

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

Have you registered for Safety Congress & Expo 2011?

BWC's annual Ohio Safety Congress & Expo is just weeks away! You can still register online at ohiobwc.com to attend March 29 to 31 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

Safety Congress is the largest state occupational safety and health event in the Midwest. The free event offers practical solutions to prevent work force injuries and illnesses and influence workers' compensation costs. Safety Congress features informative general sessions with nationally-recognized experts, safety demonstrations and more than 150 educational sessions. It also includes full-day workshops and an Expo Marketplace of safety products and workers' compensation services by more than 200 vendors.

BWC is honored this year to welcome keynote speakers Dr. John Howard, Director of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, the nation's leading work-related illness and injury research agency; and Dave Rife, assistant vice president of manufacturing for White Castle System Inc., who recently completed a journey in the CBS hit series, "Undercover Boss." BWC Administrator/CEO Stephen Buehrer will speak at 9:45 a.m. on Wednesday, just prior to Mr. Howard.

Catch Safety Congress updates at ohiobwc.com and on Twitter [@OSC2011](https://twitter.com/OSC2011).

BWC Targets Fraud, Prescription Drug Abuse

Governor John Kasich has declared war on the epidemic of prescription drug abuse in Ohio and charged state agencies with using every tool at their disposal to help victims and fight those who abuse the law. To help address the issue, and to continue its efforts to fight fraud, BWC has been reviewing data regarding the use of prescription pain medicine in treatment for injured workers.

As part of an ongoing investigation, the BWC Special Investigations Department led a March 16 raid of the offices of Dr. James E. Lundeen Sr., who treats 800 Ohio workers injured on the job.

Dr. Lundeen's prescribing habits caught the eye of investigators, who report receiving 19 allegations of billing, prescription and care irregularities involving the doctor.

Additionally, Dr. Lundeen is responsible for 61 percent of the narcotic pills prescribed by BWC providers with a Scioto County address. He ranks:

- Second in the number of narcotic pills prescribed in the state;
- Fifth in the number of injured workers prescribed narcotics.

"While prescription narcotics can be a valid part of treatment, the inappropriate use of pain medicines in treating injured workers hurts the worker and constitutes fraud against the taxpayers and businesses of Ohio," said BWC CEO/Administrator Stephen Buehrer. "I hope our actions put those who would take advantage of Ohio's injured workers on notice that it is something we absolutely will not tolerate."

Buehrer vowed continued work to meet the challenge of Governor Kasich to identify and target anyone who is abusing the system at the expense of Ohio's employers and injured workers.

"Rooting out fraud not only safeguards employer dollars, it helps ensure Ohio's injured workers are getting only the highest level of care so they can return to living healthy and productive lives."

To report suspected workers' compensation fraud, visit ohiobwc.com, or call 1-800-OHIOBWC.

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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