

From: Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation

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BWC eNews



October 2013

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BWC eBriefs

Billion Back complete!



BWC is now distributing the final \$81.7 million in rebates. For more information, [click here](#).

Safety for the aging workplace

BWC recently teamed up with the Ohio Department of Aging and other Ohio government and state business partners for **Steady U**, a statewide collaborative aimed at preventing slips, trips and falls in older Ohioans.



Why? Employees ages 45 and up are more likely to fall in the workplace than other workers. Work-related slips, trips and falls often result in sick days, reduced productivity and expensive workers' compensation claims for the employer. The average BWC claim for lost time (taking time off) related to slips, trips and falls is more than \$31,000.

Here are 10 ways to reduce falls in your workplace:

- Keep a written housekeeping program;
- Ensure that floors are clean and dry;
- Employ proper floor cleaning procedures;
- Wear slip-resistant shoes;
- Block entry into areas with wet floors;
- Maintain adequate lighting;
- Encourage employees to take their time and watch where they're going;
- Maintain a written removal plan for snow and ice;
- Place additional mats in entrances during inclement weather;
- Ask employees to use stepstools instead of standing on furniture.

On the radio

Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer was recently interviewed about his efforts to connect with employers around the state on 1370 WSPD. To hear the interview, [click here](#).

Safety update

BWC's Division of Safety & Hygiene offers a monthly safety update to keep you updated on the latest news in the industry. Check out the October edition by clicking [here](#).

We want to hear from you!

Email us about your company's efforts to prevent slips, trips and falls, especially for older workers. We may share your tips on the Steady U website to help others. Also, check out the information BWC contributed to Steady U's website [here](#).

Opioid prescribing guidelines established

New opioid prescribing guidelines announced by Gov. John R. Kasich last week are part of an ongoing effort to halt the misuse and abuse of prescription pain medications and unintentional overdoses. These guidelines encourage clinicians to fully evaluate a patient's situation before prescribing high levels of opioids for long-term use. They were developed by the Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team (GCOAT) along with more than 40 professional groups, state licensing boards and state agencies, including BWC.

A new website, opioidprescribing.ohio.gov, helps prescribers learn more about the guidelines and offers resources for patients and prescribers.

Reminder: We have a new Web address!

Out with the old – www.ohiobwc.com – and in with the new: www.bwc.ohio.gov.

We changed our uniform resource locator (URL) to www.bwc.ohio.gov on Sept. 25 as part of a statewide initiative to make state agency websites and online services more consistent.

The content and services available on our website remain the same; we simply changed our site address.

Our old address still works, but it redirects you to the new address. If you haven't, please begin using the .gov address. Delete items saved in your Favorites with the .com address and re-save them in your Favorites with the new URL.

We'll keep striving to provide the best possible service to you online.

Sign up by Oct. 31 and save up to 20 percent on workers' comp premiums

Public and private employers have until Oct. 31 to sign up for some

programs of Destination: Excellence. It's a portfolio of programs that provides incentives to employers in return for successfully incorporating safety and claims management strategies.

With Destination: Excellence, employers save money on their workers' comp premiums while creating a safer work environment and helping injured workers recover faster.

Between now and Oct. 31, public employers may enroll in the Industry-Specific Safety, Drug-free Safety and Transitional Work Bonus programs; private employers may enroll in the Drug-free Safety and the Transitional Work Bonus programs.

Don't delay! Verify [eligibility](#), check out our new [enrollment guide](#), and sign up now to save as much as 20 percent on your workers' comp premiums.

New email encryption program coming for sensitive data sharing

In a few weeks, BWC employees will start using ZixMail, an email encryption program, to transmit sensitive information to external partners. ZixMail eliminates the need to password-protect documents transmitted via email.

If you'll be affected, a BWC employee will send you an announcement email to let you know that they've started using this new process. Those that exchange sensitive information with BWC will need to establish a free account with ZixMail by creating a login and password. Each time BWC sends an encrypted email to you, you'll receive a notification email in your regular email account, telling you that an encrypted message is waiting in your ZixMail account.

For BWC's policy to protect sensitive data, [click here](#).

For more information about the ZixMail program, including instructions on how to set up and use your Zix account, [click here](#).

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