

Wholesale/retail trade sector employers

BWC, NIOSH partner to offer safety intervention savings

BWC and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) are partnering on a research study of employers in the wholesale/retail trade sector. Businesses in this industry can receive matching funds through BWC's SafetyGRANT\$ Program to implement engineering controls in their workplace if they agree to participate in follow-up studies with BWC and NIOSH.

Participating employers can save money when purchasing equipment that has the potential to significantly reduce or eliminate occupational injuries and illnesses. Meanwhile, BWC and NIOSH will evaluate information from follow-up studies to determine the cost effectiveness of these interventions in reducing occupational injuries.

Who can participate?

Wholesale/retail trade employers or similar companies performing delivery operations of large items (e.g., appliances, furniture, vending machines, furnaces, water heaters, keg beverages, etc.) that pay into the State Insurance Fund.

Why participate?

BWC will provide 2-to-1 matching grants (up to \$40,000)* to employers to help them purchase equipment that can reduce workplace injuries and illnesses (e.g., stair-climbing powered hand trucks, truck-lift gates, etc.). In return, companies agree to participate in a two-year follow-up research study.

When will the study start?

The research study begins in winter 2011. Half of the volunteer companies will receive their funded interventions then; the other half will receive them in spring 2012.

Did you know?

In 2010, 914,160 Ohioans worked for 34,407 wholesale/retail trade sector employers.

- Retailers that sell to the public from stores accounted for 72 percent of these employers.
- Wholesalers that sell to other businesses from warehouses or offices made up the other 28 percent.
- A significant number of these companies also deliver goods and/or install merchandise.
- Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) account for 40 percent of lost-time Occupational Safety and Health Administration recordables in this industry.
- Sprains/strains – mostly due to manual materials handling involving high force, awkward postures and repetition – account for 77 percent of these MSDs.

Need more information?

You can find more information and the SafetyGRANT\$ application online at: <http://www.ohiobwc.com/employer/programs/safety/EmpGrants.asp>.

Employers can also e-mail questions to the contacts below.

Mike Lampl, BWC
Michael.L.1@bwc.state.oh.us

Steve Wurzelbacher, NIOSH
swurzelbacher@cdc.gov

*Grants conditional upon funds availability.

