



February 2016 Workers' Comp Update

Depending on which groundhog you believe (Punxsutawney Phil or Buckeye Chuck), we are either headed toward an early spring or six more weeks of winter. Either way, much of the state has now experienced a dose of winter weather and I'm sure there is more on the way. With that thought in mind, be sure to share the attached safety article with your members regarding winter slips and falls.

Speaking of members.....have you sent me your membership list so that we can begin the process of marketing your program to your membership? Many of you have already sent it in but if not, please forward that to me as soon as you can so we can get a jump start on your 2017 program.

We don't have as many deadlines this time around but we do have a few articles and updates to share.

Upcoming Deadlines:

- **March 2, 2016**
 - Due date for next BWC premium installment
- **March 31, 2016**
 - Due date for the annual Drug Free Safety Program (DFSP) report for employers who began the program on July 1, 2015.
 - Deadline for completing EM Cap program requirements.
 - Deadline for the One Claim Program (OCP) education requirement.

Upcoming Events:

- **Ohio Safety Congress & Expo:**

The BWC Division of Safety & Hygiene will host the 2016 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo from March 9-11. The event will be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. There are many workshops and classes offered during the Safety Congress which will fulfill specific BWC discount program requirements for the 2015 or 2016 rate year such as: Industry-Specific Safety Program, One Claim Program, 100% EM

Cap Program, and Group Rating/Group Retro Programs. **To find out more information, please visit the BWC website at www.bwc.ohio.gov and click the link on the homepage.** Please look for the CareWorksComp booth, #811 and RiskControl360° at booth #118. If you plan to go, please stop by and say hello!

- ***CareWorksComp Seminars:***

Our annual workers' comp & safety seminar series is quickly approaching.

Attendance will fulfill the 2-Hour Group Safety Training Requirement* for the 2015 policy year (more on that following). I've attached the registration form for you to share with your members and encourage them to attend.

Reminders and Updates:

- ***Safety Training Requirement***

Do you get questions from your members about who needs to complete the 2-Hour Group Safety Training Requirement? Ask them the following questions, and if they can answer **yes** to both then it is a BWC requirement to complete two hours of designated group safety training:

- Is your company participating in a group program for the 2015 policy year (Group rating or group retrospective rating)?
- Did you have any claims occur between 1/1/14 and 9/30/14?

- ***News from RiskControl360°***

OSHA announced that there is a new budget deal to **significantly increase fines** for the first time in 25 years, to go into effect this summer. Because of the ramifications of these changes, I've attached a comprehensive article from RiskControl360° outlining the magnitude and scope of the changes. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, I will put you in touch with one of our safety consultants for further guidance.

- ***Unemployment costs for Ohio employers increased for 2016:***

- Maximum claim costs increased from \$14,872 to \$15,262. This is the potential amount an employer can be charged for one unemployment claim.
- Maximum unemployment tax rates increased from 8.6% to 8.7%. The minimum tax rate remains 0.3%. Employers continue to pay unemployment taxes on the first \$9,000 of each employee's payroll unless they are exempt from this requirement.

CareWorksComp offers multiple services to help employers control this business expense. For more information about the services contact Unemployment Manager Kammy Staton at 614-526-7165 or kammy.staton@careworkscomp.com.