

CCM e-News Brief

Vol. 10, No.9, September 1, 2014

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

OSHA Tool. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration today released a new interactive training tool to help small businesses effectively identify hazards in the workplace. Employers and workers can virtually explore how to identify common workplace hazards in the manufacturing and construction industries. Users of the new training tool will learn not only hazard identification skills but also learn about hazard abatement and control. "Hazard identification is a critical part of creating an injury and illness prevention program that will keep workers safe and healthy on the job," said Dr. David Michaels, assistant secretary of labor for occupational safety and health. "This new tool not only educates employers about how to take control of their workplaces and protect workers, it also demonstrates that following well-established safety practices is also good for the bottom line." Assistant Secretary Michaels announced the new tool today at the American Society of Safety Engineers conference in Orlando, Fla. Through the hazard identification tool, users can play from the perspective of either a business owner or an employee as they learn to identify realistic, common hazards and address them with practical and effective solutions. The tool explains the key components of the hazard identification process, which include information collection, observation of the workplace, investigation of incidents, employee participation and prioritizing hazards. Source: <http://www.workerscompensation.com/compnewsnetwork/news/19070-osh-a-announces-new-interactive-training-webtool-on-identifying-workplace-hazards.html>

Workers Comp Fraud. Jacob Richard Bonzer, 27, formerly of Lake Forest, California was arrested Wednesday (Aug. 13, 2014) in Chicago by the Chicago Police Department and a U.S. Marshals Task Force on 96 felony counts including grand theft, forgery and denial of benefits. If convicted, Bonzer faces a maximum sentence of more than 87 years in state prison. "Bonzer allegedly created more than a thousand insurance policies based on fraudulent information, which allowed him to collect \$285,000 in unearned commission payments," said Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones. "Agents who violate their fiduciary responsibility and rip off insurers or consumers for their own financial gain will be brought to justice and prosecuted to the full extent of the law." A joint investigation between the California Department of Insurance, the Orange County District Attorney's Office and the Brea Police Department revealed Bonzer perpetrated several schemes for his personal financial gain. Investigators discovered that in 2012 Bonzer created a fictitious insurance company called GW Mutual Risk Retention Group, LLC, which was registered in Florida. GW Mutual is not licensed to write insurance in California though Bonzer sold workers' compensation and commercial insurance policies through his agency, Bonzer Insurance Brokerage, located in Orange County. Bonzer collected approximately \$280,000 in premium from 58 California businesses that believed they were purchasing valid coverage. When questioned by a client about GW's ability to offer insurance in California, Bonzer provided an altered CDI report of examination as proof. Department investigators also discovered premium payments entrusted to Bonzer were used on personal living expenses including the rental of luxury high-rise apartments, travel, wine clubs and fine dining. Source: <http://www.workerscompensation.com/compnewsnetwork/news/19516-california-insurance-agent-arrested-in-chicago-faces-96-felony-counts.html>

CCM e-News Brief. For access to the archive of past issues of CCM e-News Brief, please visit: <http://www.creativecasemanagement.com/eNews.aspx>