

**From:** Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation

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**Subject:** BWC eNews – September 2014

# BWC eNews



September 2014

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## BWC eBriefs

[BWC's Special Investigations director discusses our workers' comp fraud efforts](#)

## Another Billion Back rebate decision scheduled for Sept. 26

BWC's Board of Directors is scheduled to vote on the proposed Another Billion Back plan on Sept. 26. Another Billion Back includes \$1 billion in rebates for Ohio's private employers and public taxing districts, and was announced by Gov. John Kasich and BWC Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer last month.



If the plan is approved, employers eligible for the rebate will automatically be sent a check in the mail starting in October. There isn't any paperwork to fill out to receive the rebate.

The proposed rebates would amount to 60 percent of the amount eligible employers were billed during the last policy period (July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 for private employers; Jan. 1, 2012 to Dec. 31, 2012 for public taxing districts).

In addition to the rebate, Another Billion Back would also provide \$15 million in fiscal years 2016 and 2017 for safety grants as well as fund firefighter safety training and expand BWC's Safety Council Program to incorporate health and wellness.

Another Billion Back is the result of investments in BWC's portfolio that continue to perform extremely well. BWC returned \$1 billion to private employers and public taxing districts through a similar rebate last year.

For more information about Another Billion Back, [click here](#).



Check out this recent [Insurance Journal podcast](#) interview with Jennifer Saunders, BWC's director of Special Investigations, to hear how BWC stays on top of workers' comp fraud.

#### **BWC's administrator in the news**

Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer recently met with employers during a stop in Gallipolis. Read this recent [article in the Gallipolis Daily Tribune](#) to see what he had to say about Another Billion Back and other BWC initiatives.

#### **Safety Update**

Learn about grain handling safety, how to recognize and control occupational chemical hazards, and check out helpful apps for your phone and computer available from the National Library of Medicine in BWC's latest [Safety Update](#).

#### **Safety website reminder**

**IMPORTANT:** If the rebate is approved later this month, we must have your current mailing address on file to mail your rebate. If you have an e-account, you may verify that we have the correct address by logging in at [bwc.ohio.gov](http://bwc.ohio.gov).

## **Got a safety solution? Win up to \$7K in our Safety Innovations competition**

BWC wants to hear about what you've done to reduce workplace injuries and illnesses for our fourth annual [Safety Innovations competition](#).



New this year: Cash prizes ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,000 for the top five finalists. Companies or organizations that have developed or implemented effective, innovative solutions to occupational safety or health issues may apply for one of the top honors. BWC's Division of Safety & Hygiene will review the entries and select the finalists, who will compete for the cash prizes.

Winners will be announced at the [2015 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo \(OSC15\)](#) on April 2.

This year's competition is open to all employers with a BWC policy number, including self-insured and public employers.

[Click here](#) to apply for the Safety Innovations competition. The deadline is Oct. 31.

Questions? [Email Safety Innovations](#), or call 1-800-644-6292.

## **New business? Here's what you need to know about paying premiums**

Starting a new business can be daunting, but BWC developed a new resource available to help you learn [how to report payroll and pay workers' compensation premiums](#).

Here are the basics:

- You should receive payroll reports in July and January. The reports and premiums are due by Aug. 31 and Feb. 28. If there isn't any payroll to report, a payroll report must still be completed and returned with a \$50 minimum administrative fee;
- If we do not receive your payroll report and premium by

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these deadlines, your policy will lapse, your account will be subject to late fees, you will be billed for the cost of any claims filed while your account was lapsed, and unpaid balances may be reported to the Ohio Attorney General's Office for collection;

We're in the process of switching our billing system (and deadlines), but we haven't made the change just yet – check out the prospective billing story below, and stay tuned to eNews, where we'll keep you posted.

You can report your company's payroll and pay premiums online at [bwc.ohio.gov](http://bwc.ohio.gov) or by calling 1-800-644-6292. For additional assistance, contact us or visit [your nearest BWC customer service office](#).

## Prospective billing preparations underway

If you haven't heard, BWC is planning a transition to prospective billing, which means BWC will begin collecting premiums before extending coverage; employers will no longer pay for coverage in arrears. A one-time premium credit will be provided by BWC to ease the switch in billing practices, which will occur in July 2015 for all private, state-fund employers and in January 2016 for public employers.

Check out [bwc.ohio.gov](http://bwc.ohio.gov) for more information about prospective billing.

## Take note: New payment address effective today

Starting today, Sept. 15, please use the following address when submitting payments to BWC via mail: Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, P.O. Box 89492, Cleveland, OH 44101-6492.

We changed our payment lockbox provider, from Chase to Key Bank, and we will no longer use the Columbus address that has been in place for many years.

Express payments may be mailed to: Attn: Lockbox 89492, 5575 Venture Drive, Unit A, Parma, OH 44130.

Return envelopes that will be sent with invoices and payroll reports will include the new address. As long as you use the envelope BWC sends out, you will not need to take any additional action. If you do not use the envelopes provided, please update the address.

Payroll reporting and premium payments may also be made online at [bwc.ohio.gov](http://bwc.ohio.gov). BWC offers a go-green discount of 1 percent premium discount for eligible companies that do their business with us online.

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