



September 2016

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BWC eBriefs

Safety Innovation Awards program entries due Sept. 30

The deadline for employers to enter the annual Safety Innovation Awards program is quickly approaching! The program recognizes innovations that have reduced safety and/or ergonomic and occupational health risks for employees. Cash prizes range from \$1,000 to \$6,000. Visit bwc.ohio.gov for more information and to apply. [This webinar](#) will take the guesswork out of applying for a Safety Innovation Award.

BWC in the news

BWC's research grant program was featured recently in Risk &

Ohioans lost due to workplace accidents honored

A Sept. 1 memorial recognized Ohio workers who died as the result of a workplace accident. The names of 129 workers were read aloud during BWC's sixth annual Fallen Workers Memorial. Gathering for the ceremony in BWC's William Green Building were BWC Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison, members of the agency's Board of Directors, and labor and business



BWC Board Director David Caldwell rings the memorial bell to commemorate Ohio workers who lost their lives following a workplace injury at the Fallen Workers Memorial.

leaders. The ceremony concluded with the tolling of a memorial bell now displayed in the lobby of the William Green Building.

"This event is a solemn reminder of why we still have work to do to create a culture of safety across this state and reduce preventable injuries and fatalities," said Morrison. "Increased safety means fewer accidents, and fewer accidents means more workers will return home safely to their loved ones each day after their shifts have ended."

Names of the fallen workers are available at bwc.ohio.gov. View the Fallen Worker Memorial ceremony on BWC's [YouTube Channel](#).

Private employers: you can still true-up until Sept. 29

August 15 marked the close of the true-up period for private employers to report their actual payroll for the last year. However, because this is a new process associated with the transition to prospective billing, BWC has established a grace period until Sept. 29 to ensure all employers are able to complete this requirement.

Employers that do not complete payroll reports will be removed from all BWC programs in which they currently participate and become ineligible for future program participation. In addition, they will have

Insurance, a national insurance industry publication. [Click here](#) to read about Ohio's contribution to occupational health and safety research that could impact workplaces across the country. A second round of research projects was [just announced September 6](#).

Opioid prescribing rule effective Oct. 1

Oct. 1 is the implementation date for BWC's new opioid prescribing rule aimed at preventing opioid dependence and encouraging physicians to employ current best medical practices when treating injured workers with opioids. Read more about the rule [here](#) and in this [Columbus Dispatch article](#).

From the BWC Blog



Glenn McGinley, director of BWC's Public Employer Risk Reduction Program, blogs about the danger of confined spaces in [That's not just a tight spot ... that's a confined space!](#)

September Safety Update

Learn about National Preparedness Month, rising automobile fatalities, the dangers of sitting for extended periods of time, and much more in BWC's latest [Safety Update](#).

their estimated annual premium increased by 10% and certified to the Ohio Attorney General's office.

[Visit our website to learn how to create an e-account](#). For true-up instructions, please visit [this link](#). The payroll true-up may also be completed through the call center at 1-800-644-6292.

Special Investigations Department identified \$56.6 million in savings last year

BWC's Special Investigations Department (SID) released its Fiscal Year 2016 [Annual Report](#) highlighting its efforts to deter, detect, investigate and prosecute workers' compensation fraud.

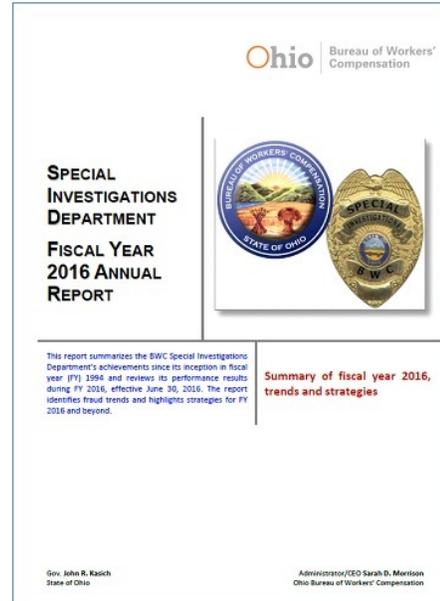
We are pleased to announce that SID identified \$56.6 million in savings for the State Insurance Fund over the past year due to workers' compensation fraud committed by claimants, employers and medical providers. Recovered funds will go back to the State Insurance Fund to care for workers injured in Ohio.

The report includes an overview of the statistics and SID's strategies for preventing and detecting fraud. However, enforcement is not the only method SID uses to raise awareness of workers' compensation fraud. SID also promotes its work by means of articles in periodicals, presentations and social media. Stay up to date on the latest from SID by following the [BWC Blog](#), liking our [Facebook page](#) and following us on [Twitter](#).

And don't forget to keep those tips coming! To report suspected workers' compensation fraud, call 1-800-644-6292 or visit [bwc.ohio.gov](#)

System Update

To modernize operations and improve customer service, BWC will replace our core claims and policy management systems this November. The transition to this new system will occur over Veterans' Day weekend, Nov. 10 – 14. Beginning the afternoon of Nov. 10, many BWC systems, including web and phone services, will be unavailable. In addition, some employer-related systems will have limited functionality beginning at 5 p.m. Nov. 9. We expect to resume normal operations on Tuesday, Nov. 15.



Specific information on outages will be forthcoming as the transition date approaches. In the meantime, we encourage customers to review deadlines and complete any time-sensitive transactions in advance of the transition. For information throughout the transition, make sure to follow us on Twitter [@OhioBWC](#).

Our goal is to make this transition as seamless as possible for our customers. This includes ensuring the transition does not disrupt compensation for injured workers. Steps we have taken to minimize disruption include thorough system testing, extensive employee training and practice, and timing the transition with a three-day holiday weekend.

Thank you for your patience. We look forward to continuing to provide you with great customer service.

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Questions? Call 1-800-644-6292
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