

September 2011

ATTENTION: Safety Personnel

*Sheakley Makes
Purchasing Safety Supplies
a Lot Easier!*

Introducing...



As part of our continued expansion of safety services, Sheakley is excited to introduce our new internet retail store **Equip**,

www.sheakleyequip.com. This online store gives our customers the opportunity to choose from an extensive variety of high quality safety merchandise and apparel, ranging from personal protective equipment to janitorial supplies.

A feature unique to Equip is the ability to provide our customers with a customized web store that is designed specifically for their purchasing needs. This customized store is a great time saver for the Safety Manager or Purchasing Director who buys large amounts of supplies and merchandise from multiple vendors and is looking to simplify that process. With our "one-stop-shop" Equip allows buyers to select the competitively priced merchandise they want to purchase on an ongoing basis and have it all available in one easy to use website. Equip is also the perfect solution for employers with multiple locations who want to achieve better control of the quality, quantity and price of the supplies and merchandise purchased by these locations.

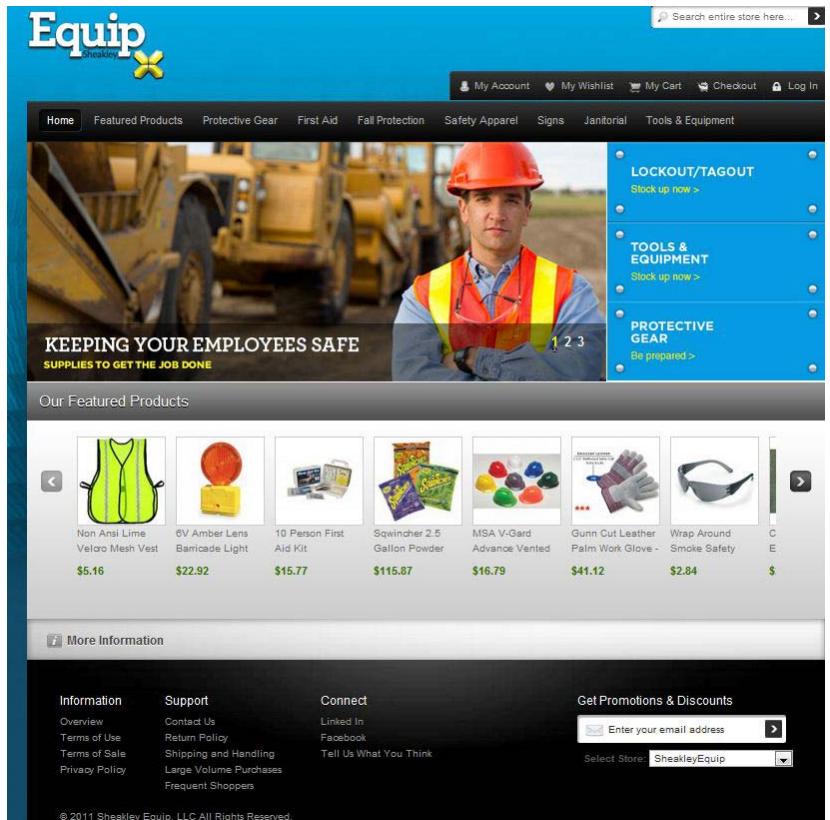
"With Sheakley Equip's customizable website, I can allow my worksite supervisors to purchase what they need for a job, while also having the ability to monitor the quantity purchased and maintain consistency in the price and quality of the items they're buying. Equip was able to meet or beat most of my current vendors pricing and now I only have one invoice! Plus, it's great that I can call Sheakley's safety team if I have a question about a product or supply that I need!"

Jeff Spradling, Owner, Precision Industrial Piping

You rely on us as trusted experts in claim and injury management and we understand that providing a wide range of safety solutions is critical to protecting your employees from workplace hazards.

**As a valued client, we would like to offer a
10% introductory discount on your first order.
Please use promo code EQUIP10 when checking out.
Visit us today at www.sheakleyequip.com.**

To discuss setting up a complimentary, customized site for your organization please contact us at 855-421-3747 (toll free) or by e-mail at sheakleyequip@sheakley.com.



WORKERS' COMPENSATION NEWS

Group Rating Changes

BWC Administrator Stephen Buehrer advised the BWC Board of Directors that a recommendation on credibility levels and break-even factors for the 2012 Group Rating year would not be proposed for 60-90 days. The decision for this moratorium is to allow BWC to “develop a comprehensive pricing package that looks at all programs and considers modifications to incentives, requirements, and compatibility.”

Until the Board of Directors is able to vote on the proposal, sponsoring associations and TPAs must refrain from marketing group rating discounts for the 2012 policy year. With the moratorium in place, Ohio employers should not expect quotes until possibly November.

Grow Ohio Incentive Program

The BWC announced their intention to create an incentive program to promote job creation in Ohio. The Grow Ohio Incentive Program will provide new employers to the state of Ohio options to receive premium discounts on their workers' compensation policy.

The program will offer the following options to new employers:

1. A 25% discount on their workers' compensation premiums for the payroll period in which the new employer's coverage becomes effective and the four consecutive payroll periods thereafter.
- OR
2. Participation in the Group Experience Rating program within thirty days of making an initial application for workers' compensation coverage.

BWC is scheduled to present the first reading of this new program to the Board of Directors on September 29th.

BWC Net Assets

The BWC Chief Fiscal & Planning Officer announced that the net assets had increased a total of \$333 million in July resulting in net assets of almost \$6.0 billion. The State Insurance Fund makes up approximately \$5.3 billion of the total net assets.

Informed Ohio Business Workers' Comp Forum

The Informed Ohio Business Workers' Comp Forum was formed on LinkedIn for businesses to make sure everyone is up to date on workers' compensation issues facing employers and employees in Ohio. This forum encourages its members to share experiences, expertise and also to ask questions related to workers' compensation rules, regulations and policies for businesses in Ohio. To join the forum click here <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Informed-Ohio-Business-Workers-Comp-3810852?mostPopular=&gid=3810852>.

SAFETY NEWS

The Buried Truth Uncovered

Sheakley is proud to sponsor: **“The Buried Truth Uncovered” – the near death story of Eric Giguere.**

Eric's low-key dynamic speaking ability captivates his audiences and proves to be a valuable tool for companies with a need for more safety awareness. His unique circumstances and the ability to relate to those around him drive home the need for safety in the workplace. A work-related accident changed his life, as well as his personal commitment to safety awareness.

Please invite your fellow co-workers, family and friends as this powerful message will drive home the need for safety in the workplace. Please [click here](#) for more information. [Registration](#) is available online (please use policy # 99998).

This event is brought to you at **NO COST** by the Southwest Ohio Chapter of The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE).

Monthly Safety Webinar

October 2011 – Topic: OSHA Recordkeeping - OSHA Logs...Is your company required to keep them?

Compliance enforcement efforts began in October 2010 when OSHA initiated the National Emphasis Program on recordkeeping to assess data accuracy.

OSHA uses records of injuries and illnesses to determine the effectiveness of existing safety and health standards. This webinar will help you understand the OSHA Recordkeeping requirements, industries that are exempt from recordkeeping logs and the fines associated with non-compliance.

During this session we will:

- Discuss why injury and illness records are important.
- Differentiate between recordable and non-recordable cases.

- Review OSHA Recordkeeping requirements and forms.
- Complete exercises to increase skill in using forms.

When: October 19th
 1:00pm-2:00pm (EST)
 \$50 per person
[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

100% EM Capping Assist

The EM Capping Program was developed by BWC to minimize the effects of a significant premium increase for employers who become penalty rated due to claims cost increasing their EM over 1.00 or become ineligible for group rating.

Employers wanting to participate in this program must complete the application by **September 30th**.

Sheakley's Health & Safety Services is pleased to offer an Assist Program that will not only ensure compliance but will help create a safety culture within your workplace. Please be sure to mark on your application that you will work with Sheakley, a 10-Step Sponsor to assure program compliance.

Part of being involved in the EM Capping program, requires that you implement the 10-Step Business Plan that is solely related to safety processes. One requirement that you must meet in order to maintain your program discount is to attend a, 8-hour safety course between 7/1/11 – 3/31/2012. Sheakley is offering the dates below to aid with the completion of this requirement:

- **AKRON** *February 8, 2012*
- **CINCINNATI** *November 15, 2011 & February 16, 2012*
- **COLUMBUS** *November 10, 2011 & February 9, 2012*
- **CLEVELAND** *November 11, 2011 & February 7, 2012*
- **TOLEDO** *February 15, 2012*

In conclusion, you must complete the remaining steps in the 10-Step Business Plan. Please contact Jillian Hacker, Safety Consultant, at (800) 877-5055 x. 1150 or jhacker@sheakley.com today for an overview of Sheakley Assist services and oversight to aiding in the completion of your 10-Step Plan.

Drug-Free Safety Program Deadlines

September 30th:

- Annual Report due for those employers that are participating in the January 1 program year.
 - Comparable Level – [DFSP-4](#)
 - Basic and Advanced Levels – [DFSP-3](#)

October 31st:

- Application ([U-140](#)) deadline for those employers that wish to participate in the DFSP program starting January 1, 2012.

UNEMPLOYMENT NEWS

Ohio Unemployment Rate – May

Ohio unemployment rate for July 2011 was 9.0%, down from 10.0% in July 2010.

The U.S. rate for July was down to 9.1% from 9.5% in July 2010.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Drug Testing for Social Service Programs

Senator Tim Grendell (R- Chesterland) announced in late August his intentions to propose a bill that would require Ohioans submit to a drug test before receiving cash assistance from welfare, unemployment compensation, and other public assistance programs. The proposed bill would require applicants to pay for the drug testing but get reimbursed if the drug test is determined negative. An applicant with a positive test could still receive benefits if they participated in a drug treatment program approved by the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services. Noncompliance of the approved treatment program would result in benefits being revoked immediately and reapplication not accepted for six months. An applicant who fails a second drug test would be banned from receiving their funds for three years.

Senate Bill 206 – Tax Credit Requirements (Schaffer, T.)

The Senate Bill (introduced August 22nd) will allow taxpayers to count employees employed through a temporary or professional employment agency toward the payroll and income tax withholding requirements of the job creation and job retention tax credits.

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.