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BWC eNews



March 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [There's still time! Register today for OSC15](#)
- [Six Ohio universities receiving \\$2 million for workplace safety research](#)
- [10.8 percent rate cut for private employers effective July 1](#)
- [Survey: Ohio below national average in non-fatal workplace injuries, illnesses](#)
- [Private employers: Sign up for a free prospective billing and safety seminar](#)

BWC eBriefs

Moraine gets \$16K to protect city employees from injuries



BWC Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer recently presented the city of Moraine with a \$16,000 check, a safety grant for the city to purchase an automated bleacher system for the Payne Recreation Center. It's expected to prevent workplace injuries. For more details, [click here](#).

Monthly safety news

Check out this month's Safety Update, which can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

There's still time! Register today for OSC15

Registration is open for the [2015 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo \(OSC15\)](#), the largest regional safety and health conference in the U.S. This year's event will be held March 31 to April 2 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.



OSC15 aims to help Ohio employers prevent workplace injuries and achieve better outcomes for injured workers.

There's no charge for Ohio employers and their employees to attend the event. College students pursuing degrees in occupational health and safety may attend free of charge, too.

OSC15 offers more than 20 industry-specific tracks, all offering some form of continuing education. A new one this year was added for physicians and healthcare professionals. For more details, [click here](#).

A workers' compensation policy number is required to register. Students should call 1-800-644-6292 to register.

To register and learn about OSC15's educational sessions, visit [OhioSafetyCongress.com](#). We look forward to seeing you there!

Six Ohio universities receiving \$2 million for workplace safety research

Safe patient handling in nursing homes, total worker health and fitness, and standards for pushing and pulling are among the areas of study BWC is funding with \$2 million in research grants announced last week for six Ohio universities.

Nine research proposals will be funded through the new Ohio Occupational Safety and Health Research Program created as part of Another Billion Back, the plan that returned \$1 billion in rebates to Ohio employers last summer and allotted \$2 million to promote occupational safety and health research.

"Workplace safety and accident prevention have long been part of our mission at BWC," said BWC Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer. "We are excited to support research that could shift thinking on current workplace safety practices and introduce innovative approaches to preventing injuries and illnesses among Ohio's workforce."

The projects are:

Standards and guidelines for pushing and pulling, Ohio State University, \$249,268;

BWC announces 13 workers' comp fraud convictions in February



Thirteen individuals were convicted of, or pleaded guilty to, charges related to defrauding Ohio's workers' compensation system in February 2015. Read more [here](#).

\$1.5M in safety grants approved in January

Public and private employers in 34 counties were approved to receive a total of \$1.5 million in safety grants in January. BWC's safety intervention grants include a 3-to-1 matching amount of up to \$40,000. A full summary listing the grant recipients and what the money will be used for is available [here](#).

Want to apply for a safety grant? Click [here!](#)

Standards and guidelines for torque wrenches, Ohio State University, \$248,931;
Slips, trips and falls in the wholesale and construction industries, Case Western Reserve University, \$249,975;
Safety for workers in grain bin operations, Ohio State University, \$79,396;
Total worker health and wellness, Case Western Reserve University, \$250,000;
Safe patient handling among state tested nursing aides in nursing homes, Cleveland State University, \$243,948;
Preventing injury, assault and abuse of nurse aides working in long-term residential settings, Bowling Green State University, \$249,999;
Safety and Six Sigma, Ohio University, \$244,981;
Safe patient handling in long-term care facilities, University of Cincinnati, \$249,999.

The grant applications were considered by BWC's Division of Safety and Hygiene and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health. The Ohio Board of Regents assisted BWC in writing the program guidelines and soliciting proposals from universities.

10.8 percent rate cut for private employers effective July 1

A 10.8 percent overall rate decrease for private employers will become effective July 1. The decrease, which was approved in late February by the BWC Board of Directors, is expected to bring private employer rate levels down 21.4 percent compared to January 2011 levels.

This reduction is an overall statewide average, and the actual premium paid by employers is based on a number of factors, including recent claim history, expected future costs in an industry segment, and participation in premium credit and savings programs.

Lower than expected claim frequency and the upcoming adoption of a prospective billing system are among the reasons for this rate cut.

Survey: Ohio below national average in non-fatal workplace injuries, illnesses

Public and private employers in Ohio had an incident rate of three cases per 100 full-time workers compared to the national rate of 3.5, according to recently released statistics from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The 2013 Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses also documented a 5-percent drop in total estimated injuries and illnesses in Ohio – 122,600 recordable cases in 2013 compared to 129,200 in 2012.

BWC has a cooperative agreement with the BLS to administer the survey in Ohio. Each year, the BLS selects more than 4,000 public and private employers to participate in the mandatory survey. The survey is intended to help employers assess industry trends and address safety issues.

For more details on the survey results, visit bwc.ohio.gov.

Private employers: Sign up for a free prospective billing and safety seminar

BWC is offering [free prospective billing and safety seminars](#) at BWC service offices around the state during the month of April.

Topics covered during these seminars will include the reason for the transition, how it will benefit employers, the transition credit to cover the cost of the change, and essential information and new requirements for payroll reporting.

Prospective billing starts in July 2015 for private employers and in January 2016 for public employers (stay tuned for updates, public employers!).

In late May, each private employer will receive a notice of estimated annual premium, which will be based on your reported payroll for July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. It is not a bill. Please review it for accuracy and contact BWC if you feel something is wrong with the estimate. A sample notice of estimated premium is available by [clicking here](#).

Prospective billing timelines for private and public employers, and other resources about prospective billing, are available at bwc.ohio.gov.

To register for an upcoming private employer prospective billing seminar, [click here](#).

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