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BWC eNews – June 2012

June is National Safety Month

The National Safety Council recognizes June each year as National Safety Month in a campaign to promote the importance of safety to reduce unintentional injuries and deaths. At BWC, safety is who we are and what we do, and we hope you will join us in making safety a priority this month and all year long.

BWC offers several resources to assist employers' efforts to improve workplace safety, and raise employees' awareness of their role in assuring they remain injury-free. Here are some suggestions for improving safety and preventing injuries in your workplace:

Join a safety council. BWC's Division of Safety & Hygiene sponsors Ohio's 80 safety councils, which work to increase safety awareness in the workplace and educate businesses on occupational safety and health issues. BWC is celebrating National Safety Month with an announcement from Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer of a 10 percent increase in the amount BWC provides to organizations that sponsor safety council to underwrite a portion of administrative costs. The statewide safety council funding for fiscal year 2013 will be effective July 1 and will total \$911,650 with the increase, the first in approximately five years.

"Safety councils bring together safety-conscious employers in a community to learn and share best practices, and are among the best and most effective resources to help us make injury prevention a priority in Ohio workplaces," said Buehrer. "My hope is that this funding increase will not only assist safety councils in continuing to provide high quality services, but increase membership and inspire new program features for the employers we serve."

Review your safety program. Mark the month of June each year to review your safety program and requirements to ensure employees understand safety procedures and have received the latest training. Take advantage of these BWC resources when reviewing your safety program:

- [Occupational Safety and Health Administrator \(OSHA\) record keeping requirements](#)
- [Emergency preparedness programs](#)
- [Hazard communications plans](#)
- [First aid kits](#) (search the drop-down menu for first aid resources)

Take advantage of BWC's injury-prevention services. Specializing in safety, industrial hygiene and ergonomics, our consultants provide on-site services for your organization.

Inside this edition:

[June is National Safety Month](#)

[BWC keeping employer costs in check](#)

Our goal is to provide you with the knowledge, tools and skills you need to prevent injuries and illnesses, and equip you to create a safe workplace and keep your premiums as low as possible after our consultants walk out the door. Services offered include:

- [Safety program advice](#)
- [Hazard assessment and control assistance](#)
- [Safety culture/behavior change processes](#)
- [Safety team/committee evaluation and design](#)

To find out how these services can benefit you, contact the service office for your area or request consulting services online.

Protect your youngest workers. Are you hiring young adults this summer? Young adults may be at higher risk for work injuries for a number of reasons, from reluctance to ask questions, to assuming tasks they are either unprepared for or incapable of performing safely. Raising awareness of hazards can reduce the chance for injuries among youth working summer jobs.

BWC offers a [young adult tool kit](#) listing resources that can help young adults prepare for their summer jobs. The tool kit reviews possible risks involved in typical summer jobs and provides simple guidance to injury prevention. There are also tool kits for parents, employers and educators. The kit includes the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's [job safety wheel](#), which reviews hazards associated with specific jobs in construction, food service, farm work, landscaping, life guarding and parks and recreation.

Visit ohiobwc.com for more information about our safety services. Follow us on [Twitter](#) for more safety tips and information during the month of June.

BWC keeping employer costs in check

\$65 million private employer rate cut extended; administrative assessments decreasing

BWC has extended the \$65 million in rate cuts enacted last year for Ohio's private sector employers for the policy year that begins July 1. This maintains the statewide average rate at the current level, therefore maintaining last year's 4% average rate reduction over the previous year.

"Stable rates provide employers with more opportunities to predict costs and contribute to the kind of jobs-friendly climate they need to expand and create more jobs for Ohioans," said BWC Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer.

BWC also reduced assessments for the Administrative Cost Fund, which funds the operating expenditures of BWC. Cost savings initiatives in recent years are allowing for the 3% decrease in the assessment for private employers.

"Careful cost controls are allowing BWC to apply \$35 million to future operating expenses and reduce the amount of employer premiums going toward those expenses," added Buehrer.

Please take a moment to [forward this email](#) to other managers in your organization and to your colleagues who may find it of value.

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