

Work Comp Connection



April 2013 Newsletter

Division of Workers Compensation:
Serving Kansas for more than 100 years

39th Annual Workers Compensation Seminar Early this Year in Wichita - August 6 & 7

Online registration is now open for the 39th Annual Workers Compensation Seminar scheduled on August 6 & 7. Early two-day registration is \$140. This price increases after July 22, so register early.

Visit the [seminar website](#) to register and view the full agenda, price list, a link to accommodations (with reduced room rates) and parking information. Please be aware that with early registration now open, the hotel accommodations and seminar registration will fill up quickly. Take time to visit the [2013 Sponsor Appreciation page](#), which links to each sponsor's website.

Attendees can register online if paying by credit card or can mail a fillable registration form if paying by check. Access to both can be found on the [seminar website](#). Printed registration forms will not be mailed for up to six weeks.

Questions about the seminar can be sent to wc.seminar@dol.ks.gov.



Workers Compensation Seminar
Aug. 6 & 7 • Hyatt Regency Wichita
[Register Online](#)

Join us at the
Exhibitors' Reception
4:40 - 6:30 p.m. Aug. 6



**Meet the
2013
Sponsors**

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Tier 1 Testing

The tentative schedule for connectivity and full-testing for EDI Tier 1 carriers is available on the [website](#). Select the [here](#) link at the end of the fourth bullet, which reads:

- “Tier 1 begins second quarter 2013. The tentative schedule for connective and full-testing for Tier 1 carriers is available [here](#).” (Note: this is an excel file.)

Kansas Workers Compensation has mandated the use of the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions (IAIABC) EDI Release 3 Standards. Detailed information about the mandate is located on the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) [website](#).

Notice to Workers Compensation Insurers Writing in Kansas

The Kansas Division of Workers Compensation, under the Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL), is required by statute (K.S.A. 44-557a) to collect medical information. This information is used to set the medical fee schedule for the purposes of the Kansas Workers Compensation Act.

Since 2002, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has been under contract with KDOL to collect, compile and analyze this information as the Director of Workers Compensation deemed necessary.

The Division is ending its contract with KDHE for collection of medical information in order to set the medical fee schedule. For data submissions beginning July 1 (first quarter 2013 data), workers compensation insurers writing

in Kansas will continue to report these transactions in accordance with the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI) *Medical Data Call Reporting Guidebook*. Details can be found on the Medical Services and Fee Schedule section [website](#).

The Medical Services section administers the Kansas Division of Workers Compensation's fee schedule for provision of medical services to injured workers. The section revises the fee schedule on a biannual basis to assure that the fee schedule is reasonable and promotes health care cost containment, yet ensures the availability of necessary treatment and care for injured employees.

This section also administers a plan for health care services utilization and peer review, and reviews disputed charges or services rendered by health care providers. Medical Services functions as a liaison between health care providers, attorneys, employers and employees, and insurance carriers or self-insured businesses.

Learn more at this year's seminar by attending the presentation, *2014 Changes to the Medical Fee Schedule*, on Wednesday, Aug. 7.

Tips: Work Comp Launches New Legal Research Tool

Workers Compensation has launched a new Web page of [Recent Board Decisions](#). This new page aids attorneys, insurers, employers and others to quickly find decisions recently handed down. Board decisions will be updated on a monthly basis with the last three months of published decisions. The link to each decision will contain the docket number and claimant and respondent names.

Workers Compensation Survey Unit

The Survey unit is located within the Technology and Statistics section. The unit collects data for the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) programs.

The CFOI program is a federal and state cooperative in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). It produces comprehensive, accurate and timely counts of all fatal injuries in the workplace. Statewide statistics are provided for this program along with the injury type by selected occupation, industry, ethnic origin, event, age and sex. The objective of this program is to inform workers of hazards, promote safer work practices, increase access, improve workplace safety standards and to identify new areas of safety research. A press release is done annually to officially release this data.

The SOII program is also a federal and state cooperative effort with BLS. SOII produces reports on the number of workplace injuries and illnesses in private industry establishments as well as the frequency of these incidents, excluding all work-related fatalities. Statewide statistics are provided for this survey by selected occupation, industry, ethnic origin, event, age and sex. They can even tell you which day of the week and time of day have the most injuries and illnesses! The objective of this program is to allow a business to evaluate its injury and illness experience and to compare its experience to other firms performing similar work and in the same employment size group. The response to this survey by employers is mandatory under Public Law 91-596. A press release is sent out annually about the results of the survey.

The Survey unit also collects data for OSHA in Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Idaho and Montana. The data collected for this program is used for enforcement purposes by OSHA. The response to the survey is also mandatory under Public Law 91-596.



Who's Working for You?

Diana Ashwill is the manager of the Survey unit. Diana received a bachelor's degree from Friends University in 1997. She has worked for the state of Kansas for 35 years and has been at the Department of Labor for the past 15 years. Diana worked in the Labor Market Information Services Division for 15 years prior to being transferred to Workers Compensation in January.