

From: "Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation" <[donotreply@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:donotreply@bwc.state.oh.us)>

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## BWC eNews – July 2012

### Applications for transitional work grants now available

BWC is accepting applications for a new grant program designed to assist employers in developing transitional work programs. Such programs return employees to work or keep them working in some capacity following a workplace injury. The Transitional Work Grant Program provides funds for employers to design programs that personalize job accommodations for a specified time period to gradually return injured workers to their original jobs.

The 3-to-1 matching grants are available to companies with more than 11 employees, although BWC will assist smaller employers in developing their plans. The maximum grant amounts range from up to \$2,900 for companies with 11-49 employees, to as much as \$6,300 for those with more than 200 employees.

Participating employers are required to hire a [BWC-accredited transitional work developer](#) to design a customized program. BWC will reimburse 75 percent of covered charges up to the maximum grant amounts after proof of payment to a developer.

Learn more about the program and eligibility requirements at [ohiobwc.com](http://ohiobwc.com). You can also [email](#) the transitional work support unit with questions.

### OSC13 Call for Presenters

BWC is accepting proposals for educational presentations for the 2013 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo (OSC13). The annual event offers access to thought leaders, experts and peers sharing best practices, research and information to prevent injuries and lower workers' compensation costs. OSC13 will take place April 9 to 11, 2013, at the Greater Columbus

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Convention Center.

We invite you to share in our efforts to demonstrate and educate how safety innovations and proven techniques result in a safer, healthier workforce. Safety congress features more than 150 educational presentations that offer continuing education credits for a variety of professions. We can consider you for a one-hour or six-hour presentation.

The OSC13 theme will revolve around the simplicity of preventing occupational injuries and illnesses. We are looking for presentations that complement this theme, address new and current trends, and incorporate creative learning strategies.

Visit [ohiobwc.com](http://ohiobwc.com) for more information about our call for presenters. The deadline to submit your application to become part of the largest safety congress in the Midwest is July 31.

## Wholesale, retail industry safety grants available

BWC invites you to join us and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in a partnership to research ways to improve the safety of material handling processes. As part of the study, BWC will provide a 2-to-1 matching grant (up to \$40,000) to eligible employers to help purchase equipment. If awarded a grant, you will become part of the study analyzing how the effects of adding equipment to a delivery, installation or receiving process may reduce particular on the job injuries.

Participants should be employers who pay into the Ohio State Insurance Fund and perform delivery, installation or receiving operations of large or stacked items such as:

- Appliances;
- Furniture,
- Keg beverages,
- Construction materials, etc.

BWC and NIOSH will evaluate information gathered to determine the cost effectiveness of the equipment in reducing injuries. The goal is to provide employers with information to help reduce injuries/ illness and improve work processes.

Visit [ohiobwc.com](http://ohiobwc.com) for more information, or contact your local [BWC customer service office](#) to speak with an ergonomist. You may also email [Mike Lamp](#) with BWC or [Steve Wurzelbacher](#) with NIOSH.

## Simple solutions to preventing the most common workplace injuries

BWC claims data show that slips, trips and falls and overexertion represent more than 60 percent of all lost time claim. Fortunately, there

are several simple steps you can take to make your workplace safer and prevent injuries from occurring.

“Attentive employers can make a few minor changes at minimal cost that can significantly increase safety in the workplace and provide the added benefits of healthy, productive workers and lower workers’ compensation premiums,” BWC Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer.

Slips, trips and falls are largely associated with slipping on ice/snow, water/grease and tripping over objects. Overexertion claims are mostly related to lifting, pushing and pulling, bending and twisting, repetitive motions and awkward postures.

Take a look at your work procedures to see if there are improvements you can make to reduce these dangers in the workplace, and visit [ohiobwc.com](http://ohiobwc.com) to learn about some simple solutions .

BWC safety consultants can also provide on-site services to help implement injury-prevention solutions like these. You can visit [ohiobwc.com](http://ohiobwc.com), or call 1-800-OHIOBWC to request the services of a safety consultant at no additional cost.

## Be a follower!

Are you looking for access to instantaneous, real-time information and updates about BWC and our programs and services? It’s easy - all you have to do is be a follower. BWC joined Twitter and Facebook one year ago this week, and we invite you to celebrate with us by following and friending us.

BWC’s Twitter account highlights agency activities, news and information, and distributes updates important to employers, injured workers, medical providers, safety professionals and Ohio’s entire workers’ comp community.

Our Facebook page focuses on the bureau’s fraud investigation efforts. The BWC special investigations department uses the page in its efforts to deter, detect, investigate and prosecute workers’ compensation fraud. It includes news on recent investigatory action, a most-wanted section and a link to report fraud.

Find us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/ohiobwc> and Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ohiobwcfraud](http://www.facebook.com/ohiobwcfraud).

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Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation  
30 W. Spring St.  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-2256