



Notable Knows

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BWC Presents Ohio Safety Congress 2006

Ohio Safety Congress and Expo coming to Columbus Convention Center March 28
More than 6000 people expected to attend

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COLUMBUS – The Bureau of Workers’ Compensation (BWC) has announced the 76th annual Ohio Safety Congress and Expo will take place at the Columbus Convention Center from Tuesday, March 28th through Thursday, March 30th. The event is free of charge to the public.

After 75 years, and over 150,000 attendees, Safety Congress is the second largest occupational safety and health event in the nation.

“Safety Congress is a significant event for Ohio because it actively promotes a culture of health and safety within the workplace,” BWC Administrator/CEO Bill Mabe said. “Additionally, it serves as a risk management strategy for businesses that can learn how protecting employees from injuries can lead to healthier bottom line.”

Each year, Safety Congress introduces a slate of new presenters and unique topics that advocate for a safer workplace and 2006 will be no different. *Protecting Our Youngest Workers* is a new seminar that focuses on creating a road map to safely transition younger employees into the workplace and help them understand how to avoid hazards that could lead to serious injury. The four hour session will take place from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on March 30.

Safety Congress also will dedicate a portion of its program to the unique challenges faced by small businesses that often have fewer resources at their disposal. Therefore, many of the seminars on March 29 will focus on helping craft solutions to better control workplace injuries and associated costs.

Additionally, several nationally recognized speakers will present in the General Session. The Water Coolers will take the stage at 10:45 on March 28 to present a humorous look at some of the issues we face in the workplace each day. On March 29, Randy Snow will recount the devastating workplace incident that changed his life forever.

On March 30, Lynne Lancaster and David Stillman will present strategies to increase production among employees from different generations, and Dr. Will Miller will close by talking about the challenges of multitasking and balancing the responsibilities of work and life.

Collectively, there are more than 150 hours of educational sessions ranging from high-level safety strategies to techniques for use specific industries. Also, more than 200 exhibitors will take the floor in the Expo Marketplace to offer tools and tips on how to protect Ohio workers from being injured at work.

For additional information on Safety Congress, including information on seminars, continuing education, and the expo area and advance registration, please visit BWC’s Web site at ohiobwc.com or call 1-800-OHIOBWC. Attendees also can register onsite.

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New technology connects customers to safety classes

BWC Learning Center available all day . . . everyday

The Division of Safety & Hygiene Training Center offers classes throughout the state, and now, customers can get information about the courses with the click of a button. It's now easier than ever to learn more about today's workplace safety topics. The BWC Learning Center is a new way to register and track classes offered by the agency. By logging onto www.bwclearningcenter.com, Ohioans can research available classes and sign up to attend. Customers also will receive immediate confirmation of class enrollment via e-mail.

In addition to traditional classroom instruction, policyholders can be connected to online courses sponsored by BWC. They also can access transcripts of their training history, a detailed log of continuing education credits earned and print certificates for classes attended since July 1, 2005.

For additional information about the BWC Learning Center, BWC safety services, or educational opportunities, please log on to www.bwclearningcenter.com, www.ohiobwc.com or call **1-800-OHIOBWC**.

ESAO Adds Flexible Spending Accounts

Flexible Spending Accounts allow employees to save money by using pre-tax dollars to pay for eligible medical expenses not reimbursed by health plans. Employers save the payroll taxes on the money set aside by the employees.

ESAO has negotiated a 20% discount on the fees to administer a Flexible Spending Account Plan for ESAO member companies. For more information, email Rick Phillips at benefits@ohioemployer.com with "Flexible Spending Account" in the subject line.

New Medical Option for Larger ESAO Companies

Employers with 26 or more employees should take a look at this new medical plan. Significant savings can be generated without any downside risk. Here is how it works: In a year with a lot of claims, your cost is the same as a traditional insurance plan. But in a year with fewer claims, employers keep the savings. There is no downside for the employer.

ESAO clients also receive a 2% discount on the medical premium. For more information, email Rick Phillips at benefits@ohioemployer.com with "CPR" in the subject line