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## BWC e-news - March 2012

### Countdown to Congress

The Ohio Safety Congress & Expo (OSC12) is almost here! This annual three-day health and workers' compensation conference will run March 27-29 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Whether you're a veteran or rookie attendee, OSC12 has something for you – from more than 150 educational sessions to the Expo Marketplace featuring exhibitors offering safety services, industrial supplies, and safety equipment and gear. In addition, there are several new offerings this year, including:

- **First Annual Safety Innovations Award competition featuring Miss Ohio** - recognizes Ohio employers that have developed innovative ergonomic or safety solutions in their workplaces. Visit [ohiobwc.com](http://ohiobwc.com) to learn about [this year's nominees](#) and our very special guest [Ellen Bryan](#), Miss Ohio 2011. Bryan will announce the overall award winner at Wednesday afternoon's 3:45 p.m. general session;
- **Passport to Safety** - attendees will receive a passport in their event guide with a list of participating exhibitors who can stamp their passport. Attendees who gather a passport stamp from each participating exhibitor will be eligible to win prizes throughout the day on Wednesday and Thursday, with a grand prize drawing at the end of the congress. Prizes are being donated by exhibitors and include e-readers, GPS running trackers, iPods and gift cards. The grand prize is an iPad;
- **BWC booth** - learn about BWC programs and hear inspiring stories from Ohio injured workers. You also can test your safety knowledge through an interactive quiz – BWC's very own game show;
- **Live tweeting** - BWC's Twitter feed will run throughout congress and appear on large monitors in the registration area. You'll see tweet reminders about sessions and activities offered throughout the event plus, live commentary. If you're attending and want to join in the conversation, use our hashtag [#OSC12](#);
- **We have an app for that** - OSC12 is going mobile for the first time. Attendees can download the OSC12 app to their mobile phone or device and see session schedules, map of the expo floor, speakers, Passport exhibitors and prize winners, and other information directly related to OSC12.

Register to attend OSC12 at [ohiobwc.com](http://ohiobwc.com). Don't forget you can earn free continuing education units with almost all the courses offered, and remember to check back after March 23 to print your session handouts.

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We look forward to seeing you at OSC12!

## Is your destination excellent?

If you want to help protect your workers and your organization's bottom line, don't miss the opportunity to learn about BWC's new program package, Destination: Excellence.

The program is designed to help Ohio employers focus on safety, accident prevention and return-to-work opportunities to bring injured workers back to work sooner.

Destination: Excellence allows you to select from seven new and existing program options to customize a plan that addresses your specific needs. This "cafeteria style" plan aligns with our top priority of preventing injuries and getting injured workers healthy and back to work sooner. A quick return to work saves money for employers, but more importantly it increases the chances of a positive outcome for injured workers.

Be sure to apply for the programs you want by April 30. Visit [ohiobwc.com](http://ohiobwc.com) or send us an [email](mailto:info@ohiobwc.com) if you have questions or want to learn more.

## Ashtabula Safety Council receives kudos for outstanding work in 2011

BWC Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer announced the annual safety council of the year award winners, selected from among Ohio's 81 safety councils that work to increase safety awareness in the workplace and educate businesses on occupational safety and health issues.

The Ashtabula Safety Council received the top recognition for its commitment to safety and encouraging the development of more effective accident/incident prevention programs among its members.

"The Ashtabula County Safety Council is very active and energetic in promoting safety oriented events and solutions that help employers in the area manage workers' comp costs by making safety and risk management a top priority," said Buehrer.

Also recognized were eight other councils that promoted safety in their communities and made concerted efforts to educate members about the latest technology and practices to keep Ohio workers safe.

- Cleveland Southwest Safety Council (2nd place)
- Medina Safety Council (3rd place)
- Huron County Safety Council (4th place)
- Greater Columbus Safety Council (honorable mention)
- Licking County Safety Council (honorable mention)
- Sandusky County Safety Council (honorable mention)
- Stark County Safety Council (honorable mention)
- Union County Safety Council (honorable mention)

## Reminder: BWC systems maintenance March 31

Maintenance on BWC systems will impact phone, email and Internet service on Saturday, March 31. Due to this scheduled shutdown, you will not be able to access [ohiobwc.com](http://ohiobwc.com) or our automated phone service via 1-800-OHIOBWC. This outage also applies to all other BWC phone and email service.

We apologize for any inconvenience.

*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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