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**Behalf Of** Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 1:14 PM  
**Subject:** BWC eNews - September 2015

# BWC eNews



September 2015

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## BWC eBriefs

**BWC adds new workplace health and safety training site**

## Ceremony honors memory of Ohioans lost due to workplace accidents

BWC held its fifth annual Fallen Workers Memorial on September 3. The event allows BWC and all its partners to take a few moments to honor Ohio workers who have died as the result of a workplace accident.



The names of 132 workers were read aloud during the ceremony. Joining BWC Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer, were BWC Board of Directors members Nicholas Zuk (Chairman) and Peggy Griffith, as well as Tim Burga, president of the Ohio AFL-CIO, and Roger Geiger, Vice President/Ohio Executive Director of the National Federation of Independent Businesses.

"It is a moving reminder each year that too many of our friends, neighbors and family members are paying the ultimate price for their work. It also provides renewed inspiration for our commitment to our core mission of preventing workplace accidents to avoid these



BWC yesterday announced the opening of a new workplace health and safety training center located at Northwest State Community College in Archbold (Fulton County). The new site will add to the eleven established training centers locations that offer continuing-education courses on occupational safety and health to prevent accidents and injuries in Ohio workplaces. Learn more [here](#).

### **Fraud investigators identify \$60.5 million in savings last year**

BWC's Special Investigations Department identified \$60.5 million in savings for the State Insurance Fund over the past year due to workers' compensation fraud committed by claimants, employers and medical providers. Funds recovered will be returned to the State Insurance Fund to care for workers injured in Ohio. Read more [here](#).

### **New how-to**

tragedies in the future," said Buehrer.

Zuk and Griffith also unveiled a new memorial bell that will be put on permanent display in BWC's William Green building as a tribute to these lost workers.

Read more about the ceremony here and view the 2015 Fallen Workers Memorial service on BWC's [YouTube page](#).

## **Public employers: Billing changes coming, seminars and webinars available to help!**

Starting Jan. 1, 2016, the way we bill public employer taxing districts for premiums is changing. We're adopting prospective billing, which means we will require payment before extending coverage.

To help public employers better understand the upcoming change, BWC is hosting free, two-hour seminars around the state to discuss process changes, timelines and the transition credit. These seminars also include information about workplace safety, and can satisfy training requirements for certain BWC programs.

For more information about prospective billing seminars, visit our [prospective seminars information page](#).

If you are unable to attend a seminar, please consider attending a free webinar about prospective billing. This condensed version of the program does not include the additional safety training component and does not qualify for training credit for BWC programs.

For more information about these webinars, visit the [prospective webinars information page](#).

There are several benefits to prospective billing, including a reduction in rates. BWC staff recently proposed a nine percent cut in local government rates, thanks in part due to prospective billing, which accounts for 3.9 percent of the proposed overall reduction. BWC's board of directors is expected to vote

## videos

Check out our new minute-long how-to videos for quick guidance that will simplify your interactions with BWC:

- [How to create an e-account](#)
- [Who is my CSS?](#)

## Safety Update

Check out our latest Safety Update by [clicking here](#).

on the issue Sept. 24. In addition, BWC is providing a premium credit to all public employers of 50 percent off the 2015 and 2016 premium due. This allows BWC to transition the public employers without double billing them.

## Reminder: Safety Innovations Competition entries due Sept. 30

Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation



You still have time to enter BWC's annual Safety Innovations Competition and compete for cash prizes at the 2016 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo next March.

The competition recognizes innovations that have reduced safety, ergonomic and occupational health risks for employees. It is open to public and private employers. Cash prizes range from \$1,000 to \$6,000.

Applications are being accepted through Sept. 30 at [bwc.ohio.gov](http://bwc.ohio.gov).

Questions? Email [BWCSafetyInnovations@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:BWCSafetyInnovations@bwc.state.oh.us) or call 1-800-644-6292.

## Oct. 1: BWC, MCOs ready for ICD-10

BWC is prepared for the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) national implementation that is fast approaching on Oct. 1. This means Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)-compliant providers do not need to make special accommodations for their patients with a workers' compensation claim resulting in uninterrupted services for your employees.

### More specific for injuries

Remember for workers' compensation, claims determinations are based on injury descriptions, not disease codes. The new ICD-10 code set offers the medical community the ability to be more specific in how they document the location and severity of

workplace injuries.

**Bottom line for employers**

Therefore, you may see more (and/or different) codes in existing workers' compensation claims after Oct. 1. However, that does not mean there are more allowances in the claims. The bottom line is more (or different) codes do not equal more allowed conditions. The legal narrative descriptions originally allowed in a claim will not change with ICD-10.

For more information, review our [ICD-10 implementation Guiding Principles fact sheet](#), or email BWC's provider relations department at [Feedback.Medical@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:Feedback.Medical@bwc.state.oh.us).

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