YOUR PHOTOS WANTED!

By Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell, Esq.

In celebration of its 40th anniversary, OSHA is holding a photo contest promoting worker safety, entitled “Picture it! Safe Workplaces for Everyone.” The contest challenges everyone with a passion for photography to capture an image of workplace safety and health and participate in the photo contest.

All photos should depict your image of workplace safety and health. However, among other things, the contest rules preclude photographs depicting violation of an OSHA standard, unsafe procedures and practices, and endorsement of particular products or services. The judging criteria is as follows: quality of photograph; suitability for possible use in OSHA publications; clarity of the safety and health message conveyed; originality; creativity; inclusion of worker, employer, or workplace imagery.

Our Stark County Safety Council urges your participation in this photo contest, and will also be holding its own Safety Council photo contest. Good luck to all you shutterbugs! We hope to receive a lot of photos depicting workplace safety. Shortly, you will receive two separate emails from the Safety Council, one providing the rules for OSHA’s national contest, and the other providing the rules for our Stark County Safety Council’s separate photo contest.

Should have questions about this article, please contact Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell at: 330-244-2864 or jcaldwell@kwgd.com.

Today’s Program

June 9, 2011

Topic: OSHA Enforcement Update: What Employers Can Expect

Speaker: Howard B. Eberts, Area Director
US Department of Labor / OSHA
Cleveland Area Office

June Spotlight Co.:

ProTech Security, Inc., 7026 Sunset Strip Ave. NW
www.protechsecurity.com

ABOUT THE JUNE SPOTLIGHT COMPANY

ProTech is celebrating its 30th year as a Stark County’s premier regional security and surveillance systems integrator. Whether it is a home, small business or critical infrastructure security project, ProTech is known for its ability to engineer, install and monitor a security solution that fits the needs of most any client. ProTech is also proud of its partnership with manufacturers that can truly proclaim “Made in the U.S.A.”. From our partnership to provide “Made in the U.S.A.” security system panels, that are specified by 14 of the 16 largest North American banks, to our partnership with Canton’s own Diebold, for event monitoring of these systems, we take the utmost pride in the products and services we provide, not to mention doing our part to keep America and our area working.

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Safety Council Mission Statement: To provide a forum for safety and health information, education and networking in Stark County, through leadership, innovation, facilitation, program, and support, in partnership with other public and private organizations.
Making Informed Workers’ Comp Decisions

Ohio’s workers’ compensation has undergone many changes over the past several years resulting in confusion for many employers. The BWC has made changes to group rating, claim reserving and many BWC programs have been changed, added or eliminated.

For most employers traditional group rating still remains the best option for achieving premium rate reductions. If traditional group rating is not an option there are other programs that that might be available for premium rate relief. Retrospective Group Rating and BWC alternative discount programs such as One Claim Program and the 100% EM Cap might be other options if your company qualifies and in some cases these programs can provide an even greater premium savings than traditional group rating.

Other BWC programs such as Drug Free Safety Program, Safety Council Discount and Deductible Program can also provide additional rate relief. However, it is important to keep in mind that not all of these programs are compatible with one another and all have deadlines for enrollment.

It is difficult for most employers to have the time and understanding to determine what are the best options for their company. So how do you, the employer, successfully navigate the system and be in a position to make informed decisions? The answer lies in utilizing the resources available to you. It is more important that ever to communicate with, and use the resources available through, your Third Party Administrator (TPA) and BWC Representative. Talk to your TPA about what options and programs are best for your company. They can provide you with program information and analyses so you can make the best decisions for your company. You can also access program information from the TPA and BWC websites.

Important items to make note of:

1. **Semi-Annual Reports** are required to maintain your membership with the SCSC. Reports are due July 15th and January 15th each year.
2. **Don’t forget to sign-in.** If you do not sign the “sign-in sheet” your company will not receive credit for attending. This could hurt your company’s chances of receiving the BWC’s discount.
3. **NOTE: July 1, 2011 will begin a new 12 month period** for the BWC’s rebate program. If your company is eligible, you must attend a minimum of 10 events, with your company’s CEO or a senior level manager attending one of these 10, and submit two semi-annual reports. See BWC website for complete rebate details.

This newsletter is distributed monthly to keep you advised of developments in the area of OSHA law. Note: This should not be substituted for legal advice and should not be relied upon in a specific case.