



January 2016

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## BWC eBriefs

### Our New Year's resolution

Our New Year's resolution is to keep you informed! Help us reach our goal by following our [Twitter](#) account, and the new [BWC Blog](#). And don't miss all the latest updates on our work to reduce fraud by liking our Special Investigations Department's [Facebook page](#).

### Public employers: PERRP annual recordkeeping deadline Feb. 1

The Public Employment Risk Reduction Program

## A message from Administrator Buehrer

With the New Year upon us, I want to take a moment to reflect on the past 12 months. It is only through your support, and the support of all our customers, that we are able to reach our mission to care for injured workers while keeping workers' compensation costs in check so businesses can direct more of their resources toward growing Ohio's economy.

I've written a [guest column](#) summarizing our work in 2015, along with a [sampling of news stories](#) regarding our initiatives. I hope you'll take a moment to review them to better understand BWC's progress and future priorities.



Thank you for all that you do to make Ohio's workers' compensation system strong and successful. Please plan to continue working closely with us in 2016. Your contributions are valued and your partnership is welcome.

Steve Buehrer  
Administrator/CEO

## Your road to workplace safety starts at OSC16!

Registration is now open for the 2016 Safety Congress and Expo (OSC16), which will

(PERRP) annual recordkeeping deadline is Feb. 1. You can submit the Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses (300AP) by mail or online. Access the form, and view submission options at [bwc.ohio.gov](http://bwc.ohio.gov).

## From the BWC blog

**Showing our appreciation.** Shelly Long of Cambridge recently received a certificate of appreciation from BWC's Special Investigations Department. She submitted an allegation that led to the conviction of a Guernsey County man who was committing workers' comp fraud. Read her story [here](#).

**Do you hear what I hear?** Did you know nearly 22 million American workers are exposed to hazardous noise levels every year? In 2016, resolve to protect your hearing and click [here](#) to learn more from one of our workplace safety experts.

## Safety Update

Check out this month's [Safety Update](#) for the latest health and safety news, including some timely tips on working in the cold weather.

## Ohio employers share more than \$7.8 million in safety rebates

Are you one of the

take place March 9-11 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. BWC annually hosts the largest regional safety and health conference in the U.S. to help Ohio employers prevent workplace injuries and achieve better outcomes for injured workers. There is no cost for Ohio employers and their employees to attend the event.



OSC16 offers more than 200 educational sessions, 225 exhibitors and **free continuing education credits**. Safety Congress offers numerous opportunities to learn about preventing workplace injuries and illnesses, achieving better outcomes for injured workers, reducing workers' compensation claims costs and keeping Ohio's workforce healthy and productive.

OSC16 will feature several dynamic speakers who are experts in workplace safety, including:

- **From Earth to Space: We Choose Safety.** Mark M. Kowaleski, Chief of the Safety & Health Division at the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, will discuss innovations that have given the U.S. a leading role in the aerospace industry with a keen eye on operational safety, occupational health, and aeronautics and space systems mission assurance activities.
- **Seven Critical Strategies for Improving the Health, Safety and Well-being of Your Workforce.** L. Casey Chosewood, M.D., Director of the Office for Total Worker Health at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Chosewood will discuss creating jobs that produce both an equitable wage and greater health and well-being.

Register and search for sessions of interest [here](#). A workers' compensation policy number is required to register.

Don't forget to Follow Safety Congress on Twitter: [@OhioBWC](#) #OSC16.

## Attention public employers: don't miss out on your premium credit

Beginning Jan. 1, BWC changed the way it bills public employers for workers' compensation coverage. Under prospective billing, BWC now requires employers to pay premiums in advance of coverage.

A \$1.2 billion premium credit is being provided by BWC to eligible employers to avoid a double-billing of premium during the transition. For public employers, this will include a 50-percent credit on the policy year 2015 payroll report and a 50-percent credit on the policy year

thousands of Ohio employers that were recently rewarded for your commitment to safety and injury prevention? If not, you should consider joining one of Ohio's 83 safety councils. Visit [bwc.ohio.gov](http://bwc.ohio.gov) to learn more about joining a safety council. While you're there, be sure to review all the safety-focused services and programs provided by BWC.

2016 prospective premium.

If you have not received your final payroll report for the 2015 policy year, you will receive it any day. However, **to receive the transition credit, you must complete your payroll report and pay at least 50 percent of the premium due by May 16. Click [here](#) to learn more about the steps you must take to be eligible for your transition credit.**

Additional resources about prospective billing, including a timeline, frequently asked questions and key dates to remember, are available at [bwc.ohio.gov](http://bwc.ohio.gov).

## BWC Board of Directors holds milestone meeting



BWC's Board of Directors reached a milestone in December, conducting its 100th meeting since it was established in 2007. The 11-member board is an independent body comprised of members who represent the interests of Ohio workers, employers and the public at large, and lend their professional expertise to overseeing the agency's operations.

The board was created to strengthen operational accountability and transparency, and guide overall administrative policy. Since its first meeting, the board has taken a number of steps to help ensure strong governance and a workers' compensation system that benefits all Ohio workers and businesses.

As part of the 100th meeting recognition, Caldwell and Haffey were interviewed for a blog post, which can be viewed at <https://ohiobwcblog.wordpress.com>.



Bureau of Workers'  
Compensation

Questions? Call 1-800-644-6292  
[www.bwc.ohio.gov](http://www.bwc.ohio.gov)

30 W. Spring St.  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-2256