

From: BWC e-communications
Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2009 4:26 PM
To: BWC e-communications
Subject: BWC e-news - October 2009



[Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation](#) | [Injured Workers](#) | [Employers](#) | [Safety Services](#) | [Medical Providers](#) | [Contact](#)



BWC e-news - October 2009

[A Message from Administrator Marsha P. Ryan](#)

BWC Board of Directors Lowers Premiums for Public Employers

For more than two years, BWC and its Board of Directors have worked to ensure each Ohio employer is paying a rate that matches the risk they bring to our workers' compensation system. A great deal has been accomplished in our rate reform efforts, especially to establish parity in the rates being paid by group-rated and non group-rated employers.

I am pleased to report that we are also making significant strides in lowering rates for public employers. At its Sept. 25 meeting, the BWC Board of Directors lowered workers' compensation premiums for Ohio's Public Employer Taxing Districts (PECs) by an average of 17 percent beginning Jan. 1, 2010. This follows last year's 5-percent rate reduction for this group. PECs represent approximately 3,800 cities, counties, townships, villages, schools and special taxing districts.

Insurance methodology will dictate the rates for individual PEC entities, depending on their individual claims history. And while the average decrease will be 17 percent from the current year, some employers may see a slight increase, while others will experience larger decreases. The board is expected to set the actual rates for individual PEC industry groups at its November meeting. These new rates will determine premium for PEC employers for the upcoming program year. PEC employers will be notified of their new rates in December.

[New Medical Services Committee](#)

To take a deeper look at issues impacting the medical care of injured workers, the BWC Board of Directors created its fifth committee. The new Medical Services Committee will work to align services with the needs of injured workers, employers and stakeholders. The committee will manage the development of strategic policy for the provision of safe, cost-effective medical and vocational rehabilitation services for the benefit of injured workers and employers. Board members serving on the Medical Services Committee

Inside this edition:

[A Message from Administrator Marsha P. Ryan](#)
[New Medical Services Committee](#)
[BWC recognizes Drug-Free Work Week, Oct. 19-25](#)
[Ohio Safety Congress & Expo among options to meet new two-hour training requirement](#)

include Thomas Pitts, James Hummel and James Harris, who will serve as chair. The committee will hold its first meeting on Oct. 29.

BWC recognizes Drug-Free Work Week, Oct. 19-25

BWC and the majority of Ohio employers are committed to the safety of our work force. This includes a strong desire to establish and maintain a workplace free of drug and alcohol abuse. To bring greater focus to the daily efforts to keep Ohio workplaces drug free, we are recognizing Drug-Free Work Week from Oct. 19-25. This week highlights the benefits that drug-free workplace programs bring to employers, workers and communities. It's also a time to focus on the goal to make every week a drug-free work week!

Working drug-free results in fewer accidents, safer workplaces, improved productivity, lower costs and support for people with alcohol and drug problems who seek help.

According to recent research, the drug-free message is one that many workers need to hear.

- 75 percent of the nation's illegal drug users are employed – and 3.1 percent say they have used illegal drugs before or during work hours.
- 79 percent of the nation's heavy alcohol users are employed – and 7.1 percent say they have consumed alcohol during the work day.

It is widely recognized that drug-free workplace programs help protect employers and employees from the potentially devastating consequences of worker alcohol or drug abuse. Establishing policies, educating about the dangers of alcohol and drug use, deterring and detecting use, and urging people to seek help for alcohol and drug problems are smart safety strategies. They're also smart business strategies.

Based on recommendations in the recent comprehensive study of our programs and services, we are actively working to enhance our current drug-free workplace and safety offerings. In the coming months, we will be sharing information on the future and status of these programs. Employers with questions related to safety, and establishing and maintaining a drug-free workplace can visit ohiobwc.com or call 1-800-OHIOBWC.

Ohio Safety Congress & Expo among options to meet new two-hour training requirement

Earlier this year, OAC 4123-17-68 was adopted, requiring group-rated employers who have experienced one or more claims in 2007 or 2008 to obtain two hours of safety training. We have many ways for employers to access the required training.

1. An employer can easily achieve the two hours of needed training at our Ohio Safety Congress & Expo, which will be held March 31 to April 1, 2010, in Columbus (registration will be available in February).
2. Our Division of Safety and Hygiene Training Center also provides half- and full-day courses to meet the requirement. You can view those courses offered and the dates

and locations here.

3. In addition, we offer online safety courses that you can access by visiting bwclearningcenter.com. They include:

- Avoiding Back Trauma (2 hours);
- Getting Started with Safety (4 hours);
- Preventing Slips/ Trips /Falls (1 hour);
- Industrial Hygiene Overview (1 hour);
- Preventing Cuts and Lacerations (35 minutes);
- Ladder/Stairway Safety (45 minutes).

NOTE: Students must complete *all pages* of an online course and *pass the test* before they can print a certificate from the student transcript in the BWC Learning Center located in the "Personal Learning Center" online.

For more information about our online course offerings, visit ohiobwc.com or call 1-800-OHIOBWC.

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

[Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation](#) | [Injured Workers](#) | [Employers](#) | [Safety Services](#) | [Medical Providers](#) | [Contact Us](#)

To opt-out of receiving future promotional e-mail from OBWC please [click here](#).

Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation
30 W. Spring St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215-2256