

# BWC eNews

## **BWC systems outage this weekend**

We are upgrading our systems to better serve you! Due to this maintenance, our website, call center and other systems will be unavailable from Friday, May 3, at 5 p.m. until Monday, May 6, at 7 a.m.

We appreciate your patience as we continue to improve our systems. In the meantime, if you can't wait until May 6 to file a claim or apply for coverage, please see our instructions below.

### **How to file a claim**

An injured worker has one year from the date of injury to file a claim. The easiest and most effective way to file a claim is to submit the claim online once our website returns on May 6. If you want to submit a claim now, you have two options.

- File a claim directly with your managed care organization (MCO). If you don't know who your MCO is, contact your employer to see if he or she can provide contact information.
- Email [BWCCOREFROI@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:BWCCOREFROI@bwc.state.oh.us). You'll receive instructions via email on how to file a claim and a form, called First Report of an Injury, Occupational Disease or Death (FROI). After we complete our maintenance on May 6, we'll enter the information into the system and issue a claim number.

### **How to apply for coverage**

Email [policyprocessing@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:policyprocessing@bwc.state.oh.us). Please include the following in your email:

- Your name

- Company name
- DBA (doing business as) name
- Complete address
- Telephone number

Once we receive your email, our staff will contact you via email. If they have more questions, you may receive a call from one of our representatives.

Once again, we thank you for your patience.

## **BWC pledges another \$1 million to law enforcement body armor**

Due to high demand, BWC has pledged an additional \$1 million to funding body armor for Ohio law enforcement officers.

The funds will go to the [Ohio Law Enforcement Body Armor Program](#), which was created by Governor DeWine while he served as Ohio's Attorney General. The additional money brings total funding for the body armor program to \$3.5 million.

"It is critical that law enforcement officers in Ohio have access to equipment that can help them come home to their families every day," said Governor DeWine. "Officers should have access to this life-saving safety gear, and by adding this extra funding to the Ohio Law Enforcement Body Armor Program, we can ensure that more officers throughout the state are protected."

To date, BWC has approved funding for 335 law enforcement agencies, slightly exceeding the funding initially allotted to the program for this fiscal year. The new \$1 million in grants, which is in addition to \$500,000 [added to the program in February](#), will go toward funding body armor for agencies whose grant applications are still pending or agencies that are anticipated to apply.

"These funds are clearly making a difference, and we're pleased to commit these additional dollars so the men and women who put their lives on the line every day for their fellow Ohioans can return safe to their families after their shift each day," said BWC Administrator/CEO Stephanie McCloud.

The Ohio Law Enforcement Body Armor Program, which is administered by Attorney General Dave Yost, allows local law enforcement agencies to receive up to \$40,000 per agency to purchase body armor vests with a local match of 25 percent. Interested agencies may apply for the program through the [Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway](#).

## **Thank you for making the 2019 Medical & Health Symposium a success!**



We were pleased to host hundreds of health care practitioners, staff and legal professionals from around the state to BWC's fourth annual Medical & Health Symposium April 26-27.

Themed "Comprehensive Care for an Injured Worker," the event offered learning opportunities on several topics, including medical marijuana, opioid use, mild traumatic brain injuries, chemical dependency, chiropractic care and transitional work.

We also heard from an [impressive lineup of captivating speakers](#). BWC Administrator/CEO Stephanie McCloud introduced Chris Hart, a pharmacist and recovering addict, who recounted his experiences battling addiction as a member of the healthcare profession during his presentation Friday. He also hosted *Ask an Addict* on Saturday to answer questions about his experiences with the disease.

Former DEA agent Robert Stutman later presented on the current drug epidemic and his experiences traveling to 73 countries and discussing the war on drugs with three sitting presidents.

Thank you to our speakers, exhibitors, volunteers and attendees for making our symposium a success!

Attendees, please remember to complete your online session surveys and symposium feedback forms.

We look forward to seeing you at our fifth annual Ohio Workers' Compensation Symposium in 2020.

### **Learn fall protection and prevention! Attend a BWC stand-down event**

BWC will host four free training events next week as part of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) [National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls](#).

The Stand-Downs encourage employers across the nation to hold events May 6-10 to discuss fall prevention and offer safety demonstrations and training on hazard recognition.

Plan now to attend one of our Stand-Down events:

**Garfield Heights** - 8 a.m. to noon, Tuesday, May 7, at BWC's Garfield Heights Service Office – 4800 E. 131st St., Garfield Heights, OH 44131

To register, visit the [BWC Learning Center](#) and enter Stand-Down Event in the search field, then enroll for the Garfield Heights event.

**Mansfield** - 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 7, at MHS Industrial Supply – 70 Sawyer Parkway, Mansfield, OH 44903

Presentation by experts from FallTech; co-hosted by MHS Industrial Supply

To register, visit the [BWC Learning Center](#) and enter Stand-Down Event in the search field, then enroll for the Mansfield event.

**Pickerington** - 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Friday, May 10, at BWC's Ohio Center for Occupational Safety and Health – 13430 Yarmouth Drive, Pickerington, OH 43147

Presentations by experts from Guardian Fall Protection, LBJ Inc. and the Columbus OSHA Area Office.

To register, visit the [BWC Learning Center](#) and enter Stand-Down Event in the search field then enroll for the Pickerington event.

**Youngstown** - 7:30 – 9 a.m., Tuesday, May 7, at Boak & Sons, Incorporated – 75 Victoria Road, Austintown, OH 44515

Presentation by experts from 3M and a drop demonstration truck; co-hosted by Boak & Sons, Incorporated

To register, email [David Costantino](#) or call 330-301-5825; email [David Loughner](#) or call 216-538-9720

Also, don't forget the [BWC Library](#) offers an extensive collection of audiovisual materials related to fall hazards and prevention. We also offer year-round classes throughout Ohio to address fall protection requirements.

### **Better health, straight from the tap**



There are few things in life more important to us than O<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O. Air and water. We can't survive without them.

Let's focus on water. Its benefits are innumerable, as long as it's clean and safe. That's the goal of Governor DeWine's [H2Ohio water quality initiative](#). The initiative is part of the governor's budget and seeks to invest in long-term solutions to ensure safe and clean water across Ohio.

Clean, safe water is such an important part of our overall health that it's one of the areas we encourage Ohioans to

focus on when they join Better You, Better Ohio!™, our health and wellness program for Ohio's workforce.

The free program offers health and wellness coaching and other resources for employees of businesses that have 150 or fewer workers. Healthy employees are less prone to injury. And when they are injured, they're usually able to recover more quickly.

You can learn more about the program and register [here](#). If you're eligible, you'll have access to:

- Free health assessment and biometric screening.
- Disease management and health coaching.
- Monetary incentives for participating and more!

ActiveHealth Management – our partner in offering the Better You, Better Ohio! program – also has many free health and wellness resources available to anyone. This includes a [monthly newsletter](#), [webinars](#) and other items covering a variety of health and wellness topics, including the importance of H2O.

This [fact sheet](#) covers the benefits of H2O, how much you need and tips for drinking enough every day.

Better health – it starts straight from the tap.

## **BWC eBriefs**

### **Ohio to host national workers' compensation conference**



BWC is pleased to announce that Ohio is hosting the 2019 American Association of State Compensation Insurance Funds (AASCIF) Conference in Cleveland July 21-24.

AASCIF is an association of workers' compensation state funds from 26 different states, plus 8 workers' compensation boards in Canada. The association gathers each year to discuss hot topics and best practices. Registered attendees attend sessions on subjects such as claims management, safety and national issues. For more information and to register please visit [www.aascifannual.org](http://www.aascifannual.org).

### **From the BWC blog**

BWC Chief Medical Officer Dr. Terrance Welsh says behavioral barriers can have more impact than pain alone in slowing an injured person's recovery. Read more in [our blog](#) summarizing his presentation on holistic care during last week's Medical & Health Symposium.

### **Safety Update**

With summer approaching, young adults will soon be entering the workforce. #MySafeSummerJob is a social media campaign to educate young workers about their rights in the workplace, recognizing dangerous work conditions and protecting themselves on the job. Learn more about this campaign and all the latest in workplace health and safety in the [May Safety Update](#).

### **May employer webinars**

Our next employer webinars are scheduled for May 14 and 30. We'll cover several topics, including the Policy year 2019 renewal (Estimated Annual Premium updates and the annual true-up report), program options for employers and our monthly safety tip.

Follow these links to attend online:

- 1:30 p.m. [Tuesday, May 14](#)
- 11:30 a.m. [Thursday, May 30](#)

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.

# Be your own **GUARDIAN ANGEL!**

*Don't let safe habits slip at work and at home*



Learn more at

**BeSafeOhio.com**



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

Questions? Call 1-800-644-6292  
or visit us on the web [www.bwc.ohio.gov](http://www.bwc.ohio.gov)

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