

BWC eNews

Workplace injuries down in Ohio

Ohio is outpacing the nation in the decline of workplace injuries, according to a report published by BWC's Division of Safety and Hygiene.

The report shows a 16.7 percent decrease in the rate of private sector injuries in the BWC system from calendar years 2010 through 2014. The Bureau of Labor Statistics Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses shows the rest of the nation experienced an 8.6 percent drop over the same time period. During that period, total injuries in Ohio's BWC system dropped from 105,568 to 95,802, a decrease made more significant considering a 7.5 percent growth in employment during the same time period.

The report also shows an additional 4 percent drop in injuries in 2015 alone.

"Ohio is becoming a leader in the workers' comp industry with an impressive offering of workplace safety programs and services, and the state is now exceeding the national trend of declining injuries," said BWC Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison. "Ohio employers are recognizing the benefits of injury prevention and investing in a culture of safety, including partnering with BWC to make their workplaces safer."

BWC's Division of Safety and Hygiene has significantly improved and expanded its operations over the past five years. Now is the time to explore all BWC programs and services that can protect your workforce by preventing injuries.

Visit bwc.ohio.gov to learn about safety programs and services.



Cincinnati manufacturer knows how safety's done

Richards Industries of Cincinnati hosted BWC Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison Oct. 6 to demonstrate how it has made safety a priority in its workplace.

The company, which has received six Safety Intervention Grants from BWC totaling \$40,000 over the last eight years, demonstrated specialized safety equipment it uses to protect its employees from injuries.

The most recent grant for \$7,800 came earlier this year and aided in the purchase of parts cleaning and mist collection equipment to reduce the risk of employee exposure to oil mist and oil on the floor that could create a slip hazard.

Founded in 1964, Richards Industries provides a variety of industrial valves for the chemical, petrochemical, pharmaceutical and food processing industries.

"With its commitment to safety and partnership with BWC, Richards Industries is setting an outstanding example for other employers," said Morrison.

System update

As we reported in our September issue, to modernize operations and improve customer service, BWC will replace our core claims and policy management systems this November. The transition to this new system will occur over Veterans Day weekend, Nov. 10-14. Beginning the afternoon of Nov. 10, many BWC systems, including web and call center services, will be unavailable. In

addition, some employer-related systems will have limited functionality beginning at 5 p.m. on Nov. 9.

Since the majority of the shutdown will occur over a three-day holiday weekend, we expect it will have minimal impact on our customers, partners and staff. There will be a recorded message about the outage on our toll-free customer service phone line. In addition, our website, bwc.ohio.gov, will display a static page of information explaining the outage.

We anticipate that normal operations will resume on Tuesday, Nov. 15. However, some users MAY experience slower-than-usual service that Tuesday as we process the weekend's backlog.

We encourage you to review deadlines and complete any time-sensitive transactions in advance of the transition.

Thank you for your patience as we upgrade to a new system. BWC is committed to delivering quality services to our customers and partners. For information throughout the transition, make sure to follow us on Twitter [@OhioBWC](https://twitter.com/OhioBWC).

Seminars for public employers planned

BWC will host seminars for public employers (DATES) on the transition to prospective billing and the benefits of joining the [Destination: Excellence program](#).

Public employers will receive a Notice of Estimated Annual Premium at the end of October and will have until Nov. 21 to make a change in their installment schedule, or elect for the deferred payment program. [This video](#) walks public employers through the Notice of Estimated Annual Premium they will receive from BWC every year.

Destination: Excellence is a bundle of programs that helps businesses improve workplace safety, enhance injured worker care and save money on workers' compensation costs. The deadline to sign up for the program is Nov. 30.

Sign up for a seminar [here](#).

BWC eBriefs

Portsmouth propane company putting safety first
Focus on fraud

[International Fraud Awareness Week](#),
sponsored by the Association of Certified Fraud

Portsmouth's Arrick's Propane gave BWC Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison a close-up look Sept. 20 at motorized dollies it purchased with the assistance of a safety grant. Read more share information about the work they do to in this [Portsmouth Daily Times article](#).



October Safety Update

Looking for the latest news in workplace safety and health? Check out the most recent industry headlines in the [October Safety Update](#).



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

Examiners, will take place Nov. 13-19 this year. While BWC's Special Investigations Department fights fraud all year long, our agents will take time during this week to provide insight and combat fraud. Keep an eye on our [blog](#), as well as on our [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts, where department staff will be highlighting notable cases and sharing tips and other information to raise awareness about workers' comp fraud.

From the BWC Blog

BWC Safety Council Manager Michelle Francisco spotlights one western Ohio safety council in her blog, [Darke County Safety Council sheds light on workplace safety](#).

Save the dates: Safety Congress and Medical & Health Symposium

Save the date for the Ohio Safety Congress & Expo, the largest and longest-running occupational safety, health and workers' compensation event in Ohio. Safety Congress will be March 8-10, 2017, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus. The second annual Workers' Compensation Medical & Health Symposium for healthcare providers will also run March 9 and 10 at the Columbus Regency Hyatt. For more information on both events, visit <https://bwc.expoplanner.com/content/osc17/home>.

Questions? Call 1-800-644-6292

or visit us on the web www.bwc.ohio.gov

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