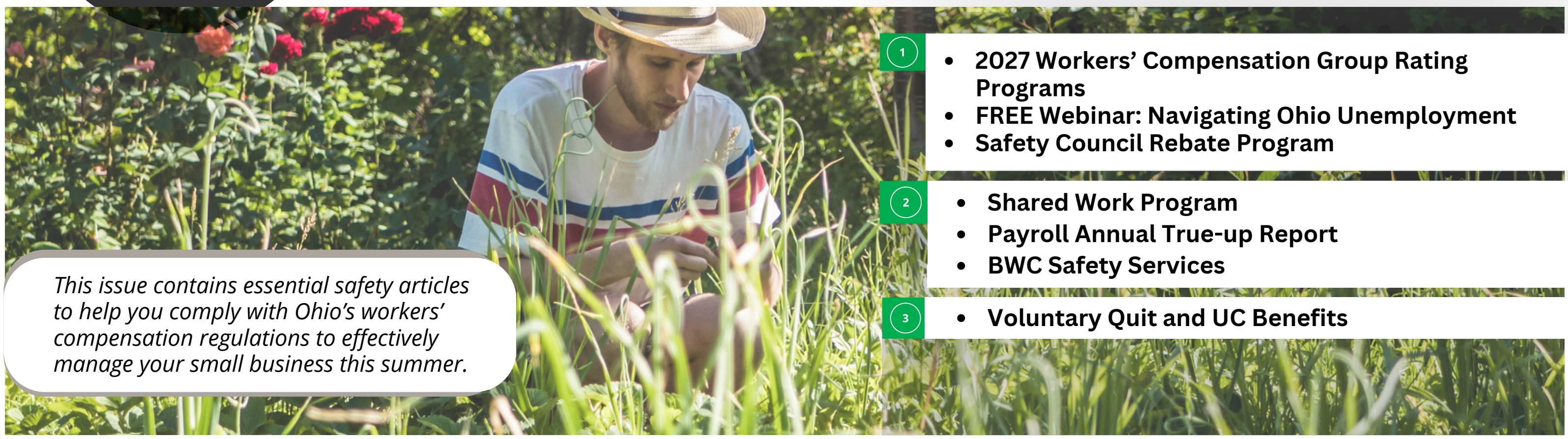
NFIB Ohio Workers' Compensation Program

SAFETY RESOURCES

Summer 2026



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This issue contains essential safety articles to help you comply with Ohio's workers' compensation regulations to effectively manage your small business this summer.

NFIB

2027 Workers' Compensation Group Rating Programs

During the summer, Sedgwick, the administrator of the NFIB/Ohio Workers' Compensation Group Rating Program, will be sending out invitations to companies that qualify for the 2027 NFIB/Ohio Workers' Compensation Group Rating Programs. The deadline will be here before you know it! Please send your completed enrollment documents to Sedgwick as specified on the invoice.

If your company is not already in an NFIB sponsored program and would like to be evaluated for the NFIB group rating program or group retrospective rating program, please use the following link to fill out an electronic AC-3 form.

Please refer to your enrollment packet for more details or contact Sedgwick:

Email: Zachary Stewart
Phone: (614) 932-1565

GET EVALUATED

FREE WEBINAR

Navigating Ohio Unemployment: Claims, Hearings, & Cost Management

Register to attend a **FREE Unemployment Webinar** on August 5, 2026.

Ideal for HR teams, supervisors, and anyone managing unemployment claims, the webinar will cover Ohio unemployment claims, hearing preparation, and cost control strategies.

Although focused on Ohio unemployment claims, the session will also share best practices that are useful for employers in any state. **REGISTER NOW**

The previous enrollment deadline for the Safety Council Rebate Program fell on the last business day of July, but beginning with the 2026 policy year (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027, employers may enroll in the program year-round. **To qualify for Ohio's BWC 3% premium rebate (up to $5,000), employers must earn 10 safety council credits between July 1, 2026 and June 30, 2027.** Although enrollment is open at any time, **only employers who join a safety council by September 30 will remain eligible to receive the rebate.**

Locate a Safety Council

Learn More about BWC's Safety Council

SAFETY COUNCIL
Rebate Program

Ways to Earn Credit

1. Attend safety council meetings*
2. Complete a BWC onsite safety consultation.
3. Attend external trainings
4. Attend BWC's Safety Congress
5. Attend BWC's in-person or virtual training courses

*Six of the 10 credits must be earned by attending safety council meetings.

To Qualify for the Program employers must:

1. Be current with all payments due to BWC
2. Have no cumulative lapses in workers' compensation coverage greater than 40 days within the past year
3. Report the company's actual payroll for the previous year, and
4. Pay any additional premium as a result of the payroll true-up report.

SharedWork Program

The SharedWork Ohio Program is a voluntary layoff aversion program that allows workers to remain employed and employers to retain employees during times of reduced business activity.

When employers participate, they reduce the employee's hours in a uniform manner. The participating employee will work the reduced schedule each week and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) will pay them a prorated unemployment insurance benefit.

Program requirements include:

- Employers must have two or more affected employees, who do not work on a seasonal, temporary, or intermittent basis, and
- Employers must be current on all unemployment reporting, contributions, reimbursements, interest, and penalties due.

Ohio employers may apply online for the SharedWork program through ODJFS.

Visit SharedWorkOhio for additional information and to submit an online application.

For more information, contact Sedgwick: Staci Schwartz or call **(614) 932-1540**.

PAYROLL ANNUAL TRUE-UP REPORT

On July 1, 2026, BWC opened the window for employers to complete the payroll true-up process. **Employers must report their actual payroll for the previous policy year (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026) by August 31, 2026**.

If the final calculated premium is greater than the previously remitted premium, **employers must also pay the outstanding balance by August 31, 2026**.

Any overpayment of premium will be refunded or credited to the account. True–up payments must be made **online** or by phone at **1 (800) 644-6292**.

There will be no grace period for employers who do not complete the payroll true–up process by August 31, 2026.

Employers with no payroll will be eligible for a waiver and will not be required to submit a payroll true-up report. BWC will complete the true-up report for companies with no payroll on their behalf.

Failure to file the annual payroll true-up report...

(continued on page 3)

SAFETY SERVICES

The mission of the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation is to help injured workers and their employers by providing resources and services to help ensure workplace safety and recovery. A portion of employer premiums are used to fund a variety of safety resources, including:

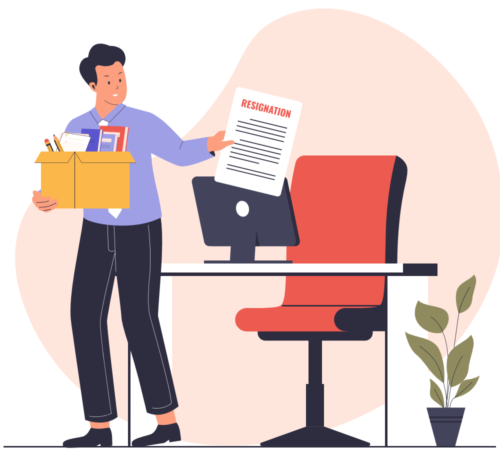
- Safety programs offering rebates on workers' compensation premiums
- Safety courses
- The Ohio Safety Congress & Expo, the largest safety event in the Midwest
- Safety consultation services, including the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) On-Site Consultation Program
- Ergonomics and industrial hygiene consultation services
- Safety grants, providing assistance to improve safety conditions, and
- Library services, such as books, magazines, research materials, and safety videos.

ACCESS ADDITIONAL SAFETY RESOURCES

OFFERED BY BWC

Voluntary Quit - Can an employee collect Unemployment benefits?

Individuals who voluntarily leave their job may qualify for unemployment benefits, but only under specific circumstances. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) requires claimants to prove they resigned for "just cause"– a compelling, work-related reason that would lead a reasonable person to leave their employment.



Examples of "just cause" may include unsafe working conditions, significant reductions in pay or major changes to job duties, or documented harassment that the employer did not address.

Another example is when an individual gives notice of resignation, but the employer refuses to let them work through the notice period or declines to pay them for that period.

Before resigning, individuals must notify their employer of the issue and provide a reasonable opportunity for it to be resolved. Personal reasons—such as general job dissatisfaction or relocating—typically do not meet eligibility requirements.

Each claim is evaluated on a case-by-case basis. In addition to establishing "just cause", individuals must also meet all other eligibility criteria, including being able and available for work and actively seeking employment.

For more information, contact Sedgwick:
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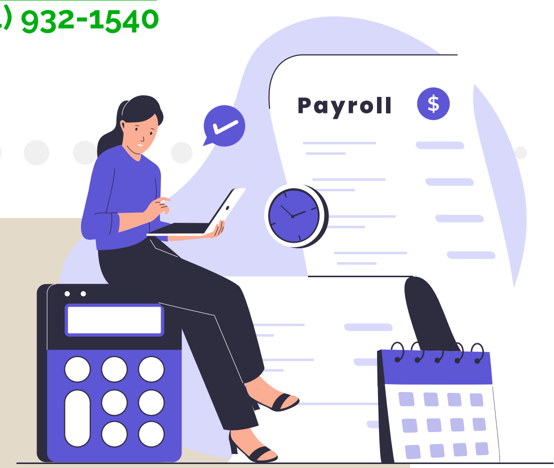
Phone: (614) 932-1540



Annual Payroll True-Up Report *(continued)*

... and pay any outstanding balance by August 31, 2026, will result in the following penalties:

- Immediate removal from any current group rating or retrospective rating plan.
- Immediate removal from any BWC program, such as the Claim Impact Reduction Program.
- Disqualification from any group rating or retrospective rating plan the following year.
- Disqualification from any BWC program the following year, such as the Claim Impact Reduction Program.
- The BWC will add an additional 10% to the premium owed, and bill the employer, and
- The BWC may certify the true-up outstanding balances to the Ohio Attorney General's Office for collection.

For more information, contact Sedgwick:

Email: Zachary Stewart
Phone: (614) 932-1565