



Around the PIA Western Alliance States

California — State of Work Comp Report: The Workers' Compensation Insurance Rating Bureau of California (WCIRB) has done its first ever, comprehensive report on the state of the state's workers' compensation system.

Not surprisingly it is called the ***State of the System***.

The report says California accounts for 25% of the total workers' compensation premiums for the nation. It ranks 8th in claim frequency per 1,000 employees — and that's 46% higher than the nation's median.

That stat — and all of the report's stats are from 2009 — is troubling since the nation's workers' compensation claims have declined while California's continues to increase.

Permanent disability is another area of concern. California ranks 7th and is 13% above the national median. And the state is 3rd in incurred benefits per indemnity claim.

Source: PropertyCasualty360.com — http://www.propertycasualty360.com/2014/09/03/not-so-golden-the-state-of-californias-workers-com?eNL=54078e3e140ba07377aac0ab&utm_source=KirschnersCA&utm_medium=eNL&utm_campaign=Kirschners_eNLs&LID=169495949

California — Paid Sick Leave: California Governor Jerry Brown has signed a new law and starting July of 2015 workers will be paid sick leave at a rate of one hour for every 30 hours worked. California is the second state in the union to pass such a law.

The governor says 40% of California's workforce — or 6.5 million — did not have paid sick leave until now.

Breaking down the law, it says employers must give employees three full days of sick leave per year. Period. The time can be used after 90-days of employment. And those hours can be used to take care of a sick child or family member.

The governor says it's a "modest" gain for employees. "When you look at the power and the wealth that is accumulated by a very small percentage, and then you look at the people at the bottom ... this is the least we can do and there's more in the coming years. This is a real step forward," he said.



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Source: Los Angeles Times — <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-brown-paid-sick-leave-20140911-story.html>

Montana — Leavitt Group: The Leavitt Great West Insurance Services has hired a new executive. Gwen Schiff will be the firm's coordinator for stop loss procurement, placement and claims oversight.

Montana — Disaster Declaration: Last week Montana Governor Steve Bullock declared three state counties — Valley, Petroleum and Musselshell — and two towns disaster areas after storms did thousands in damage to infrastructure, homes and businesses.

Oregon — Association training rescheduled: We received this from the Oregon Insurance Division.

Due to scheduling conflicts and continued ACA review the Oregon Insurance Division is rescheduling the Association training from September 23, 2014 to November 6, 2014 from 1:00 – 3:00PM (Pacific). We will post training documentation to our training page as soon as it is available. <http://www.oregon.gov/DCBS/insurance/insurers/rates-forms/Pages/training.aspx>.

Oregon — Work Comp Rates: It's two years in a row. Oregon's Consumer and Business Services Department said the pure premium base rate for workers' compensation will drop 5.3% next year. In 2014 the decline was 7.6%.

So the assessment in 2015 will be \$1.27 per \$100 of payroll. That's down seven-cents from 2014.

Source: OregonLive.com — http://www.oregonlive.com/money/index.ssf/2014/09/oregon_workers_compensation_costss_expected_to_decline_for_2nd_straight_year.html#incart_river

Washington — Governor Asks for Reconsideration: Washington Governor Jay Inslee is asking President Obama to reconsider designating areas destroyed in this summer's Carlton Complex Fire.

The governor said hundreds of people can't live in their homes and more homes were destroyed than previously thought. Many of those people — to get full economic recovery — will need temporary housing assistance.

The administration has cut loose with funds for infrastructure repair but not for housing and property damage.



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Source: KOMO News — <http://www.komonews.com/news/local/Inslee-asks-feds-to-reconsider-wildfire-aid-274700101.html>



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