BWC eNews

June 2016

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BWC eBriefs

BWC in the news

Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison kicked off National Safety Month with a visit to Knox County’s Ohio Eastern Star Home. Read more in the Mount Vernon News.

True-up reminder

Step up your commitment to safety during National Safety Month

BWC joins the National Safety Council in recognizing June as National Safety Month, when thousands of organizations across the country raise awareness of what it takes to stay safe at work, on the road and in our homes and communities.

“We at the Ohio BWC want employers and employees to think safety all year round, of course, but June is an excellent time for employers to review and update their safety programs and for employees to be especially mindful of good safety habits,” said BWC Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison.

BWC’s Division of Safety and Hygiene is an outstanding resource for consultation on the most effective safety practices. Morrison penned a National Safety Month blog reminding Ohio employers and workers to think safety during June, and all year long. Read her blog here.

Visit bwcohio.gov for tips and information about BWC’s workplace safety programs and services. All BWC safety services are included as part of employers’ premiums at no additional cost.

BWC to distribute $15 million rebate to Ohio counties

Citing strong investment returns, BWC Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison announced last month a one-time $15 million rebate to Ohio’s 88 county governments.

The rebates come from the Public Work-Relief Employees’ Fund (PWRE) that provides counties with workers’ compensation coverage for their work-relief employees—individuals who must work for a government entity in exchange for public assistance payments. The PWRE provides compensation and medical benefits to individuals injured in the course of their public works employment.
Private employers: prospective billing payroll true-up begins July 1! Visit bwc.ohio.gov for more information. This video explains the true-up process.

Safety Update

BWC’s Division of Safety & Hygiene offers a monthly safety update to keep you apprised of the latest news in the industry. Read about National Safety Month, preventing falls in construction and more in the June Safety Update.

“Thanks to prudent fiscal management and excellent investment returns, we’re pleased to send this money back to county governments,” said Morrison. “While it’s up to the counties how to spend these funds, we encourage them to invest in workplace safety programs to help keep employees safe and contain future costs.”

All counties will receive a rebate by the end of June. Totals vary for each county, with Hamilton County receiving the most at $1.5 million, and nearly half of all counties receiving at least $90,000. A full list can be found here.

BWC offers unique occupational safety and hygiene fellowship

BWC is taking applications for a new unique fellowship program that offers college graduates an opportunity to receive on-the-job training in the fields of occupational safety and health, ergonomics, industrial hygiene and risk management.

“The safest workplaces are those with a culture of safety, and this program will help recent graduates take what they’ve learned and apply it to creating that safety culture in Ohio’s workplaces,” said Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison. “The program gives fellows exposure to safety and health in many different industries and business sizes, preparing them for a wide variety of career choices.”

The fellowships will last two years and are fulltime with pay and benefits. Fellows will work alongside BWC safety, ergonomics and industrial hygiene consultants. Throughout the program, fellows will participate in onsite safety, ergonomics, and industrial hygiene assessments and audits. Read more about the new program here.

Interested individuals with an undergraduate degree in occupational safety & health, industrial hygiene, engineering, environmental health or closely related field of study (i.e. physical/natural science) can complete an employment application by searching for “Occupational Safety & Hygiene Fellow” at careers.ohio.gov.