

**From:** Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation  
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## BWC eNews - March 2013

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### [Check out the Ohio Safety Congress and Expo](#)

Make plans to attend the Ohio Safety Congress & Expo 2013 (OSC13), the largest safety conference in the Midwest! This free event will be held April 9 to 11 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Dynamic keynote speakers, numerous educational sessions and occupational safety and health product vendors will ensure you'll learn something new, as well as save time and money. Take advantage of the offerings described below.

**Free CEUs** - Earn free continuing education units (CEUs) with all of the 150 educational sessions offered during OSC13. Sessions will address business development, safety management, emergency management, environmental and hazardous materials and much more.

These professions may earn CEUs at OSC13:

- [Industrial hygienist](#);
- [Emergency medical service/first responder](#);
- [Chemical dependency counselor/prevention specialist](#);
- [Registered nurse](#);
- [Attorney and judge](#);
- [Nursing home administrator](#);
- [Case manager](#);
- [Rehabilitation counselor](#);
- [Disability management specialist](#);
- [Human resource personnel](#).

**Safety Innovations Award Competition** - We've selected four Ohio companies that received BWC safety grants to compete in this competition, which encourages development of innovative ergonomic and/or workplace safety solutions. It also recognizes employers who demonstrate their commitment to safety and to their employees' well-being. They'll be judged on their innovations' cost effectiveness, ease of implementation and how well they reduce risk. Be sure to visit the Safety Innovations award Competition area in the back of the expo hall to cast your vote for the People's Choice award.

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**Passport to Safety** - Grab a passport, and have some fun while shopping for products and services. Visit the Expo Marketplace and get your passport stamped by participating exhibitors. Once it's filled, you'll be eligible to win prizes such as gift cards, e-readers and electronics. We will award up to 10 prizes each day of the Expo. You do not need to be present to win.

**Guidebook** - A mobile application for iPhone, Android and Blackberry users. The app makes finding session and exhibitor contact information a snap. If you still have it on your phone from last year, search for and download "2013 Ohio Safety Congress and Expo." If you don't have Guidebook, click [here](#). Once it's downloaded, search for and download "2013 Ohio Safety Congress and Expo." You're all set!

Register to attend OSC13 today at [ohiobwc.com](http://ohiobwc.com), or call 1-800-OHIOBWC. The best part: it's free! Check the website after March 29 to view and print session handouts.

Remember to catch congress updates and join live chats on Twitter. [@ohiobwc](#), #OSC13

See you at OSC13!

## Destination: Excellence rewards your focus on prevention and care

Enrollment is under way for *Destination: Excellence*, which rewards Ohio employers for helping prevent workplace injuries and getting those employees who are injured back to work. More than 100,000 employers participate in at least one of the seven programs that are part of the cafeteria-style discount plan introduced by BWC last year. BWC expects these employers to achieve an aggregate savings of \$28 million to \$41 million.

"In addition to our focus on low and stable rates, we have emphasized prevention and care to highlight the importance of workplace safety, and achieving the best possible outcomes for Ohioans who are injured on the job," said BWC Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer.

"Destination: Excellence recognizes the importance of both objectives by offering employers the opportunity to customize a risk management plan that helps them protect the health and well-being of their workers with safer workplaces and strong return-to-work programs."

*Destination: Excellence* offers a package of BWC programs that allow employers to customize their own risk-management plan and rewards their investments in accident prevention, cost control and policy management.

Learn more by watching this [brief presentation](#), visiting [ohiobwc.com](http://ohiobwc.com) or sending an [email](#) with questions.

## BWC accelerates reform of self-insured department

Greater flexibility for Ohio's self-insuring employers is the goal behind rule changes the BWC Board of Directors is considering.

BWC's self-insured department proposed rule changes to the board in February that impact assessments that BWC collects to fund administrative costs and the Self-Insured Employer Guaranty Fund. The fund pays claims of self-insuring employers that defaulted.

Under the proposed changes, self-insured employers in good standing could submit multiple forms of security. In addition, a long-standing policy that resulted in multiple assessments for employers with subsidiaries would end.

The self-insured department also worked to improve customer service, productivity and overall business performance in 2012. For example, the department:

- Cut response time for injured worker complaints by 33 percent;
- Reduced a backlog of policy renewals from 33 percent of all policies to less than 1 percent.

Learn more [here](#).

## Legislature approves BWC budget, additional reforms proposed

BWC's proposed biennial budget quickly moved through the Ohio House of Representatives and Senate, and now awaits the governor's signature. The \$550.7 million request for Fiscal Years 2014-2015 is five percent less than the 2012-13 appropriation, which was a 12 percent decrease compared to the 2010-11 appropriation. In total, BWC has reduced its budget by \$105 million relative to the 2010-11 appropriation.

"To build a foundation that supports our mission, the first step is to establish a responsible budget," said BWC Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer during his testimony. "These reductions have been made possible through prudent management and smart expenditures."

Several reasonable reforms aimed at improving worker care are also currently being discussed for separate legislation. The proposed reforms will boost BWC's ongoing effort to improve medical outcomes by expediting treatment for injured workers. They also aim to bring BWC in line with today's healthcare industry by better utilizing provider networks already established by managed care organizations.

"We've made great strides in improving injured worker care while keeping workers' compensation costs in check. I look forward to working with the General Assembly as well as business and labor stakeholders to continue to make our system better," added Buehrer.

*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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