

**Lori Smith**

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**From:** Lori Smith [smith@mariettachamber.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 10:50 AM  
**To:** Lori Smith  
**Subject:** MOV Safety Council February E-Newsletter



**NEWS AND UPDATES FOR... ..FEBRUARY 2010**

*The Mid-Ohio Valley Safety Council is co-sponsored by the Marietta Area Chamber of Commerce and the Ohio Bureau for Workers Compensation Division of Safety and Hygiene*

## Safety Council News

## Mid-Ohio Valley Safety Council Gives Back

For the past two years the Safety Council has actively worked with the youth at the Washington County Career Center.

- In 2008 the Safety Council held its first Youth Safety Day.
- In 2009 it held the 2nd Annual Youth Safety Day and,
- provided OSHA 10-Hour training to the entire student body and,
- just completed OSHA 30-Hour training with the seniors who will be entering a construction field upon graduation.

During this time members of the Safety Council had an opportunity to work hands on with the students and they began to see a need. Many of the students do not have the financial means to purchase items that will assist them in succeeding in their job. The Safety Council recognized this and in working with the Career Center developed a Giving Tree. The tree had ornaments listing a "safety wish list" item from the students, it was displayed in November and December at the monthly meetings.

The Giving Tree was a major success with all requested items being donated by the Safety Council members.

Thank you to the following for your generous donations:

AEP-Waterford Facility  
AEP-Muskingum River Facility  
American Producers  
Condevco - Christy Chavez  
Broughton Foods  
Gary's Towing  
Grainger  
Hannah's House  
Mondo Polymers  
Mid-Ohio Valley Safety Council  
Pioneer Pipe  
Riverview Industrial Supply  
Safety Solutions  
Thermo Fisher Scientific  
Dave Fleming  
Natalie Petschauer  
& All other businesses who were so very generous.



## Upcoming Meetings

### February 17, 2010

#### What's Wrong With This Picture?

*Ever taken a shortcut? Do you sometimes skip the PPE? See someone not practicing safety in your workplace?*

*Join us for this interactive session where you guess "What's wrong with this picture?"*

Facilitator ~ Carmen Shafer, CSP, CHST, CRIS

Shafer Safety Solutions

February 17, 2010

Noon - 1:00 pm Meeting

Registration Begins at 11:30

Location: Marietta Country Club

Cost \$12

[Click here to rsvp your attendance](#)

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#### Save the Date

DOT Seminar

March 25

8:00 am - Noon

WSCC - Graham Auditorium

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#### 2010 RSVP Guidelines

A reservation is a must! (Unless your company is participating in the pre-paid program). All reserved lunches will need to be paid for, whether or not you attend....we're sure you understand.

If you attend without a reservation a \$3 charge will be included in your invoice.

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## BWC / Member News

Safety Council Members **Eligible for a Rebate** must be a "active" member ~

Being a active member requires the following:

- Be a member of the Mid-Ohio Valley Safety Council
- Attend 10 Safety Council meeting or BWC sponsored events. *At least eight through the MOVSC. You can receive credit for up to two meetings through attendance at*

*BWC's Division of Safety & Hygiene safety training courses or industry-specific training. Return your training certificate to your Safety Council.*

- Send your CEO to a safety council sponsored meeting.
- Submit semi-annual workplace accident reports for the 2009 calendar year.

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## **Southeast Ohio UCC Announces 2010 Meeting Schedule**

February 11, 2010 - Location Washington Elec. Coop. @ 9:00 am

May 13, 2010

August 12, 2009

November 4, 2010

*For questions please contact: Chuck Green, Ohio Utilities Protection Service, 800-311-3692 ext. 7250*

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## **BWC Reform Efforts Bring a Multitude of Successes in 2009**

*Rate reform lowering premiums for the majority of Ohio employers*

BWC continued its systematic, comprehensive reform activities throughout 2009. As a result, the agency achieved many notable accomplishments last year, with rate reform being one of its outstanding successes.

*Rate reform*

Rate reform is successfully lowering the cost of workers' compensation insurance by a collective \$139 million for more than half of Ohio's private employers. In 2009, BWC and the BWC Board of Directors:

- Set rates with greater accuracy;

Reduced workers' compensation insurance premiums for most of Ohio's private employers;

Gave business owners more options to control their workers' compensation costs;

Increased safety requirements.

A 100-percent experience modifier cap was also added to assure premium stability in the event of a change in an employer's experience.

"Private business owners are currently receiving statements for their workers' compensation insurance premiums covering the second half of 2009," said BWC Administrator Marsha Ryan. "The majority of Ohio's private employers can expect to pay lower premiums for this period, thanks to a 25.3-percent rate reduction."

*Comprehensive study*

A key component in BWC's rate reform efforts were recommendations of a year-long comprehensive study of BWC and its programs. Last spring, the BWC Board of Directors received results of the study which was mandated in House Bill 100 of the 127th General Assembly. The comprehensive study assessed the agency and the services it provides to injured workers and Ohio employers.

An internal BWC team is reviewing the 900-page study, analyzing its recommendations and prioritizing recommended changes. To date, 20 recommendations have been implemented, with another 45 percent expected to be addressed in the first half of 2010.

#### *Better services*

Prompt, effective medical care leads to quicker recovery, a timely return to work and improved quality of life for injured workers. To effectively meet the needs of injured workers, BWC has focused on improving medical services and enhancing the provider network. In 2009, efforts to accomplish this included:

Replacing the provider enrollment system and improving the provider outreach system;

- Strengthening the pharmacy program to ensure proper usage and tighter controls of the most prescribed medications;

Selecting a new pharmacy benefit manager to improve drug utilization and implementing a pharmacy rebate collection program;

Eliminating redundancies in the alternative dispute resolution process;

Partnering with the Ohio State University's College of Public Health to expand medical resources and research capabilities on a variety of treatment options.

#### *Safety efforts*

Safety is the key to lower workers' compensation rates and injury avoidance. Through BWC's Division of Safety and Hygiene (DSH), safety experts provide training and consulting to Ohio employers and their work forces at no additional cost.

In 2009, DSH developed a plan to help employers decrease the frequency and severity of claims, keeping workers safe and lowering employer costs. This included:

An evaluation of safety intervention and drug-free workplace grants;

- Making safety grants available to employers even if no previous claims have occurred;

Requiring applicants to submit a safety consultation report with grant applications;

Modernization of BWC's drug-free workplace programs.

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## **50/50 Program lets employers pay half premium now, half later**

Ohio's private employers are required to pay their workers' compensation insurance premiums for the July 1-Dec. 31, 2009 reporting period by Feb. 28. There is an option available to help ease any financial pressure associated with this deadline, and it allows an employer to keep half of their premium payment on hand for an additional three months. BWC's 50/50 Program allows employers to equally split their six-month premium payment, paying the first half by Feb. 28 and the second half by June 1st. The 50/50 program is free to any private employer – no hidden costs, no fees, no interest. The only requirement is participating employers must submit their payroll information through the 50/50 program option located at [ohiobwc.com](http://ohiobwc.com) prior to making their first half payment. For more information or to take advantage of BWC's 50/50 Program, click [here](#) or call 1-800-OHIOBWC.

Please take a moment to [forward this email](#) to other managers in your organization and to your colleagues who may find it of value.

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## Eliminate paperwork - BWC now offers paperless payroll option

BWC has a new option to help employers simplify payroll reporting and paying their workers' compensation insurance premiums. A paperless option is now available that will notify employers of important filing deadlines by e-mail, and to securely pay their premiums online. This new option is convenient, environmentally friendly and cost-effective. Paperless payroll also allows an employer to future date their payment so it's never late and eliminates the risk of operating without coverage. Enrollment in paperless payroll requires a user to have an ohiobwc.com username and password. Employers interested in signing up for paperless payroll can click [here](#) to begin receiving e-mail alerts in time for the July 1, 2010, payroll report.

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Do you have member news to share? If so send it to [smith@mariettachamber.com](mailto:smith@mariettachamber.com).



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*The Marietta Area Chamber of Commerce, a private business association with over 570 members, is the leading champion of our community's business future.*

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