



513.771.2277 Phone
800.877.2053 Phone

One Sheakley Way
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246

Sheakley.com

Business Bulletin

January 2011

WORKERS' COMPENSATION NEWS

BWC Board of Directors

On Thursday, December 16th the BWC staff provided an Employer Programs Update to the Board members. The report compared participation statistics for Policy Years 2009 and 2010 for the eight discount programs BWC offers: Group Rating, Group Retrospective Rating, Individual Retrospective Rating, Deductible, EM Cap, One Claim, Drug-Free Safety and the \$15K Medical-Only.

The BWC Board of Directors next meeting will be Friday, January 21, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. During this meeting the agenda is scheduled to discuss revisions to the One Claim Program, changes to NCCI manual classifications, and Deductible Tables for Private Employers.

BWC Net Assets as of November 2010

BWC reported that as of November 30, 2010 their net assets were at \$4.8 billion, which is a \$0.6 million increase from November 30, 2009 of \$4.2 billion.

SAFETY NEWS

Sheakley Safety Supply ... Just a Click Away

We are excited to keep you updated on the progress of our NEW ON-LINE safety equipment store.

This new product launch, SHEAKLEY SAFETY SUPPLY, is being developed with you in mind and is guaranteed to be your best source to acquire quality, safety equipment for your workplace. You will have *over 5,000 safety items available to you with the best pricing available*. If you're unable to find a specific product that you have been accustomed to using, please let us know and we will be sure to have that item placed on our site.

We are dedicated to making sure that our safety store will be *your #1 safety equipment resource* to assist you in maintaining an accident free environment and reducing your safety budget for 2011.



Green Year Training

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) has identified a set of rules within the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). According to OAC code 4123-17-68, if an employer that participates in group rating or group retrospective rating plan sustains a claim within the "green year" period (calendar year 2009) or the prior year (calendar year 2008), the employer must attend two hours of safety training annually. If your company has been identified as having a claim during the time periods mentioned above, you must complete your two hour annual training session by **June 30, 2011**. The timely completion of this training is mandatory in order to maintain your group rating status.

Please review the following guidelines regarding the "green year" training requirement:

- Topic must be workplace safety related and at least two hours long (or two one-hour classes). The class may be held in a classroom, online or via a Webinar.
- BWC pre-approval is not required.
- Training must be conducted by reliable and credible safety training sources. This method is recommended due to documentation that is required.
- In-house training is acceptable provided that the training is well documented and is beyond the expected regular day-to-day safety training in the workplace.
- Employers cannot use training to meet two different BWC requirements.
- It is required that one person attend the training; however, we recommend the training of all employees in safety to help reduce accidents.

A signed roster or certificate of completion **must** be sent to Sheakley by one of the following methods before June 30, 2011:

- **Fax:** 513-326-8002 – Attention: Safety
- **Mail:** Sheakley Health & Safety Services, One Sheakley Way, Cincinnati, OH 45246
- **Email:** safety@sheakley.com

Sheakley has your Green Year Training covered with courses in January, February, May, and June. Review the course descriptions and register at www.sheakley.com.

If you have any questions about the two hour annual "green year" training requirement please contact our Safety Department at 800-877-5055 or 513-326-4675 x2014.

OSHA Recordkeeping

Private employers must post the OSHA 300A summary report from February 1, 2011 to April 30, 2011.

EM Capping Step-6 Requirement

The BWC Step-6 requirement to be eligible for the EM Capping program deadline is March 31st. Sheakley is offering three sessions on Supporting Accident Free Environments (SAFE) in February that will meet this obligation:

- February 10th @ Baymont Inn in Northwood, Ohio
- February 16th @ Holiday Inn Express in Grove City, Ohio
- February 17th @ Sheakley Corporate Office in Cincinnati, Ohio

Registration is now available online @ www.sheakley.com.

UNEMPLOYMENT NEWS

Ohio Unemployment Rate – November

Ohio unemployment rate for November 2010 is 9.8%, down from 9.9% in October and 10.8% in November 2009.

The U.S. rate for December 2010 is down to 9.4% from 9.8% in November.

In November UI rates fell in 15 states and remained the same in 14 states. Biggest declines in UI rates for November were in MI, 12.4% down from 12.8% in October, and in PA, 8.6% down from 8.8% in October.

Overall rates are beginning to creep down, but very slowly. Overall jobless claims have fallen to 388,000 applications for new unemployment benefits, the lowest point since the week of July 12, 2008 and down significantly from the peak weekly number of 651,000 in March of 2009. Unemployment applications below 425,000 are an indication of modest growth, but economists caution that until they fall below 375,000 or below per week we will not see a strong decline in unemployment.

Weekly Benefit Amounts for 2011

Number of Qualifying Dependents	Maximum Weekly Benefit Amount	Minimum Average Weekly Wage
0	\$387	\$774
1 – 2	\$470	\$940
3 +	\$524	\$1,048

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

BWC Board of Directors Appointees Rejected

On Tuesday, December 21st Senate Republicans rejected the desired appointees of Governor Strickland for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation Board of Directors. The rejections were based on the belief that Governor-elect John Kasich should have the opportunity to elect the appointments. The four appointees for new terms were: Charles A. Bryan, Alison L. Falls, James W. Harris, and Chairman William Lhota.

To learn more about these changes and how they will impact your business, please contact our office at 513-326-4675 x2044 or visit our website at www.sheakley.com.