

From: BWC e-communications
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BWC e-news - August 2010

Rate Notification Just a Click Away

In our continued efforts to improve service while reducing costs, BWC is transitioning from the traditional paper premium rate letter to an electronic notification of your premium rates for the current policy year. In the past, BWC mailed nearly 284,000 premium letters a year to Ohio employers. More recently, we have systematically encouraged employers to use our Web site as their primary source for account information. Having premium rate notices available online is the next step.

In the coming weeks, employers across Ohio will receive a more cost-efficient postcard directing them to our Web site, ohiobwc.com. Here they can set up an e-account and access their account data and claim information online. The postcard will provide the following Web path to the employer's 2010 policy year premium rates:

- Select Ohio Employers;
- Under Rating Information, select Experience Period Data;
- Enter your policy number, select Next;
- To obtain the experience exhibit for policy year 2010, select the Download button;
- To obtain the details involving the premium rate, select the Calculation of Premium Rates link at the bottom of the page.

Remember, you must have an e-account to view this information.

For assistance, please call BWC's Customer Contact Center at 1-800-OHIOBWC from 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

BWC Investment Portfolio Returns 12 Percent in Fiscal Year 2010

The BWC Board of Directors heard outstanding news during its July meeting when

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Chief Investment Officer Bruce Dunn reported significant gains in BWC's total investment portfolio during Fiscal Year 2010. The unaudited portfolio net return of 12 percent — after management fees — was achieved through a 13-percent net return for bonds and 12.3-percent net return for equities over the period.

“These impressive gains are a direct result of careful research and analysis by our professional investment staff and consultants,” said BWC Administrator Marsha Ryan. “They are employing best practices and working closely with the Board to make thoughtful investments that are producing profits at a time when similar funds are struggling.”

The solid returns follow several actions taken by the Board's Investment Committee over the last two years, which are intended to maintain a strong portfolio. These actions included implementation of a strategy to diversify fixed and equity investments within the State Insurance Fund; a comprehensive update to the fund's investment policy statement; and selection of passive-investment managers to execute BWC's new investment strategy.

BWC Board Updates Professional Providers and Medical Services Fee Schedule

During its July 29 meeting, the BWC Board of Directors approved an update to BWC's professional providers and medical services fee schedule, which sets reimbursement rates for the more than 64,000 certified medical providers. The updated fee schedule will become effective Oct. 25.

The updated schedule is projected to increase reimbursement to providers serving Ohio's injured workers by nearly 3 percent. New codes used to identify medical services and procedures will make certain injured workers receive appropriate care; ease the reimbursement process; and bring more clarity to the benefits covered under BWC's plan.

BWC fee schedules are available for viewing at ohiobwc.com.

BWC Continues to Make Progress in Review of Comprehensive Study

BWC has made significant progress in the implementation of recommendations within the comprehensive study of Ohio's workers' compensation system, ordered by the 127th General Assembly in House Bill 100. The 900-page study includes 146 recommendations which are being analyzed and implemented. In FY10, 59 recommendations were addressed with 46 implemented. BWC's internal team reached 84 percent of its implementation goal for the fiscal year.

“The comprehensive study continues to serve as a valuable tool, providing direction toward the fundamental improvements that were necessary for BWC's long-term strength,” said BWC Administrator Marsha Ryan. “Each recommendation we put into

action increases the quality of our operations and our service to Ohio businesses and injured workers.”

Please take a moment to [forward this email](#) to other managers in your organization and to your colleagues who may find it of value.

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