

From: BWC e-communications
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BWC e-news - April 2011

BWC Plans Expansion of Safety Council Program

BWC Administrator/CEO Stephen Buehrer announced the continuation and proposed expansion of the Safety Council Rebate Incentive Program. Buehrer's proposal includes revising program requirements to provide an additional opportunity to reduce overall premium costs for nearly 100,000 more Ohio employers.

"We know that those employers who are most active in taking control of their safety programs are the most successful in preventing claims and managing workers' compensation costs," Buehrer told 1,400 Ohio employers and safety professionals attending the 81st Ohio Safety Congress & Expo. "I believe good safety programming ought to be good for all employers across the state."

Under the proposal, the program will not only continue, but also will be expanded to allow group-rated employers to participate in safety councils and earn a 2 percent performance rebate for demonstrating improvements in workplace safety. This would be in addition to receiving their group rating discount.

Buehrer will soon present the proposal to the BWC Board of Directors for their consideration.

Visit ohiobwc.com for more information about the Safety Council Program.

BWC Investigations Result in 12 Workers' Comp Fraud Convictions in March

BWC investigations resulted in 12 workers' comp fraud convictions and guilty pleas during the month of March. The cases are the result of the work of BWC's Special Investigations Division (SID) to deter, detect, investigate, and prosecute workers' compensation fraud.

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The cases bring total convictions in Fiscal Year 2010, which began July 1, to 82. SID has also made 186 criminal referrals and secured 94 indictments over that period.

Click [here](#) for more information on several of these cases.

Deadlines Near for Drug-Free Safety, Group Retro, Individual Retro, and Deductible Programs

The deadline for private employers to apply for the Group Retrospective-Rating, Individual Retrospective-Rating and Deductible Programs are fast approaching. Friday, April 29 is the application closing date for each of these programs.

Applications for the [Deductible](#), [Individual Retrospective-Rating](#) and [Drug-Free Safety](#) Programs are available online.

Employers interested in the Group Retrospective-Rating Program must apply through a BWC-certified sponsor. A list of sponsors is available [here](#).

More Paperless Options Available to Employers

BWC continues to add paperless options for employers, providing convenient and environmentally friendly access to correspondence. Employers can now sign up to receive their annual rate notification via email, in addition to paperless payroll reports and BWC updates. You will need an [ohiobwc.com](#) user ID and password to enroll for these paperless options. If you are interested in signing up, [click here](#).

Please Help us Serve you Better

BWC wants to hear your opinion on how effective the agency is when communicating with you about workers' compensation matters. Our goal is to effectively communicate with you to simplify your experience when dealing with us while still allowing you to obtain the information you need. Over the next several months, we will provide a few short surveys asking for your input on different aspects of our communications. This month, we'd like to get your thoughts and opinions on our service offerings available on [ohiobwc.com](#). Please take a couple minutes to answer the questions, by [clicking here](#). Thanks in advance for your input.

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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