



Business Bulletin

July 2010

WORKERS' COMPENSATION NEWS

Policy Year 2011 Safety Council

Join a local BWC sponsored safety council by July 31, 2010 and get a 2-percent rebate on your premiums. Safety council members will have the opportunity to earn an additional 2-percent performance bonus rebate if their severity or frequency of injuries in the workplace is reduced by 10 percent.

To receive BWC Safety Council rebate, you must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Join your local safety council by July 31, 2010
- Attend 10 safety council meetings (at least 8 through the local safety council, you may receive credit for up to two meetings through attendance at BWC's safety training courses or industry-specific training)
- Send a qualified senior-level manager to a safety council sponsored meeting
- Submit semiannual workplace accident reports for the 2010 calendar year

BWC Net Assets as of May 31st

BWC reported that as of May 31, 2010 their net assets were at \$3.8 billion. The decrease in net assets is a result of the Board of Directors decision to reduce the reserve discount rate from 4.5% to 4.0%. This decision increased the reserves for compensation and compensation adjustment expenses by \$550 million, which is a liability on BWC's Statement of Net Assets.

SAFETY NEWS

One-Claim Program Safety Training

The Bureau of Workers' Compensation requires the accident-prevention coordinator of an employer participating in the One Claim Program to attend one 6-hour BWC-approved safety and health management course and complete a 6-hour online training each program year. Sheakley's safety certified trainers are offering a course that will meet the BWC classroom requirement and we would like to invite your accident-prevention coordinator to attend our **Safety Building Blocks** course.

Please clear your calendars and join us at one of the following locations:

Columbus October 4, 2010
Cincinnati October 7, 2010
Toledo October 19, 2010
Cleveland October 27, 2010

Please contact Sheakley Health and Safety Services today to register!

PH: (800) 877-5055, ext. 1150

EM: jhacker@sheakley.com

UNEMPLOYMENT NEWS

Ohio Unemployment Rate – May

Ohio unemployment rate rises from 10.3% in May 2009 to 10.7% for May 2010.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

House Bill 415 (DeBose, Garland) – Text Messaging

The bill was introduced in January 2010 and has made its way to the Senate's Highway & Transportation Committee where the members adopted a substitute bill replacing verbiage regarding a mobile communication device with "using an electronic wireless communications device to write, send or read a text-based communication." In addition to the verbiage change the substitute bill adds five more exemptions to the prohibition against texting while driving for persons who are:

- Entering data to make or receive a telephone call
- Receiving messages related to navigation and operation of a vehicle, safety, emergency, traffic, or weather information
- Receiving wireless messages via radio waves
- Using a device for navigation purposes
- Using a device that doesn't require manually entering data

The committee will also be adding an exemption for commercial truck drivers using a hands-free communication device.

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.