilities maintenance, grounds, and landscaping workers
- Parks and recreation employees
- Animal control officers
- Law enforcement officers and K-9 units
- Wildlife and forestry workers
- Agricultural workers
- Land use and surveyors

**The most common symptoms of tick-related illnesses are:**

- **Fever/chills** are associated with all tick borne diseases.
- **Aches and pains** similar to the flu include headache, fatigue, and muscle aches joint pain. The severity and time of onset of these symptoms can depend on the disease and the patient's personal tolerance level.
- **Rashes** vary with the disease and not every bite results in a rash that can appear anywhere on the body.

**Prevention is always best so before you go outdoors, consider the following**

- Ticks live in grassy, brushy, or wooded areas, and on animals. Many people get ticks in their own yard or neighborhood.
- Treat clothing and gear with products containing 0.5% permethrin.
- **Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents** containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (OLE), paramenthane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone. EPA's helpful search tool can help you find the product that best suits your needs. Always follow product instructions.
- Avoid contact with Ticks by avoiding wooded and brushy areas with high grass and leaf litter and walk in the center of trails when possible.
- After you come indoors check your clothing, body, pets and gear for ticks and shower soon after being outdoors.

This article very briefly discusses the hazards associated with ticks. For more information the following link is provided but there are many more resources available on the web. As always CONN-OSHA's Safety and Health Consultation Program is available to help Connecticut employers with this initiative.

This link to the Center for Disease Control link will provide you with detailed information on TBD: https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html

***Fatality & Casualty Reporting***

**State & Town:** CONN-OSHA (860) 263-6946 (local) or 1-866-241-4060 (toll-free)
**Private Employers:** Report to Federal OSHA at 1-800-321-OSHA(6742)

## *Hazard Corner….*

### Construction Laborer Dies After Being Run Over by Asphalt Roller at Highway Construction

A 37-year-old construction laborer died after being run over by an asphalt roller during a highway paving operation. The seven-person crew was engaged in paving the westbound lanes of a four-lane U.S. highway. At the time of the incident, the crew was paving the right lane and traffic was moving in the left lane. The victim was assigned to walk back and forth along the highway, checking the traffic cones positioned along the dotted lines at the center of the highway to ensure they were standing upright, and ensuring that the construction-zone warning signs remained standing. As the foreman of the crew operated the paving machine, the asphalt roller followed behind to smooth the newly laid asphalt. The roller operator was transporting another employee, who was standing at the front of the machine, leaning against the roll bar and looking backward. The operator made a forward pass with the roller, stopped the machine, and then put it in reverse gear. The machine had traveled approximately 10 feet when the operator sensed that something was wrong; at the same time, the rider alerted the operator to stop the roller. The victim was discovered lying face down with his arms at his sides, his head crushed by the roller. The foreman radioed emergency personnel. A local fire department responded within 15 minutes, followed by a rescue squad and the state police. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene. The autopsy report indicated that the cause of death was a crushed skull.

A passing motorist who witnessed a portion of the incident told state police she saw the victim's right shoe get caught by the left side of the metal plate that ran across the back of the machine. She stated that he was on his back, and then raised himself to a sitting position. She last observed him pushing against the metal plate.

To prevent similar fatalities, investigators recommend the following measures:

- Employers should ensure that equipment operators are trained to check work areas for the presence of pedestrians in the machine's path before changing the direction of travel.
- Employers should ensure that passengers are not permitted to ride on rollers or similar mobile equipment.
- Manufacturers should consider equipping machines that must change direction frequently (such as rollers) with sensors to detect the presence of persons in the machine's path.

## *CONN-OSHA~ Training Update...*

***OSHA Recordkeeping*** ***June 5, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to noon*** This interactive session will make you knowledgeable of the rules and ensure confidence that you have properly recorded and reported occupational injuries and illnesses, including how to fill out the OSHA 300 Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses accurately and correctly.

***Safe Driving – Get There Safely EVERY Time*** ***June 27, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to noon*** Work-related vehicle crashes are the leading cause of occupational fatalities according to the U.S. Dept. of Labor. The goal of this session is to increase awareness of the need for, and the benefits of safe driving.

***Powered Industrial Trucks*** ***July 11, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to noon*** This 2-hour workshop will cover safe work practices, methods of providing formal and practical training, and tools for operator evaluation. Written handout materials will be provided to use in the development of your site-specific training program.

***Trenching & Excavation*** ***July 18, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to noon*** This workshop will provide an overview of 29 CFR 1926.650-652 excavations, including the role of the competent person. The session is designed to assist participants in identifying hazards associated with excavations and relate

***Confined Space Safety*** ***August 15, 2018 from10:00 a.m. to noon*** This workshop discusses the basic requirements and procedures involved with permit-required confined spaces as detailed in 29 CFR 1910.146.
d activities.

***Material Handling & Ergonomics*** ***August 23, 2018, from 10:00 a.m. to noon*** This session will help attendees develop a process for recognizing and quantifying risks, creating cost-effective solutions, and documenting the effectiveness.

***Breakfast Roundtable*** This discussion group meets the third Tuesday of every month from 8:15 am to 9:45 am. Pre-registration is required. Visit our web page for more information: http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/osha/Breakfast/index.htm To be placed on the e-mail distribution list, contact John Able at John.able@ct.gov

Classes are free and are held at 200 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield, CT in Conference Room A/B (unless otherwise noted). To register, contact Catherine Zinsser at catherine.zinsser@ct.gov Pre-registration is required. A Photo I.D. is also required to allow entry into a public building. For more training information, visit the CONN-OSHA web site www.ConnOsha.com