

BWC recognizes Drug-Free Work Week, Oct. 19-25

BWC and the majority of Ohio employers are committed to the safety of our work force. This includes a strong desire to establish and maintain a workplace free of drug and alcohol abuse. To bring greater focus to the daily efforts to keep Ohio workplaces drug free, we are recognizing Drug-Free Work Week from Oct. 19-25. This week highlights the benefits that drug-free workplace programs bring to employers, workers and communities. It's also a time to focus on the goal to make every week a drug-free work week!

Working drug-free results in fewer accidents, safer workplaces, improved productivity, lower costs and support for people with alcohol and drug problems who seek help.

According to recent research, the drug-free message is one that many workers need to hear.

- 75 percent of the nation's illegal drug users are employed – and 3.1 percent say they have used illegal drugs before or during work hours.
- 79 percent of the nation's heavy alcohol users are employed – and 7.1 percent say they have consumed alcohol during the work day.

It is widely recognized that drug-free workplace programs help protect employers and employees from the potentially devastating consequences of worker alcohol or drug abuse. Establishing policies, educating about the dangers of alcohol and drug use, deterring and detecting use, and urging people to seek help for alcohol and drug problems are smart safety strategies. They're also smart business strategies.

Based on recommendations in the recent comprehensive study of our programs and services, we are actively working to enhance our current drug-free workplace and safety offerings. In the coming months, we will be sharing information on the future and status of these programs. Employers with questions related to safety, and establishing and maintaining a drug-free workplace can visit ohiobwc.com or call 1-800-OHIOBWC.