

CCM e-News Brief

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[Compliments of Charlotte Bishop, President, Creative Case Management, Inc.]

WCRI Meeting. Actionable information to real-world issues facing the nation's workers' compensation system will be presented at the Workers Compensation Research Institute's (WCRI) 31st Annual Issues & Research Conference, scheduled for March 5-6, 2015 at the Westin Hotel in Boston, MA. Steve Perroots, Vice President of Global Claims at Marriott International, Inc. says WCRI's conference is not to be missed. "Our industry has the responsibility to continually improve the workers' compensation process for all parties involved. An important component of successfully meeting this goal is having accurate and relevant data to rely on. The information provided at WCRI's conference impressively fulfills this role." The theme of the conference is "Resilience or Renovation." The workers' compensation system has evolved to serve workers and employers for over 100-years—a testament to the resilience of state compensation systems. In addition to previewing new WCRI research findings, the conference program will explore whether workers' compensation systems around the country are sufficiently resilient to adapt to the next wave of major challenges. The two-day program highlights the first presentations of WCRI's latest research findings while drawing upon the diverse perspectives of highly respected workers' compensation experts and policymakers from across the country. This year's agenda focuses on highly visible challenges and innovative approaches for key issues in workers' compensation, such as:

- Impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on shifting cases from group health to workers' compensation
- Cost and consequences of physician dispensing
- Perverse effects of low fee schedules
- Resilience of the workers' compensation system with lessons from two decades of reforms
- Challenges that might lead to renovation of the workers' compensation system

<http://www.workerscompensation.com/compnewsnetwork/news/20626-wcri-s-conference-presents-actionable-information-to-real-world-issues-facing-the-nation%E2%80%99s-workers-comp-system.html>

OSHA Cites Illinois Co. A U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration investigation recently found that Environmental Remediation and Recovery Inc. did not have equipment or trained personnel to rescue a 27-year-old worker promptly who collapsed and later died while cleaning a rail car. OSHA has cited seven willful and 14 serious safety violations, many involving permit-required confined space safety regulations. The company has also been placed in OSHA's Severe Violator Enforcement Program. OSHA determined that the employee entered a 30,000-gallon rail car on May 20, 2014, and suffered from cardiac arrhythmia. He was unable to exit the rail car on his own. The man had been on the job for about 14 months at the time of the incident. Environmental Remediation failed to monitor permit-required confined spaces; allowed entry when atmospheric conditions were unacceptable; and did not provide personal protective equipment, including self-contained breathing apparatus and respirators. The company also failed to remove defective respirators from use. A confined space is one large enough for workers to enter and perform certain jobs, such as a rail car clean out, but it has limited or restricted means for entry or exit and is not designed for continuous occupancy. In addition, the company failed to designate trained rescue employees and use a retrieval system attached to the worker to aid in rescue. OSHA cited the company for seven willful violations. <http://www.workerscompensation.com/compnewsnetwork/workers-comp-blogwire/20616-illinois-employer-cited-worker-dies-on-job.html>

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