

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, March 17, 2010 - "Stress Management", Milissa Van Eps, ND BCBS

Ergonomic Initiative Program Overview

WSI has seen a steady number of ergonomic related injuries each year and is now focusing on preventative measures, rather than post-injury, to assist employers in controlling these costs. Cumulative trauma injuries (including strains) have accounted for approximately 35% of all reported claims in North Dakota over the past five years.

Purpose

The purpose of the Ergonomic Initiative is to reduce or eliminate cumulative-type injuries at the workplace. What typically begins as minor aches or pains, if ignored, has potential to develop into costly claims. Through the Ergonomic Initiative Program, WSI will be offering the employers of North Dakota resources, as well as financial assistance, to address their ergonomic issues.

Three Main Components

1. Provider Network

WSI has developed a network of providers throughout North Dakota. This network is comprised of experienced healthcare professionals, primarily occupational and physical therapists, well versed in the field of ergonomics. These providers are located throughout the state. Click here to view the [provider network map](#).

Employers initiate the process by submitting an [Ergonomic Initiative Employer Application](#) (link) for consideration. WSI will analyze claims trends (types of injuries, as well as frequency & severity) to determine if the injuries are linked to ergonomic issues. Another factor for consideration is the employee's level of exposure to potential injuries. Upon WSI approval, the employer will select one of providers listed in the established network.

2. Financial Assistance for Provider Services

Fees charged by vendors under this program are paid by WSI at a 3:1 ratio, meaning WSI pays for 75% of the project cost and the employer is responsible for the remaining 25%. The amount of work and type of services performed will vary with each employer, depending on their needs. Some of the factors that will be considered will be the number of employees, number of job classifications, type of work being performed, and claims history (frequency and severity).

On-site services may include:

- on-site ergonomic assessments in which potential or existing problems will be identified
- ergonomic recommendations and interventions
- assistance with the selection of appropriate ergo equipment
- employer and employee ergo training

A key component of this program is on-site training for employers and employees. By providing the basic tools necessary to conduct ergonomic assessments; they will be able to address some of these issues early on, before they become claims.

3. Financial Assistance for Ergonomic Equipment Purchases

As part of the Ergonomic Initiative, a Grant Program is available for those employers who have participated in this program. If the assessments conducted during the ergo initiative warrant ergonomic equipment purchases, employers may be eligible for assistance with these purchases through the ergonomic initiative grant program.

[Ergonomic Initiative Program Application](#)

[Provider Network Information](#)

Contact Information:

Questions regarding the Ergonomic Initiative Program may be directed to: Randy Wegge, WSI Loss Control Ergonomic Coordinator: telephone at (701)328-6006, toll free at 1-800-777-5033; fax at (701)328-6028 [<http://www.workforcesafety.com/employers/grants/ergoinitiativeoverview.asp>]

BOARD MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS MEET THE FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH/6:00-8:00 PM. GRAND FORKS PARK DISTRICT, 1210 7TH AVENUE SOUTH
NEXT MEETING → April 1st (NO FOOLING)

- As you prepare to *spring forward*, please mark your calendars for the third Wednesday of each month as we have some GOOD PROGRAM TOPICS planned for our upcoming GM meetings!

BOARD MEMBERS

Carol Gierszewski (PRESIDENT)
Christin McWaters (VICE-PRESIDENT)
Joe Strang (TREASURER)
Tracy Cameron (SECRETARY)
Todd Brady • Davis Hoverson
Rachel Kmecik • Tim Krile • Eric Pearson
Lyle Ross • Annette Shane

COMMITTEES

Communication Committee

(Linda Wiley, Carol Gierszewski, Bonnie Knutson, Annette Shane)

- Everyone who has paid their 2010 membership dues should have received a new "Certificate of Membership" with the expiration date of January 2011 listed. If you have not received yours, please contact us at info@nosha.net Thank you.

Education Committee

(Bonnie Knutson, Lyle Ross)

(Upcoming GM Meeting Presentations)

- **April 21, 2010**
- "Accident Investigation", Mike Holmes, WSI
- **May 19, 2010**
- TBD

Membership Committee

(Davis Hoverson, Rachel Kmecik)

★ **60+ MEMBERS STRONG...and GROWING!**

NOSHA is a non-profit organization formed to provide area safety professionals a direct way of sharing safety concerns, goals and ideas to promote workplace safety. As a member of NOSHA, you will be joining area safety professionals dedicated to their profession, energized on career enhancement and who have a genuine interest for safety in the work place.

THANK YOU Todd Brady and Vicki Ham for sharing information on your "Wellness Program" with our NOSHA group. Kudos to Marvin Windows and Door's for their UNBELIEVABLE EMPLOYEE SUPPORT!

It's Time!

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JUST A REMINDER... "Daylight Savings Time" begins March 14th