

Volume 1, Issue 5

March, 2009

Summit County Safety Council Newsletter

One Cascade Plaza, Akron, OH 44308 — Phone 330-806-1676 — Fax 330-376-3852 — scocx@neo.rr.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 18, 2009

11:30 a.m.

Regular Meeting at Tangier

Timothy C. Campbell

Hanna, Campbell & Powell

VSSR Updates

Watch Your Back

Follow-up to February's meeting

Back injuries are the leading cause of lost time from work, experienced by workers in all kinds of industries. A back injury can trigger a lifetime of pain, inability to work or play and reduced income.

There are dozens of ways that workers can protect themselves from suffering a back injury. In fact, here's a dozen you can share with your workers today.

1. Always wear a seatbelt in a motor vehicle.
2. Wear the correct fall arrest equipment and follow all safe work practices when working at heights.
3. Before diving into water, be sure it is deep enough and there are no underwater obstructions.
4. To prevent cumulative back injuries, lift correctly. Size up the load first.
5. Lift by using the strength in your legs. Bend your knees and keep your back straight. Crouch close to the object and lift by straightening your legs.
6. Don't twist, bend or extend your arms when carrying an object. Hold it as close to your body as possible.
7. Don't pick up or put down an object above your shoulder height. Use a stepladder or stepstool if necessary.
8. Before carrying an item, plan your route - including where you will set it down.
9. Don't attempt to catch a heavy object if it falls or someone tosses it.
10. Don't sit or stand too long in one position. If your job requires standing, alternate feet on a raised footrest. Floor mats can help prevent back strains of workers required to stand at their workstations throughout their shift.
11. Practice good posture at all times.
12. Maintain a healthy weight.

Executive Committee

Sally Cox
Executive Director
scocx@neo.rr.com
330-806-1676

Timothy Eberling
President
teberling@fomo.com
330-753-4585

William Sanderson
Past-President
wsanderson@polymericinc.com
330-928-2210 ext. 25

Mark Schwerdtfeger
Vice President
Mark.Schwerdtfeger@us.hjheinz.com
330-858-1638

Board Members

Paul Alic
palic@goldsmith-eggleton.com
330-335-1053

Dianna Kane
affirmed_di_kane@yahoo.com
330-802-1272

Don McCoy
donmccoy@neo.rr.com
330-418-1889

Greg Newsome
gnewsome@neo.rr.com
330-753-5051

Sandy Rilling
srilling@terminalwarehouse.com
330-773-8207

BWC Representatives

Cari Gray
Cari.G.1@bwc.state.oh.us
330-904-4475

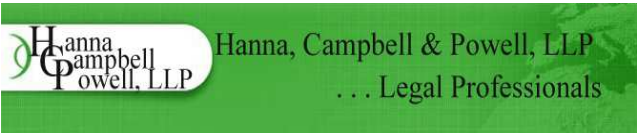
Michelle Burke
Michelle.Burke@bwc.state.oh.us
330-414-9751

The winner of Tanya Weiker's Spine Care Seminar from February's Safety Council meeting is Akron CYO and Community Services. Congratulations!

Thank you Tanya, for offering this opportunity to one of our members!



March's Featured Program.....



Timothy C. Campbell



VSSR Updates

Mr. Campbell leads HCP's employment law group, which represents employers throughout the state in civil and administrative proceedings. Presently, Mr. Campbell represents employers in retail and wholesale food processing, light and heavy manufacturing, interstate trucking, gas and petroleum processing and transportation, as well as a number of commercial and health care facilities.

Prior to entering private practice, Mr. Campbell was employed by the State of Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation and by a third-party administrator specializing in Ohio workers' compensation matters. Mr. Campbell also represents employers in unlawful discharge, intentional tort, unemployment compensation matters, and before the Ohio Civil Rights Commission/Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He has extensive experience in defending VSSRs (Application for Additional Award for Violation of a Specific Safety Requirement) and Mandamus actions.

2009 Ohio Safety Congress and Expo

Registration is now open for the 2009 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo, March 31 - April 1, 2009, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Visit www.ohiobwc.com for complete information about the event including registration, educational sessions, hotels, and more. A policy number is required for registration. Students and federal government employees must register by phone.

Technology will play an important role in promoting the 2009 Safety Congress. **Beginning March 18, BWC will post session handouts on ohiobwc.com for download prior to the event. Customers may print handouts for the sessions of their choice and bring them to Safety Congress if they wish. BWC will not distribute handouts at the sessions. Materials will remain posted on the Web site for at least 60 days after the event.**



This month's winner of the Safety Slogan Contest is Mike Vitale of Hatch Mott MacDonald. Mike's slogan "**YOU'LL NEVER GET HOME IF YOU ARE NOT SAFE AT FIRST**" was selected by the Executive Committee. Mike will receive a \$25.00 gift card for his winning slogan. Congratulations Mike!

Please continue to submit your safety slogans to Sally Cox at scox@neo.rr.com. Each month's winner will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate. The winning slogan will be printed in the newsletter and projected at the monthly meeting. Slogans are selected one month prior to announcement. If your slogan is not selected it remains in the pool for future consideration.

News From BWC

BWC Announces New Deductible Program

How does the program work?

The program helps you lower your workers' compensation costs by offering an upfront premium discount in the form of a per-claim deductible. BWC will pay a claim's costs in full then bill you for these costs up to the deductible level you have chosen.

Who is eligible for the program?

Private, state-funded employers and public employer taxing districts may participate. Group-rated and non-group employers are eligible. If you wish to participate, you must:

- Have an active BWC policy;
- Be current on all payments due to BWC;
- Meet a required credit score;
- Not have cumulative lapses in coverage in excess of 40 days within the 12 months preceding the program's application deadline.

What are the deductible levels?

You may choose a deductible level of:

- \$500 per claim;
- \$1,000 per claim;
- \$2,500 per claim;
- \$5,000 per claim, or;
- \$10,000 per claim.

However, the deductible level you choose cannot exceed 25 percent of your premium from the previous year. For example, if you paid \$2,000 in premium last year, you could not choose a deductible greater than \$500 per claim.

How does the discount work?

By participating in the program, you will receive a discount on your premium. BWC will determine the proper level of discount using the deductible level you have chosen and the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI) hazard group for your industry type. They determine the NCCI hazard group based upon your primary manual classification.

How does the billing process work?

BWC will pay a claim's costs in full then bill you on a monthly basis until you reach your deductible level. You will receive monthly billings for the claim costs for all claims that occur dur-

ing the policy year of participation. If you fail to make timely monthly payments, BWC may begin collection efforts and remove you from the program.

How does BWC calculate discounts for experience-rated employers?

Experience-rated employers' discounts will be calculated after the modified premium rate is established, but prior to any other premium discounts. Administrative costs and Disabled Workers' Relief Fund assessments will not be included in the discount. BWC will use all claim costs in rate calculations.

Can I participate in the Deductible Program and other BWC programs simultaneously?

Yes. You can participate in this program and any other BWC program except the following for injuries that occur during the policy year of participation in the Deductible Program.

- Retrospective rating (group or individual)
- \$15,000 Medical-Only Program
- Salary Continuation

Note: Discounts for employers participating in the Deductible Program and a group-rating plan together can't exceed the maximum credit allowable for group during that rating year.

How do I apply?

To enroll in the program, please complete an Application for Deductible Program (U-148). You may submit the application online, by fax or by mail. Beginning April 1, 2009, you can access the application on the web site, ohiobwc.com. From the home page:

- o Choose Ohio Employers;
- o Then click on the Deductible Program link under the Programs heading.

Private, state-funded employers can apply April 1 – May 31, 2009; public employer taxing districts can apply Oct. 1 – Nov. 30, 2009.

Whom can I contact for more information?

If you have additional questions about the program, please call BWC's employer programs unit at 614-466-6773, or send an e-mail to deductibleprogram@bwc.state.oh.us.



Don't Forget to Review Your Company's Safety Council Participation

We are almost three quarters of the way through the FY09 Safety Council Program year. Is your company meeting BWC's Safety Council Discount Program eligibility requirements? Please review your company's participation on the web site, www.thesummitcountysafetycouncil.org

- Click on Participation
- Then Click on Participation by Company
- Scroll down to your company name - Click view on the right side of the page

The requirements are:

Enroll in local safety council by July 31, 2008

Attend 10 meetings or events between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009

- At least eight of the 10 meetings must be safety council meetings. Up to two of the 10 can be external educational options outlined below, but all 10 can be safety council meetings.
- A person can represent only one policy number with their attendance at a meeting.
- Employer has the option to gain credit for up to two meetings through attendance at Workers' Compensation University, Ohio Safety Congress & Expo, BWC's Division of Safety & Hygiene (DSH) safety training courses or industry-specific training.
- DSH safety training credit is available for training conducted at the Ohio Center for Occupational Safety and Health (OCOSH) in Pickerington or one of its branches.
- No matter the duration of the training or special event, attendance applies toward only one meeting credit.
- Safety training conducted at the employers' workplace, online or required Drug-Free Workplace training does not qualify for the safety council discount program eligibility.
- It is the employer's responsibility to submit documentation to his or her safety council by June 30, 2009, for attendance at non-safety council training or events to qualify.
- Documentation must be an official certificate of attendance or transcript.

CEO must attend any one safety council sponsored function or meeting

- CEO attendance counts as credit toward one of the 10 required meetings.
- If a CEO is representing multiple policy numbers, his/her attendance fulfills the CEO attendance requirement for all policies, but counts as meeting credit for only one policy number.

Submit semiannual reports for the 2008 calendar year

2-percent premium discount

- Employers meeting these participation eligibility requirements will receive a refund of 2 percent of their annual premium.
- The discount offer excludes self-insuring employers and state agencies.
- Employers must have active coverage status and no outstanding BWC balance to qualify.
- Employers who meet the participation requirements will be eligible for a 2-percent performance bonus.

Upcoming Events & Reminders



March 18, 2009

Regular Meeting—Tangier

Timothy C. Campbell

Hanna, Campbell & Powell, LLP

New Industrial Commission Policy regarding VSSR's



March 31, 2009

PDP+ & DFWP Reports for 7/1/08 program period are due to BWC

Fax to 1-877-721-9420



March 31—April 2, 2009

Ohio Safety Congress & Expo

Greater Columbus Convention Center



April 15, 2009

Regular Meeting—Tangier

Pat Grischow

**The Timken Company
Employment & Safety Related Legislative Concerns**



April 22, 2009

Awards Banquet—Guy's Party Center

Don Mannarino

Hypnotist



May 20, 2009

Regular Meeting—Tangier

Michael Kovacic

NFPA 70E 2009 -

Continuing Implementation



June 17, 2009

Regular Meeting—Tangier

Matthew Banning

**Rockwell Automation
Management Systems**

SAFETY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR CAMPAIGN

Each year we honor those among us who has demonstrated outstanding activity and achievement in safety whether they are employed in industry, community, medical or service fields. If you know someone who is deserving of recognition for their contributions to safety, please visit our web and complete the application for "Safety Citizen of the Year" no later than April 1, 2009. We will recognize the individual(s) at our Annual Awards Banquet on April 22, 2009.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF SUMMIT COUNTY SAFETY COUNCIL "SAFETY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR" AWARD

EIGIBILITY FOR THE AWARD

A nominee for this award must be actively involved in safety based upon personal dedication, concern and special contributions to the cause of safety and accident prevention.

Any nominee shall have had at least five years history in safety-related activity, including volunteer work.

All nominees must live, work or be an active member in Summit County – and have had at least 2 years of safety involvement here.

All applicants will be considered from the previous year (updating of data needed), with any new nominees for the award.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations are to be submitted via the Summit county Safety council website. Include a safety-related resume of the nominee listing the nominee's special contribution in the field of accident prevention and safety following the guidelines.

SUGGESTIONS FOR NOMINATION

Listed below are suggestions which will be helpful to the Selection Committee when evaluating the nominees. This is provided for guidance only. Please expand on any of this information and provide additional data which may cause your nomination to be considered in the most favorable and professional manner.

Explain in detail, job/community-related safety and accident prevention duties and responsibilities. Explain any work-related accomplishment and recognitions.

Explain activities in outside safety-related organizations, including any offices held and any recognition received.

Explain any other activities in the local community i.e. church, service clubs, schools, social organizations, and leadership roles held.

Discuss any written contributions to safety publications or periodicals which concern safety-related matters.

Explain any self-improvement activities in strengthening safety-related activities – formal schooling, seminars, training classes, conferences.

Provide any other information that will strengthen the nomination for the award.

CONTINUED SAFETY INVOLVEMENT AND RATING – 100% Maximum

Each of the factors would be influenced by the length of time that the individual has been involved in that activity.

QUALIFICANTS:

Years involved in safety, employment, schooling, etc (up to 20%)

Voluntary personal involvement – consider frequency, time committed, etc (up to 50%).

Teaching or training

Talks, showing of film, demonstration, safety fairs

Development of safety programs

Generating publicity on safety matters, e.g. letters to the editor.