



RI Department of Labor and Training

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RI Department of Labor and Training launches "Rhody Red" Workers' Comp Education Campaign



(Providence, RI – April 9, 2007) Today, in the first effort of its kind, the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training (DLT) is unveiling a statewide campaign to educate Rhode Island employees and employers about their rights and responsibilities with regard to Workers' Compensation insurance. Dubbed the "Rhody Red" campaign in honor of its illustrated mascot, the multimedia effort includes radio, newspaper, outdoor, poster, and brochure elements with messages in both Spanish and English.

"We want to remind all Rhode Island employers about their responsibility to provide Workers' Compensation insurance and to make sure that every employee knows that this coverage is more than a benefit; it is a right," says Adelita S. Orefice, Director of the Department.

The campaign employs a lighter approach - with its Rhode Island Red rooster mascot clucking "Workers Comp, Comp, Comp" in radio spots - to deliver its more serious message: Workers' Compensation - It's the Law.

The DLT Division of Workers' Compensation already provides all new employers with information regarding their Workers' Compensation insurance requirements in coordination with the Rhode Island Division of Taxation. The Division's Fraud and Compliance Unit also investigates Workers' Compensation insurance policies reported as cancelled as well as tips of suspected violations.

In 2006, the Fraud and Compliance Unit checked close to 5,000 businesses for Workers' Compensation insurance coverage. As a result, 342 employers who were determined to be operating without required insurance were penalized, and the Unit collected nearly \$400,000 in penalties from previously uninsured employers.

"If employers, employees, medical providers or the general public have any doubt about a business' Workers' Compensation insurance coverage, we encourage them

call us at 462-COMP (2667) and guarantee them that their call is confidential," says Orefice. "Working together we hope to ensure that every employer follows the law and every worker in Rhode Island is protected."

Anyone with questions about whether a business is covered by workers' compensation insurance can reach the DLT at:

Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training
Division of Workers' Compensation
Fraud and Compliance Unit
462-COMP (2667) • 462-8006 TTY
www.dlt.ri.gov/comp • WCFraud@DLT.ri.gov

Editor's note:

Electronic versions of the "Rhody Red" campaign elements are available and may be reproduced by the media upon arrangement with Angie Moncada.

Interviews with DLT spokespersons are available in both Spanish and English by request.

The 2005 Annual Report to Governor's Workers' Compensation Advisory Council is available at www.dlt.ri.gov/wc/reports/AR05.pdf and includes information on injuries, filing activity, and the Workers' Compensation Administrative Fund.

About the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

The [Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training](http://www.dlt.ri.gov) provides a wide-range of services for Employers and Job Seekers, including distribution of Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) Benefits, Workers' Compensation Benefits, Workforce Development Services, Employer Services, and Labor Market Information.

The Division of Workers' Compensation monitors the workers' compensation system, ensuring that appropriate documents are filed to protect injured workers and employers, that claims are paid correctly, and that all required employers have insurance coverage. The Division also compiles information about injuries and costs, provides [educational services](#), and carries out [fraud prevention](#).

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