

March 2019

Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation

BWC eNews

OSC19 - It was great to connect with YOU!



Thank you to all who made a workplace safety and health connection with us last week at the Ohio [Safety Congress & Expo 2019](#) (OSC19)!

You missed a lot if you didn't attend. More than 8,000 attendees joined us for three days of workplace safety and health education, in-depth workshops, live demonstrations and much more. And more than 300 vendors made the Expo Marketplace more dynamic than ever.

It was great to see so many of you sharing your #OSC19 experience on social media. For a recap, check out the highlights in our [Twitter recap](#) and scroll back through our [blog coverage](#) from last week.

Remember to visit the OSC19 [Attendee Service Center](#) by March 22 if you need to print course attendance certificates or access presentation materials from many of the sessions.

We hope you enjoyed your time with us this year. Remember to mark your calendars for OSC20, March 11-13, 2020, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. We can't wait to celebrate the 90th safety congress with all of you!

Congratulations, Safety Innovations Award winners

Congratulations to the winners of BWC's 2019 Safety Innovations awards! We recognized four Ohio employers with the awards during Safety Congress last week for developing innovative solutions to safety concerns in their workplaces.

"These employers don't just talk about safety, they roll their sleeves up to make it happen, and I applaud their ingenuity," said BWC Administrator/CEO Stephanie McCloud. "A one-size-fits-all approach to safety isn't always possible and these employers embraced that challenge by addressing safety hazards unique to their operations."

The winners include:

- **1st place: Francis Manufacturing Company (Russia, Shelby County)** for its Hapman Sand Conveyance System. Watch [a video](#) about the Hapman Sand Conveyance System on BWC's YouTube Channel.
- **2nd place: TERYDON Inc. (Navarre, Stark County)** for its Touch-Screen Tablet Wireless Control (a.k.a. "Lunch Box"). Watch [a video](#) about the Lunch Box on BWC's YouTube Channel.
- **3rd place: J&R Farms (Mount Vernon, Knox County)** for its Grain Engulfment Prevention/Retrieval System. Watch [a video](#) about the Grain Engulfment Prevention/Retrieval System on BWC's YouTube Channel.
- **Honorable Mention: Yoder Drilling & Geothermal Inc. (Sugarcreek, Tuscarawas County)** for its Geothermal Grouter Pipe/Loop Reel. Watch [a video](#) about the Geothermal Grouter Pipe/Loop Reel on BWC's YouTube Channel.

20 percent private employer rate decrease

Ohio private employers will receive a 20 percent reduction in the average premium rates beginning July 1.

BWC Administrator/CEO Stephanie McCloud said several factors make the reduction possible, including safer workplaces, fewer and less costly workplace injury claims and low medical cost inflation. Claims have fallen 18 percent since 2010 to 85,136 in 2018.

“We’re pleased to continue the trend of falling rates with a reduction that will save Ohio private employers more than \$200 million next year,” said McCloud.

Governor Mike DeWine praised the move to reduce the rates.

“Thanks to this substantial rate decrease, Ohio’s private employers will see significant cost-savings that they can reinvest in their products and employees,” said Governor DeWine. “This is a positive step toward helping to ensure that Ohio’s economy continues to thrive.”

The 20 percent rate cut represents an average statewide change. The actual total 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, participation in various BWC rebate programs and assessments collected to fund the operations of the system.

BWC drops painkiller Oxycontin from formulary

The powerful painkiller Oxycontin will no longer be newly prescribed for injured workers in the Ohio’s workers’ compensation system starting June 1.

Following a recommendation from BWC Chief Medical Officer Terry Welsh, BWC’s Board of Directors voted to drop the drug from the [BWC formulary](#) and replace it with what Welsh calls “an equally effective but harder-to-abuse drug” named Xtampza ER.

“Xtampza is a sustained-release form of oxycodone, like OxyContin, but it utilizes a unique abuse-deterrent technology that makes it difficult to manipulate — crush, snort or inject — for aberrant use,” said Welsh. “Thanks to technology, this just seems like the next responsible step to protect our injured workers from potential addiction and overdose death to dangerous drugs.”

BWC will phase out the use of Oxycontin and generic oxycodone sustained-release tablets over time, following

best clinical practices and consultation with prescribing physicians.

The board's vote follows other critical changes since 2011 by the agency to mitigate the opioid epidemic's impact on Ohio's workforce. Between 2011 and 2018, the number of opioid doses prescribed in the BWC system fell 66 percent.

"I applaud Dr. Welsh, our medical staff and the BWC Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee for their concerted efforts in this area," said BWC Administrator/CEO Stephanie McCloud. "As Gov. Mike DeWine has stated, no one single person or agency will solve this crisis — it takes a collective effort. Our work continues, and I am proud we are doing our part."

BWC eBriefs

From the BWC Blog

The 2019 Safety Congress & Expo featured speakers and educators from around the country, including one man who shared his personal journey following a devastating injury. Read Derek Sang's inspiring story in our blog, ['A split second' nearly cost safety expert his life.](#)

BWC's own Dr. Terry Welsh sat on a panel discussing the opioid epidemic. Learn more about that discussion in the blog, [Reversing the opioid epidemic.](#)

Finally, attendees heard from a firefighter who says self-defense training and fitness are essential to preparing firefighters and paramedics for hostile situations they may face on the job. We run down his presentation in our blog, [Violence against EMS workers a real threat.](#)

March Safety Update

What's the latest news in the field of occupational health and safety? We have it all right here in the [March Safety Update.](#)

Employer webinar March 28

Register for the March employer webinar for important updates on your policy, the estimated annual premium letter, the Safety Council rebate program, the upcoming rate reduction, and changing your installment schedule or estimated exposure. And we'll of course offer our monthly safety tip.

Register to [attend online](#) Thursday, March 28, at 11:30 a.m. or [sign up to attend in person](#) at one of our service offices. Don't forget to visit the [Employer webinars](#) page to view recorded presentations from past webinars.

Important program deadlines March 29

Attention private employers that participate in the Drug-Free Safety Program (DFSP), One Claim Program (OCP) and EM Cap Program: March 29 is the deadline for:

- [DFSP](#) participants to submit an annual report.
- [OCP](#) participants to complete education requirements.
- [EM Cap](#) participants to complete education requirements.

Registration open for BWC's Medical & Health Symposium, April 26 – 27

Ohio providers are invited to BWC's fourth annual Medical & Health Symposium focusing on *Comprehensive Care for an Injured Worker*. By attending, providers will have access to state and national medical experts who will speak on topics such as chemical dependency, medical marijuana, opioids, traumatic brain injuries, patient collaboration and chiropractic care.

We also offer an educational track for provider staff, the medical office personnel who manage the day-to-day operations of workers' compensation processes and workflows.

Learn more about the symposium and register to attend [here](#).

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