

From: BWC - Do Not Reply
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BWC e-news - February 2012

Fraud detection a top priority for BWC

Rooting out fraud was a high priority for BWC in 2011 and will continue to be a focal point to keep employer premiums as low as possible this year and beyond. In 2011, BWC's special investigations department (SID) obtained 135 indictments and 129 convictions, identifying a total of \$54.16 million in savings for the State Insurance Fund.

"Fraud is not an issue we take lightly," said Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer. "We're pleased with the accomplishments of our investigative team but know there is much work yet to be done. It's our responsibility to be good stewards of employers' premiums, and we will aggressively pursue any injured worker, employer or provider who abuses the system."

BWC broadened its focus in 2011 to include all types of fraud, including a [first-ever attempt to close a non-compliant business through an injunction](#), and taking steps to decertify a provider inappropriately prescribing narcotics. The State Medical Board ultimately revoked the medical license of [Dr. James Lundeen](#).

"We also made a point to emphasize the work of our fraud department by publicizing our activities as a deterrent to those who may be tempted to commit fraud," added Buehrer.

SID also has recently ramped up efforts by increasing investigative staff. Four new special agents have joined the investigative team since December and SID plans to hire seven more.

To report suspected workers' compensation fraud, call 1-800-OHIOBWC or visit [ohiobwc.com](#). You also can follow SID's efforts on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Workplace wellness expert to keynote safety congress

BWC is honored to welcome renowned workplace wellness expert Dr. Steven Aldana as keynote speaker for the 2012 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo (OSC12). The annual three-day health and workers' compensation conference will run March 27 to 29 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Registration is now available on [ohiobwc.com](#).

Dr. Aldana is CEO and founder of WellSteps, which provides consulting services and health promotion guidance to many of the nation's largest corporations. The former professor of lifestyle medicine at Brigham Young University is a regular consultant to the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institutes of Health, and recently became a special advisor to the U.S. secretary of health and human services. Dr. Aldana will discuss how companies can help their employees lead healthy lifestyles with the adoption of worksite wellness programs while generating significant health-care cost savings and achieving genuine return on investment.

Dr. Aldana will speak at 3:45 p.m. Wednesday.

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Catch safety congress updates at ohiobwc.com and on Twitter [@ohiobwc](https://twitter.com/ohiobwc).

Wellness grant applications now available

BWC is now accepting applications for the new Workplace Wellness Grant Program created last year to help Ohio employers improve the overall health of their workforce and reduce injuries by adding a wellness component to their safety programs specific to their workplaces.

Participating employers will be awarded up to \$15,000 over four years to implement wellness programs addressing health risk factors such as obesity and chronic disease.

The application and more information about the program are available at ohiobwc.com. Please call 1-800-OHIOBWC to verify eligibility before submitting the application.

Reminder: Private employer premium deadline Feb. 29

Ohio private employers have until Feb. 29, to file payroll reports and pay workers' compensation premiums for the period covering July 1 through Dec. 31, 2011.

BWC offers a number of options for reporting and paying to accommodate your business needs. You may select the most convenient option and pay online at ohiobwc.com. You also can pay in person at any [BWC location](#) or by calling 1-800-OHIOBWC.

BWC systems outage scheduled for Saturday, March 31

Maintenance on BWC systems will impact phone, email and internet service on Saturday, March 31. Due to this scheduled shutdown, you will not be able to access ohiobwc.com or our automated phone service via 1-800-OHIOBWC. This outage also applies to all other BWC phone and email service.

We apologize for any inconvenience.

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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