

From: BWC e-communications
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2010 2:42 PM
To: BWC e-communications
Subject: BWC e-news - September 2010



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BWC e-news - September 2010

[BWC Board of Directors Stabilize Maximum Discount for 2011](#)

BWC's rate reform achievements have eliminated the need to adjust the current maximum discount or the break even factor (BEF) for the policy year beginning July 1, 2011. The BWC Board of Directors voted to maintain the discount at 51 percent and keep the same BEF formula used to adjust discount levels based on the overall risk of a group.

"The intent of rate reform has been to ensure fairness, equity and stability in our rates and ultimately the premium costs for all Ohio employers," said BWC Administrator Marsha Ryan. "Today, Ohio's rates are the lowest they've been in 20 years, and the cost for employers more appropriately represents the risk they bring to the workers' compensation system."

In October 2009, the board established the current maximum discount and BEFs for the July 1, 2010, policy year as part of its ongoing rate reform initiative.

[Rate-Reform Accomplishments Highlighted at OhioBWC.com](#)

BWC's comprehensive rate-reform effort began in 2007 with the goal of making sure every Ohio employer pays the appropriate rate for their workers' compensation insurance coverage. The key to actuarial soundness is having employers paying rates based on the risk they bring to the system and not one cent more. In just three years, our efforts are paying off.

Since July 2007, Ohio's average base rate stands at \$1.95 per \$100 of payroll, a reduction of 35 percent — the lowest level in two decades. While Ohio rates once ranked among the highest in the U.S., they are now in the mid-range for the nation at

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20th, according to a comparison study by the BWC's Actuarial Division.

Today, more employers are seeing significant cost savings, which is helping to create a more attractive environment for future business investment. You can learn more about the success of rate reform and its positive impact on Ohio firms by [clicking here](#).

Ohio Workers' Compensation Centennial Approaching

Labor Day is a fitting time to pay tribute to the American worker, and to reflect on the great importance of our state and nation's commitment to a strong and stable workers' compensation system.

Next year, marks the 100th anniversary of workers' compensation insurance in the U.S. The passage of the Ohio Workmen's Compensation Act on June 15, 1911, established Ohio's system. The intent of our forefathers was to protect workers and employers from loss as the result of a workplace injury.

Our mission today is the same as it was a century ago. However, Ohio's workers' compensation system has undergone many changes since its inception. Today, BWC insures more than two-thirds of the state's work force and provides above average benefits at an average cost. BWC manages **1.3 million open claims** and receives approximately **120,000 new claims** each year. While we refer to these numbers as claims, we can never lose sight that each "claim" represents a person, a laborer, who has been injured while performing the duties of his or her job.

BWC looks forward to continuing to serve Ohio's injured workers and employers, while commemorating the 100th birthday of workers' compensation in Ohio and the nation. We are preparing to observe this milestone in coordination with several other states and the Workers' Compensation Centennial commission.

Watch for more news about the celebration in upcoming editions of BWC E-News. For more information on the national centennial celebration, visit the Workers' Compensation Centennial Commission [Web site](#).

Paperless Payroll Reporting Simplifies Correspondence with BWC

The completion of another payroll reporting period is a great time to think about how you can save time and reduce paperwork the next time you submit payroll reports to BWC. More than 2,000 employers have already signed up for paperless payroll, which notifies you of important filing deadlines by e-mail and allows you to securely pay your premiums online. You can even future date your payments, taking the worry out of remembering to pay on time.

Employers who are interested in signing up for paperless payroll should [click here](#) to begin receiving e-mail alerts in time for the Jan. 1, 2011, payroll report.

Ohio Safety Congress & Expo 2011

Plans are under way for BWC's annual Ohio Safety Congress & Expo. This year's safety congress will feature more educational offerings, continuing education units and vendors. Mark your calendar for **March 29 to 31** so you can attend the Ohio Safety Congress & Expo at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, and spread the word to co-workers and colleagues. Additional information will appear in BWC e-news as it becomes available.

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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