

# AULTCOMP MCO

A WORKERS' COMPENSATION MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION

## AultComp MCO's Lifeline

October, 2016

*Don't Learn Safety by Accident!*

### Welcome to Autumn!

October is Fire Prevention Month! To raise awareness, AultComp MCO is having a contest to test your knowledge! To enter the contest, please [click here](#) and answer the following question: "What does the acronym P.A.S.S. stand for?" Two lucky winners will win an All Purpose Fire Extinguisher! Good Luck! We would like to thank our client, **Safety Resources of Ohio**, for helping us with the purchase of the extinguishers.

According to OSHA regulations, fire safety training is required annually for all employees in the workplace. Safety Resources Company of Ohio is offering an introductory fire safety meeting.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Our Making Strides Against Breast Cancer fundraiser was a huge success. The AultComp MCO Striders were able to donate \$1,600 this year! Thank you to everyone who helped to make this happen. Please join us on October 23 at McKinley High School for this year's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk. We would love to see you there!

### - AultComp MCO



Some of our staff working at the Aultman Health Foundation Breast Cancer fundraiser.

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### AultComp MCO is on Facebook!



### Management Tip\*:

Immediately and visibly take charge.

Time is of the essence! As soon as you learn of an injury, make a quick assessment. Be aware: The whole work group is watching you. Your reaction will show them how you would treat them if they were injured. So take visible and appropriate action. Be kind as well as firm. Employees need reassurance to whether you'll stand by them when they're hurt. When you make it clear that you intend to do what's right and stay on top of the situation, everyone else will see that they're supposed to do that, too.

\*information from **BWC Tips for Supervisors**

## Ohio BWC NEWS

### Workers' comp opioid prescribing rule approved

COLUMBUS - The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) Board of Directors approved a new opioid prescribing rule aimed at preventing opioid dependence and encouraging physicians to employ current best medical practices when treating injured workers with opioids.

Under the rule, the first of its kind in Ohio, BWC will not reimburse for opioid prescriptions written by physicians who fail to use best medical practices.

"We must ensure best practices are followed at the onset of an injury and throughout the course of treatment so injured workers receive care that improves their

condition," said BWC Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison. "Ohio's injured workers deserve the best possible treatment that addresses their medical needs without facing the life-changing consequences of opioid dependence or addiction."

Best practices include the development of an individualized treatment plan, risk assessment and monitoring of the progress and improvement in function of the worker. The new rule strengthens BWC's peer review process to address physicians who fail to comply with those practices. Corrective actions range from written warnings to removing the physician from BWC's network of approved providers.

The rule becomes effective Oct. 1 this year. To review the rule [click here](#).

# Safety Tip

## October is Fire Prevention Month

The [U.S. Fire Administration reports](#) that fires kill more than 4,000 Americans each year and approximately injure 20,000 more. U.S. fire departments respond to nearly 2 million fires each year, with three-quarters of them occurring in residences.

Our homes are often our safe haven. This month please make sure your home is protected and your family is prepared for a fire. Here are 10 simple tips to help you avoid fires and reduce risk of injury if one should unfortunately occur:



1. Smoke Alarms – they are still a very important addition to your home. Smoke alarms are widely available and inexpensive. Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home and test it monthly.
2. Prevent Electrical Fires – Don't overload circuits or extension cords. Cords and wires should never be placed under rugs or in high traffic areas. Avoid loose electrical connections by checking the fit of the plug. If the plug fits loosely, inspect the outlet immediately. A poor connection between the plug and the outlet can cause overheating and start a fire in minutes.
3. Keep Plugs Safe – Unplug all appliances when not in use. Follow the manufacturer's safety precautions and use your senses to spot any potential disasters. If a plug is overheating, smells strange, shorts out or sparks – the appliance should be shut off immediately, then replaced or repaired.
4. Alternate Heaters – Make sure there is ample space around any portable heating unit. Anything that could catch fire should be at least three feet away. Inspect your chimney annually and use fire screens to help keep any fires in the fireplace.
5. Fire Safety Sprinklers – When combined with working smoke alarms, home fire sprinklers greatly increase your chance of surviving a fire. Sprinklers are affordable and they can increase property value and lower insurance rates.
6. Create An Escape Route – Create and practice your escape plan with your family from every room in the house. Practice staying low to the floor and checking for hot doors using the back of your hand. It's just like a routine school fire drill – but in your home.
7. Position Appliances Carefully – Try to keep TV sets, kitchen and other appliances away from windows with curtains. If there is a wiring problem, curtains can spread a fire quickly. Additionally, keeping your appliances away from water sources (like rain coming in from windows) can help prevent wiring damage which can lead to a fire.
8. Clean Dryer Vents – Clothes dryers often start fires in residential areas. Clean the lint filter every time you start a load of clothes to dry or after the drying cycle is complete. Make sure your exhaust duct is made of metal tubing and not plastic or foil. Clean the exhaust duct with a good quality dryer vent brush to prevent blockage & check for lint build up behind the dryer at least twice a year.
9. Be Careful Around the Holidays – If you fill your home with lights during the holiday season, keep them away from anything that can easily catch fire. Check all of your lights prior to stringing them up and dispose of anything with frayed or exposed wires.
10. Conduct Regular Inspections – Check all of your electronic equipment and wiring at least once a month. Taking a little time to do this each month can really pay off.

## NEWS

### The Overtime Rule

In 2014, President Obama directed the Secretary of Labor to update the overtime regulations to reflect the original intent of the Fair Labor Standards Act, and to simplify and modernize the rules so they're easier for workers and businesses to understand and apply. The department has issued a final rule that will put more money in the pockets of middle class workers – or give them more free time.

The final rule will:

- Raise the salary threshold indicating eligibility from \$455/week to \$913 (**\$47,476 per year**), ensuring protections to 4.2 million workers.
- Automatically update the salary threshold every three years, based on wage growth over time, increasing predictability.
- Strengthen overtime protections for salaried workers already entitled to overtime.
- Provide greater clarity for workers and employers.

The final rule will become effective on December 1, 2016. The final rule does not make any changes to the duties test for executive, administrative and professional employees.

For more information, [click here](#).

IN RESPONSE TO THE NEW OVERTIME RULE, EMPLOYERS CAN:

- A) Pay time-and-a-half for overtime work.
- B) Raise workers' salaries above the new threshold.
- C) Limit workers' hours to 40 per week.
- D) Some combination of the above.



Reminder:

Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#) & visit our new website [AultCompMCO.com](#)