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BWC eNews



May 2014

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BWC eBriefs

6.3 percent base rate reduction proposed

BWC staff have proposed a 6.3 percent base rate reduction for private employers starting July 1. If approved by the Board of Directors, which could consider the proposal as

\$1.2B premium credit approved, prospective billing moves forward

To prepare for our switch to prospective billing, BWC's Board of Directors in April approved a \$1.2 billion credit to prevent employers from being double-billed while transitioning from paying in arrears to paying in advance. This credit was announced last year as part of the Billion Back plan and is separate from the \$1 billion in rebates issued in 2013.



For private employers, the transition will be effective July 1, 2015; for public employers, it will be effective Jan. 1, 2016. The average private employer will receive a credit to cover their August payroll report (January to June 2015 premium) as well as the first two months of prospective premiums (July and August).

The conversion will result in an overall rate reduction of two percent for private employers and four percent for public employer taxing districts. That will mean savings of approximately \$28 million for private employers and \$16 million for public taxing district employers when it is implemented in 2015.

The new billing system will also offer employers several ongoing benefits, including the option to make up to 12 installment payments. Employers can learn more about prospective billing by clicking [here](#).

soon as May 22, this would mark the eighth consecutive year in which private sector rates decreased or remained flat. For more information, [click here](#).

Stay tuned to eNews for updates.

Our Canton office is moving



Starting Monday, June 16, our Canton Customer Service office will move to 339 E. Maple St., Suite 200, North Canton. All phone numbers will remain the same.

We're pleased to remain in Stark County. The new, centrally-located office location is six miles north of our current office, 400 Third St., S.E., Canton. Our last day at the current office will be Friday, June 13.

We look forward to serving you at our new location!

In the news

BWC Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer was in Putnam County earlier

MCO open enrollment continues through May 23

Attention, state-fund employers with active workers' comp policies: You may change your managed care organization (MCO) to help manage the medical portion of your workers' compensation claims until May 23.

MCOs help businesses file and manage claims as well as facilitate medical care for injured workers. Check out our [MCO Selection Guide](#) and [MCO Report Card](#) for more information.

If you're satisfied with your MCO, you do not need to take any action.

To select a new MCO, you may:

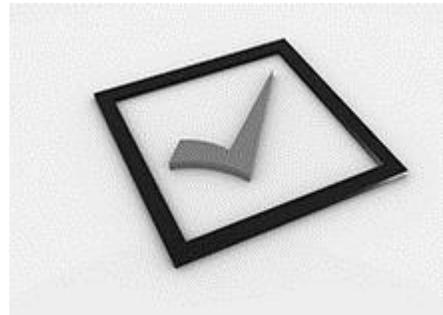
- Complete the MCO Selection Form, which can be filled out online, or, fill out a hard copy and mail or fax it to BWC. Both versions of the form are available by [clicking here](#);
- Complete a selection form provided by an MCO;
- Submit a letter stating the selection on company letterhead to BWC.

MCO changes become effective June 30.

Tell us your thoughts! We're sending surveys

If you've recently had contact with a BWC representative, you may receive a survey in the mail. We sent out surveys earlier this week and will continue sending them on a monthly basis to select employers who've interacted with BWC.

If you receive a survey, please fill it out and return it to us in the postage-paid envelope.



Your thoughts are important to us. These surveys help us evaluate the effectiveness of our risk-management programs and the performance of our customer service representatives. They'll also help us to better meet your needs and improve our services in the future. Thank you in advance for your help.

this week to present a \$39,600 safety grant check to Pandora's Hilty Home! Check out how they're keeping their employees safe in this story from [Your Hometown Lima Stations](#).

Also, check out the story, "[BWC helps companies put safety first](#)," in the June issue of Columbus CEO magazine.

Businesses around Ohio honored for keeping their employees safe

Hundreds of businesses were recognized during the month of April for their success in keeping employees safe on the job. These businesses were recognized during safety council meetings across the state. Check out who was honored by [clicking here](#) and [here](#).

Safety councils are organized by local business organizations and partner with BWC to educate employers and workers about workplace safety. Each year, these safety councils recognize members with strong safety records at annual awards events.

Safety update

Check out this month's Safety Update from the BWC Library by [clicking here](#).

Second 50/50 payment is due June 2

If your business is enrolled in the 50/50 Payment Plan, the second payment is due on June 2. Please remember that this payment cannot be future-dated. Payments can be made online at bwc.ohio.gov. Thank you!

The 50/50 Payment Plan allows employers to split their premium into two payments. If you're not enrolled in the 50/50 Payment Plan, you can take advantage of this option during the next payroll reporting period.

Safety councils of the year recognized

The safety council of the year awards were announced May 5. Safety councils serve as partners in BWC's efforts to educate employers and workers about workplace safety. There are 81 safety councils in Ohio.

This year's top winners are:

- Ashtabula Safety Council, first place;
- Portage County Safety Council, second place;
- Huron County Safety Council and Licking County Safety Council, third place (tied);
- Ashland Area Safety Council, fourth place.

The following safety councils received honorable mentions: Miami County Safety Council, Knox County Safety Council, Lorain County Safety Council, Lake County Safety Council, Summit County Safety Council, Stark County Safety Council, Greater Cleveland Safety Council, Cleveland Southwest Safety Council, Medina County Safety Council and West Central Ohio Safety Council.

Through BWC's [Destination: Excellence](#) program, employers have until July 31 to enroll in a local safety council. Visit bwc.ohio.gov or call 1-800-644-6292 for more information about the Safety Council Program.

Transitional work training scheduled for May 20

Employers can attend an upcoming transitional work developer training session to learn more about transitional work, which helps an employer's injured employees with temporary physical restrictions transition back to work as quickly and safely as possible.

The next training opportunity is May 20 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Ohio Center for Occupational Safety and Hygiene, 13430 Yarmouth Drive, Pickerington (near Columbus).

BWC-certified case managers and physical and occupational therapists can use this training to become BWC-accredited transitional work developers, who work with Ohio employers to help them develop customized return-to-work or remain-at-work plans. Continuing education units are available through the groups listed in [this month's issue of Provider eNews](#).

To learn more about selecting or becoming a transitional work developer, [click here](#).

For more information about the May 20 training, email TWSupport@bwc.state.oh.us or call 614-995-0437.

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