



Safety Update

Date: March 13, 2015

AGC OF OHIO SAFETY MEETING & LUNCHEON – April 10

AGC of Ohio will host its annual Safety Meeting and Luncheon on Friday, April 10 at Brookside Country Club in Worthington, Ohio.

The Safety Meeting will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. George Gillespie of the Ohio Underground Protection Service (OUPS) will be the guest speaker. He will discuss the new underground damage prevention law that expands the definition of excavator, creates a registration fee, and adds enforcement to the law. Other regular meeting agenda items include an OSHA enforcement and regulatory update and timely safety and health news.

The Luncheon follows the meeting at 11:30 a.m. The Ohio Construction Safety Excellence Award winners and National AGC Safety Award Certificate of Commendation recipients will be recognized during the program.

Cost is \$50 for members, \$75 for non-members. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. [Learn more and register.](#)

BWC APPROVES DOUBLE DIGIT PRIVATE EMPLOYER RATE REDUCTION

Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer on January 22 announced a proposal to again reduce overall rate levels for private employers beginning July 1, and the Ohio BWC Board of Directors approved the proposal during its meeting on February 27, 2015. The 10.8 percent would result in a decrease in projected annual premium of \$153 million. Private employer rate levels will be 21.4 percent lower than the rate levels in effect January 1, 2011.

The double digit reduction is attributable to a number of factors, including lower expected claim frequency, as well as the upcoming adoption of a prospective billing system. BWC currently bills employers in arrears, meaning businesses receive coverage and are billed at a later date. Under the new system of prospective billing, BWC will collect premiums before extending coverage. Prospective billing is the industry standard practice and enables BWC to lower rates in reflection of increased investment income.

As previously announced, BWC will also issue a one-time premium credit totaling \$1.2 billion to private employers and local governments to keep them from being "double-billed" while transitioning billing practices. Details on prospective billing are available at bwc.ohio.gov.

The 10.8 percent reduction is an overall statewide average. The actual premium paid by individual private employers will depend on a number of factors, including the expected future costs in their industry segment, their recent claims history, and their participation in various premium credit and savings programs. Ohio local governments are also benefitting from rate reductions and are paying nearly 20 percent less than they were in 2011.

REGISTER FOR THE 2015 OHIO SAFETY CONGRESS & EXPO

Registration is open for the 2015 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo (OSC15), which will run from March 31 to April 2 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. It is the largest regional safety and health conference in the U.S. There's no charge for Ohio employers and their employees to attend the event.

OSC15 aims to help Ohio employers prevent workplace injuries and achieve better outcomes for injured workers. Professional certifications are offered for safety professionals, industrial, hygienists, ergonomists, registered nurses, attorneys, rehabilitation, claims managers, disability managers, rehabilitation counselors, paramedics and other professions that accept IACET CEUs for certification maintenance.

Register and learn about OSC15's educational sessions at www.OhioSafetyCongress.com

OUPS COMPLIMENTARY EXCAVATOR SEMINARS

The Ohio Underground Protection Service (OUPS) is offering free seminars to educate excavators about current updates to Ohio's Revised Code for safe digging practices. Topics include legislative updates, new and improved remote ticket entry (RTE), excavator training and the newest features to OUPS' mobile app. The half-day program begins with registration at 8:30 a.m., and concludes with lunch at noon. The remaining programs will be held in Jackson (3/17), Wooster (3/18) and Waldo (3/19).

FREE PROSPECTIVE BILLING AND SAFETY SEMINAR FOR PRIVATE EMPLOYERS

The Ohio BWC is switching to the industry standard of [prospective billing](#) for employer premiums. But what does this mean for your business? Seminars are being held across the state for private employers to provide answers and details about prospective billing, including:

- The reason for the transition and its benefits to employers;
- How BWC will cover the costs of this change with a transition credit;
- Transition timelines and important dates to remember;
- Essential information and new requirements for payroll reporting;
- Changes to deadlines for rating plans and BWC programs.

The seminar also includes the latest workplace safety updates and information to help you lower costs and keep your workers safe on the job. As an added bonus, by attending a seminar, your company can receive safety training credit for the following: EM capping, One Claim Program (after the first year), Grow Ohio Incentive Program, Safety Council Rebate Program (one meeting credit), or Group and group retrospective – safety program requirement for those participating employers that have a claim in the “green period.”

[Learn more, view seminar locations and register.](#)