

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

Looking back, thinking forward

100 years ago today, June 15, 1911, Ohio became one of the first states in the nation to offer what was a groundbreaking idea - workers' compensation insurance - with the signing of the Ohio Workmen's Compensation Act. A century later, BWC is proud to commemorate this historic anniversary, and reflect on the achievements and progress of the past 100 years.

In observance of this milestone, BWC has developed a commemorative brochure that celebrates the spirit of innovation that helped launch Ohio's system. The piece, available at ohiobwc.com, will be recognized with an American Association of State Compensation Insurance Funds communications award during its upcoming annual conference.

June is National Safety Month

June is National Safety Month and the ideal time for Ohio employers to review their workplace safety practices to ensure Ohio's workplaces are as safe as possible. The National Safety Council recognizes June as National Safety Month each year in a campaign to promote the importance of safety to reduce unintentional injuries and deaths in the workplace, on the road, at home and in the community. BWC's Division of Safety and Hygiene advocates the importance of safety every day of the year alongside partners such as the National Safety Council to reduce injuries and save employer dollars by lowering workers' compensation claim costs.

The Division of Safety and Hygiene is staffed with experts in industrial safety and hygiene, construction safety, and ergonomics who manage programming designed to improve occupational safety and health to prevent accidents and injuries in Ohio workplaces. Services are free to most employers with a workers' compensation policy and include [education and training](#), [field consultation services](#), [safety grants](#), [safety councils](#), the annual [Safety Congress and Expo](#), and a [specialized library](#).

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Courses are designed to emphasize practical application of safety principles, development of a safety culture, current and proposed standards for regulatory compliance, risk and BWC programs.

If you haven't checked out our safety services lately, now is the time!

BWC Establishes First Outpatient Prescription Drug Formulary

The BWC Board of Directors approved BWC's first ever formulary of medications approved for the treatment of injured workers at its May meeting. The outpatient formulary was established to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of treatment, limit the inappropriate use of medications and lower BWC's prescription costs.

"Formularies are an industry standard that improve quality of care by enhancing the effectiveness and safety of the medications prescribed to Ohio's injured workers," said BWC Administrator/CEO Stephen Buehrer. "The formulary allows for a thorough clinical review of each medication, better monitoring and control of inappropriate use, and assures access to medications that aid in the recovery of injured workers and support their return to work."

Each year BWC spends approximately \$130 million on prescriptions for injured workers and the formulary is estimated to save \$15 million by the end of calendar year 2012.

Visit ohiobwc.com for more information on the formulary, which is expected to become effective by early September.

BWC Investigations Result in 7 Workers' Comp Fraud Convictions in May

BWC investigations resulted in 7 workers' comp fraud convictions and guilty pleas during the month of May. The cases are the result of the work of BWC's Special Investigations Division (SID) to deter, detect, investigate, and prosecute workers' compensation fraud.

The cases bring total convictions in Fiscal Year 2011, which began July 1, to 114.

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

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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