

IMPORTANT DATES

› MARCH 30

**DRUG FREE SAFETY
ANNUAL REPORT DUE**

**LAST DATE TO REQUEST
CHANGE IN ESTIMATED
ANNUAL PAYROLL
EXPOSURE (PY2017)**

**LAST DATE TO CHANGE
INSTALLMENT PLAN
(PY2017)**

**ONE CLAIM AND EM CAP
EDUCATION REQUIRE-
MENT DEADLINE (non-
group rated employers)**



RISK SERVICES

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Learn more about our services
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PREMIUM RATES DROP BY 12 PERCENT

The Ohio BWC Board of Directors has approved a 12 percent premium rate reduction for private employers beginning July 1, 2018. The BWC estimates the reduction will save Ohio's private employers about \$163.5 million over this year's premiums. Current premiums are already at their lowest rates in 40 years.

In 2017, the BWC experienced nearly an 18 percent drop in allowed claims. This is the lowest number of claims dating back to at least 1997, when there were more than 277,000 claims. BWC Administrator, Sarah Morrison, attributes the declining numbers to the BWC's efforts to promote safe and healthy workplaces, increased safety funding and employers putting safety education and resources to work. Since 2010, the BWC saw a 71 percent increase in the number of employers using its safety programs and services.

For more information on the latest premium reduction, visit the BWC website: [Premium Reductions](#).

2018 SAFETY CONGRESS AND EXPO

The 2018 Ohio BWC Safety Congress and Expo will be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center March 7-9. Free of charge to all Ohio employers, the Congress will feature more than 200 educational sessions. Employers attending the Congress can also meet educational requirements for the Industry Specific Safety Program, One Claim Program, Safety Council Discount, 100-Percent EM Cap or Group Experience Rating.

The Expo will feature over 250 vendors offering services and products focused on occupational health, workers' compensation and safety. The Ohio Safety Congress and Expo is the largest safety conference held in the Midwest and, last year, had over 7,700 attendees.

To view a list of sessions or register, visit the Ohio BWC website: [Safety Congress Registration](#). V+A clients who attend should email a copy of their certificate to jweisz@variskservices.com to get credit toward the 2-hour safety training requirement (required of those who had a claim with a date of injury between 7/1/2015 - 9/30/2016). See you in Columbus!

BWC ROLLS OUT "BETTER YOU, BETTER OHIO"

The new "Better You, Better Ohio" program is designed to provide health and wellness resources and services to employees in organizations with 50 or fewer workers in high risk industries. The program gives employees the resources to help them take ownership of their health and well-being.

Participation in the program is free to employers and their employees.

Health and wellness awareness, health assessments and biometric screenings, a website that allows them to develop health plans and track their progress, a mobile app for creating action plans and digital coaching are just some of the benefits available to participants.

To find out if your company may be eligible, visit the Ohio BWC Website: [Better You, Better Ohio](#).

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Workers' Compensation claims and policy management*

RISKY BUSINESS

BWC OFFERS EMPLOYER WEBINARS

The Ohio BWC offers educational webinars each month for Ohio employers.

The webinars cover many topics, such as rating programs, safety grants, information about invoices and payments, as well as many other relevant safety and claims topics.

The upcoming schedule and recordings of past webinars are available on the BWC website: [Employer Webinars](#)



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DESTINATION: EXCELLENCE REBATE PROGRAMS

Three of the programs within the Destination: Excellence package have applications due by May 31. Employers who wish to participate in the Drug Free Safety, Industry Specific Safety or Transitional Work Bonus programs should review the different requirements and submit applications before May 31. Note: The BWC will not allow for late submissions of applications.

> DRUG FREE SAFETY

The BWC offers the Drug Free Safety Program, designed to focus on implementation of a comprehensive program while also focusing on safety. The program offers employers two levels of participation (Basic and Advanced) with up to a 7% rebate for completing all of the requirements. Requirements for both levels include:

- Written policy.
- Annual training for employees and supervisors.
- Drug and alcohol testing.
- Resources for assistance.
- Safety Review.
- Accident Analysis Training (1st year only or for new supervisors).
- Online Accident Reporting.

A Safety Action Plan, random drug testing and establishing a relationship with a Substance Abuse Provider is required in the Advanced Level.

> INDUSTRY SPECIFIC SAFETY PROGRAM

The Industry Specific Safety Program (ISSP) offers a 3 percent rebate to eligible employers for using the services of BWC's Division of Safety & Hygiene. Employers are required to complete one, two or three loss prevention activities, depending upon the total payroll the employer has reported each policy year.

- Payroll less than or equal to \$100,000 in the initial eligibility determination year = one loss prevention activity.
- Reported Payroll more than \$100,000 and up to \$300,000 in the initial eligibility determination year = two loss prevention activities.
- Reported payroll more than \$300,000 in the initial eligibility determination year = any three loss prevention activities.

Loss Prevention Activities may include industry specific safety classes offered by the Department of Hygiene, onsite safety consulting or annual attendance at the Ohio Safety Congress and Expo.

> TRANSITIONAL WORK BONUS

A comprehensive transitional work program is the most important piece of a successful workers' compensation program. In Ohio, the BWC offers eligible employers up to a 10% rebate for using an approved transitional work program to return injured workers to full duty. To participate, employers must have approved written policies, a medical provider network, a training plan and job analysis.

Employers without the written requirement may be eligible to access a 3-to-1 matching grant to hire a BWC certified developer to establish a program for the organization. There is no deadline to apply for the Transitional Work grant, however, a written program is required for Bonus program participants. Employers should start the process of program development prior to the May 31 application deadline.

APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 31

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