

February 2018

Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation

# BWC eNews

**Get in the game! Register for OSC18 and the MHS18 today**



Registration is now open for two annual conferences hosted by BWC.

The [Ohio Safety Congress & Expo \(OSC18\)](#) is the largest regional safety and health conference in the U.S. and will run March 7-9 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

“Safety is a team effort. It takes an engaged team with the training, tools and motivation to keep their workplaces safe,” said BWC Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison. “I hope every Ohio employer and worker will consider attending Safety Congress and commit to joining us in building a culture of safety across the state.”

OSC18 will feature 200 educational sessions presented by experts from across the country covering topics related to injury and illness prevention, rehabilitation, return-to-work and cost savings. The Expo Marketplace will also host more than 200 exhibitors.

Conference highlights will include:

- BWC Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison will kick off the conference during the opening session

Wednesday, March 7 at 9:45 a.m.

- An [exoskeleton workshop](#) and demonstration Friday, March 8. Exoskeletons — wearable devices that augment human activities — are the latest in cutting-edge workplace technology.
- A [keynote address](#) by Terry Mathis, founder and CEO of ProAct Safety. His presentation, Ready to Win: Creating Effective Teams, focuses on what it takes to build a highly-functioning safety team and shape your efforts around proven methodologies.

Visit the [OSC18 website](#) to register and to view a complete listing of general sessions, courses and speakers.



BWC's [Ohio Workers' Compensation Medical & Health Symposium](#) for Ohio health care providers will be held in conjunction with OSC18 March 8 and 9, also at the Convention Center.

The symposium offers free continuing education opportunities presented by nationally-recognized specialists in addiction, neuropsychology, pharmacology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, wellness, alternative medicine and orthopedic surgery.

View the entire list of MHS18 speakers [here](#), including [Brad Hurtig](#) and [Dale Hull, M.D.](#), who will share their inspiring stories of overcoming obstacles and adversity while recovering from injuries.

Registration and course listings for both events are available at [bwc.ohio.gov](http://bwc.ohio.gov).

## Four Ohio employers finalists for Safety Innovation Awards



The Ohio Safety Congress & Expo will again feature the Safety Innovation Awards that recognize unique innovations developed by Ohio employers to reduce injuries and illnesses to their employees. We are pleased to announce the following employers as the four finalists:

- MPW Industrial Services (Hebron)
- Navistar (Springfield)
- Ramco Electric Motors (Greenville)
- Terracon Consultants Inc (Cincinnati)

The four finalists will present their innovations to a three-judge panel and the public at OSC18 March 7-9 in Columbus.

Read more about the awards at [bwc.ohio.gov](http://bwc.ohio.gov).

### New wellness program now available



BWC rolled out a new, free wellness program on Feb. 1 called Better You, Better Ohio! The program offers a variety of resources to help workers track their diet, quit smoking, get in shape and manage chronic diseases, such as obesity and diabetes.

“We want to create a culture of safety in Ohio and having a healthy workforce is an important factor in that effort,” said BWC Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison. “Healthy workers are less likely to be injured on the job, and when

they are injured they tend to recover more quickly and fully than workers with existing health challenges.”

The health and safety component to BWC’s Third Billion Back rebate last year, Better You, Better Ohio! targets workers at small Ohio employers (50 or fewer workers) in industries that experience higher injury rates on average than others.\*

Employees approved through a [registration process](#) will receive a \$75 gift card after undergoing a health risk assessment and biometric screening. Participants will then have access to digital coaching, educational materials, wellness tracking tools, a mobile app and other resources.

“Enrollment is a simple, paperless process, and there is no charge to employers or employees,” Morrison continued. “All we’re asking of employers is to help spread the word. We know a healthy workforce contributes to a healthy business, so if we can create that environment across this state, Ohio will be better for it.”

For more on Better You, Better Ohio!, click [here](#).

*\*Agriculture; automotive repair and service; construction; firefighters; health care; manufacturing; police and public safety; public employers; restaurant and food service; transportation and trucking; trash collection, wholesale and retail*

## **BWC recommends double-digit rate reduction for private employers**

BWC asked its board of directors last month to reduce private employer premium rates by 12 percent beginning July 1.

“Ohio is in an outstanding position as the cost of workers’ comp coverage continues to fall, thanks to fewer workplace injury claims and slow-to-moderate growth in medical inflation,” said BWC Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison. “We know the less employers spend on premiums, the more they can invest in their communities and in safer work environments for their employees. And when that happens, we all benefit.”

If approved, the reduction would save private employers \$163.5 million over this year's premiums, which are already at their lowest rates in at least 40 years. Private employer rates have decreased or remained unchanged every year since 2007.

The actual premium paid by individual private employers depends on a number of factors, including the expected future claims costs in their industry, their company's recent claims history, and their participation in various BWC discount programs.

We'll have more in next month's eNews following the board's Feb. 23 vote on the proposal.

## **BWC eBriefs**

### **Next employer webinar Feb. 28**

Join us Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 11:30 a.m. for our next employer webinar. This month we will cover the new Better You, Better Ohio! program, the Drug Free Safety Program, the Ohio Safety Congress & Expo 2018, upcoming important dates, and more.

Register to view the webinar [here](#), or [here](#) if you prefer to visit your local claims office and view the webinar with BWC staff.

When registering, please provide your name, title, policy number (or company name), phone number and email address.

We'll record this webinar and make it available for future viewing [here](#).

### **From the BWC Blog**

Ohio University professor Diana J. Schwerha, PhD, pens an insightful [guest blog on engaging millennials in the workplace](#) to improve safety, quality and productivity.

### **Safety Update**

Don't miss the latest news in occupational health and safety, all conveniently summarized for you in our [February Safety Update](#).

### **BWC in the News**

Jim Wernecke, director of our special investigations department, explains a Columbus case involving a funeral escort caught committing workers' comp fraud in this [recent story](#) featured on WSYX 6 in Columbus.



Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation  
30 W. Spring St.  
Columbus, Oh 43215

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