

**From:** Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation  
**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2013 1:18 PM  
**Subject:** BWC eNews - June 2013



[Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation](#) | [Injured Workers](#) | [Employers](#) | [Safety Services](#) | [Medical Providers](#) | [Contact](#)

## BWC eNews - June 2013

### Check the mail: We're giving back a billion dollars!

On May 30, the BWC Board of Directors approved a \$1 billion rebate for 210,000 private and public employer taxing districts. For eligible employers, the rebates will be equal to 56 percent of what BWC billed them during the last policy period; for private employers, that's July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012, and for public taxing districts, that's Jan. 1, 2011 to Dec. 31, 2011. The rebates are possible thanks to prudent management and smart business investments.

We expect to mail most rebates to employers later this month or in early July. Private employers who participate in a group, retrospective rating program will receive their rebates in the fall.

The rebate is part of a three-pronged approach to making BWC a partner in Ohio's economic resurgence. The entire plan also includes:

- An expansion of our successful Safety Grant Program from \$5 million to \$15 million to support increased statewide efforts to promote workplace safety and encourage further investment in protecting Ohio's workers.
- A request that the Legislature modernize how premiums are collected in Ohio by moving to a prospective-payment system and subsequently requesting the board issue an additional \$900 million to mitigate transition costs. This switch would also result in rate reductions of 2 percent for private employers and 4 percent for public employers.

Check out this [fact sheet](#) for more details about the entire plan.

**IMPORTANT:** We must have your current mailing address on file to mail your rebate. If you have an e-account, you may verify that we have the correct address by logging in at [OhioBWC.com](#).

#### Inside this edition:

[Check the mail: We're giving back a billion dollars!](#)

[Help employees avoid heat illness this summer \(plus, a free printable tip card!\)](#)

[Like to teach? We need your help for OSC14!](#)

[Board approves 2.1 percent private employer base-rate reduction](#)

[Transitional work grants: A win-win for employers and employees](#)

## Help employees avoid heat illness this summer (plus, a free printable tip card!)

To recognize National Safety Month, BWC initiated a "Beat the Heat" program. The program's goal is to educate workers about heat illness and help them prevent it. To achieve this goal, we're distributing bottles of water and tip cards to workers statewide who are at risk of being impacted by heat-related illness.

Here are three simple steps to share with employees who work outdoors:

- Hydrate with water every 15 minutes, even if you don't feel thirsty;
- Cover up with light-colored clothing and a hat;
- Rest regularly in cool and shady areas.

We encourage you to share these tips with employees, especially those who work outdoors. Here's a printable [Beat the Heat tip card](#).

## Like to teach? We need your help for OSC14!

Our Division of Safety & Hygiene is accepting educational presentation proposals for the 2014 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo (OSC14). This annual event draws more than 5,000 employees and business and government representatives. It will take place March 25 to 27, 2014, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

OSC14 will focus on preventing occupational injuries and illnesses, return-to-work strategies, successful workers' compensation practices, and health and wellness of the work force. We're looking for presentations that complement the theme, address current and new trends, and incorporate creative learning outcomes.

We invite you to educate and demonstrate for attendees how safety innovations and proven techniques result in safer, healthier workforces. Submit applications online by July 31. To apply, click [here](#).

## Board approves 2.1 percent private employer base-rate reduction

Starting next month, the base rates for private employers will decrease by 2.1 percent. The BWC's Board of Directors approved the rate decrease in late May. The rate change is effective for the 2014 policy year, which runs from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

It's the third year that rates have either remained steady or dropped. Rates remained flat in 2013 and dropped 4 percent in 2012. The 2.1 percent reduction represents an aggregate savings of \$29 million over 2013 premiums.

## Transitional work grants: A win-win for employers and employees

What's not to love about transitional work grants? They save employers money on workers'

comp costs and benefit the well-being of employees. Transitional work offers job accommodations tailored to employees' needs that incorporate real job duties for varying amounts of time to allow injured workers to gradually return to their original jobs.

Transitional work grants are 3-to-1 matching grants for companies that have 11 or more employees. Click [here](#) for more details.

*Please take a moment to [forward this email](#) to other managers in your organization and to your colleagues who may find it of value.*

[Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation](#) | [Injured Workers](#) | [Employers](#) | [Safety Services](#) | [Medical Providers](#) | [Contact Us](#)

---

To opt-out of receiving future promotional e-mail from OBWC please [click here](#).

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