

From: Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation

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BWC eNews



February 2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [Formulary protects injured workers, saves \\$20M](#)
- [Survey: Workplace injuries, illnesses in Ohio lower than national average](#)
- [Battelle panel speaking at OSC14! Register today](#)
- [There's still time: Sign up for a free Destination: Excellence seminar near you!](#)
- [Reminder: Private employer premiums due Feb. 28](#)

BWC eBriefs

[\\$30K grant helps Ohio fire department](#)



BWC Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer recently visited the city of St. Marys to present a \$30,000 safety grant check to Mayor Patrick McGowan. The grant money will be used to purchase a Power-LOAD

[Formulary protects injured workers, saves \\$20M](#)

Changes to BWC's pharmacy program led to a reduction in prescriptions of the most commonly overused drugs and a savings of more than \$20 million in total drug costs since 2011.



BWC's Board of Directors heard a presentation Jan. 23 that opiate doses dropped by 10.9 million since 2010 – before the formulary was introduced. Opioid prescriptions dropped 27.8 percent and skeletal muscle relaxant prescriptions fell by 72.9 percent in 2013 versus 2010.

The formulary is updated regularly and includes guidelines for coverage of various drugs.

BWC's newest pharmacy rule requires medical providers caring for chronically injured workers to use the Ohio Automated Rx (prescription) Reporting System (OARRS). This rule, which became effective Jan. 1, is similar to the recently adopted statewide Opioid Prescribing Guidelines.

For more information on this announcement, [click here](#).

[Survey: Workplace injuries, illnesses in Ohio lower than national average](#)

Ohio experienced 3.2 recordable injuries/illnesses per 100 full-time workers, which is lower than the national average of 3.7, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) 2012 Survey of

cot fastener system that mechanically lifts and lowers the cot into and out of the ambulance. Loading and unloading patients makes the city's first responders vulnerable to injury. This new equipment is expected to prevent injuries!

Read more about it in this [recent article in The Lima News](#).

Suspect fraud? Report it!

Learn more about reporting suspected workers' compensation fraud to BWC in this recent blog post on our [Special Investigations Department blog](#).

Monthly safety update

In this month's Safety Update, you can:

- Read about a new study that sheds light on truck driver health;
- Learn about safety for hospital workers;
- Access the National Safety Council's Cell Phone Policy Kit.

[Click here](#) for this Safety Update!

Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII).

The survey estimates that 129,200 recordable cases of non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses took place in Ohio in 2012. Less than 30 percent involved one or more days off of work, and about 18 percent involved one or more days of working in job restriction/transfer. The remaining 53 percent were recordable cases without time off of work.

In the private sector, transportation and warehousing had the most non-fatal and illness accidents. In the public industry sector, which only included local government, utilities workers had higher incident rates than any other public sector industry.

Data from this survey is now available on [BWC's website](#). Or, call 614-995-8608 for more information about the statistics.

Battelle panel speaking at OSC14! Register today

Battelle, one of Ohio's most innovative companies, will be featured in a general session at the Ohio Safety Congress & Expo (OSC14) next month. A panel of Battelle ergonomists, industrial hygienists and safety specialists will speak on March 26 about some of the company's latest innovations.



OSC14 is being held March 25 to 27 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. There's no charge to attend, so bring your co-workers. Attend some of the 175 expert-led educational sessions, listen to the top-notch keynote speakers and visit the two-day Expo marketplace. All sessions offer continuing education credits. You can search for sessions by title, industry, CEUs and keywords by [clicking here](#).

Don't delay – OSC14 is only a few weeks away! Register now by [clicking here](#).

There's still time: Sign up for a free Destination: Excellence seminar near you!

Starting Feb. 25, free seminars to discuss the ins and outs of Destination: Excellence will be offered around the state. Destination: Excellence is a bundle of programs BWC offers to help employers increase workplace safety and enhance injured worker care while lowering workers' comp costs.

BWC's [regional business development managers](#) will lead the

seminars and discuss these Destination: Excellence options:

- Safety councils;
- Drug-Free Safety Program;
- Industry-Specific Safety Program;
- Transitional Work Bonus Program;
- Go-green discount;
- Lapse-free discount;
- Vocational rehabilitation.

To find an upcoming seminar event in your area, [click here](#).

Reminder: Private employer premiums due Feb. 28

Ohio private employers have until Feb. 28, 2014 to file payroll reports and submit workers' compensation premiums for the period covering July 1 to Dec. 31, 2013. BWC offers a number of options for reporting payroll and submitting payments: Pay online at bwc.ohio.gov, in person at any BWC location, or call 1-800-644-6292. Thank you!

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