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FREE CLASSES ON WORKERS' COMPENSATION

The state Division of Workers' Compensation is offering business owners and employers around the state free classes on the requirements of Florida's workers' compensation laws. Topics will include:

- Key definitions
- Who is required to have workers' comp insurance
- Who is eligible for exemptions from workers' comp
- Contractor responsibilities
- State enforcement of the workers' comp laws
- OSHA/Workplace Safety

Attention contractors: Continuing education units (CEU's) are available to contractors whose license requires continuing education in Workers' Compensation and Workplace Safety.

Advance registration for these classes is required and can be made via the Division's website at www.myfloridacfo.com/WC. For more information, email bocseminars@MyFloridaCFO.com or call 813-229-6518.

Here are the locations, dates and times of the classes:

- **Daytona Beach**
November 6, 2008
1:00 p.m.

Center for Business Excellence
329 Bill France Blvd

- **Ft. Myers**
October 1, 2008
Career & Service Centers of SW Florida
4150 Ford Street Extension
- **Gainesville**
October 29, 2008
1:00 p.m.
Florida Works Alachua County
4800 SW 13th Street
- **Miami**
October 15, 2008
9:00 a.m.
State Office Building
401 NW 2nd Avenue
South Tower, Room 124
- **Ocala**
November 18, 2008
9:00 a.m.
One Stop Workforce Connection
2703 NE 14th Street
- **Orlando**
October 30, 2008
9:00 a.m.
State Office Building
Hurston Building Complex
400 W Robinson Street
South Tower, Conference Room A
- **Pensacola**
November 20, 2008
1:00 p.m.
West Florida Regional Library

200 W Gregory Street

▪ **Sarasota**

October 22, 2008

9:00 a.m.

JOBS, Etc.

3660 N Washington Blvd

▪ **Stuart**

November 5, 2008

9:00 a.m.

Stuart One-Stop Career Center

900 SE Central Parkway

▪ **Tallahassee**

October 7, 2008

9:00 a.m.

Southwood

4075 Esplanade Way, Room 152

▪ **West Palm Beach**

November 4, 2008

1:00 p.m.

Central Career Center

1951 N Military Trail, Suite D

**ATTENTION STATE-LICENSED
CONTRACTORS: LICENSE RENEWAL
DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED**

In last month's newsletter, we reminded you that state-licensed contractors were required to renew their contracting licenses with the state by August 31st. Due to Tropical Storm Fay, the state has extended the license renewal deadline for all Certified Construction and Electrical and Alarm Contractors licensees by one month, from August 31st to September 30th. Licensees must complete all required continuing education in order to renew their licenses. Any continuing education completed prior to renewal, regardless of whether the licensee renews on August 31st or September 30th, will apply to the 2006-2008 license cycle. As long as the license holder completes all continuing education requirements for 2006-2008, any continuing education taken after renewal but

prior to September 30th will apply to the 2008-2010 cycle.

Certified Construction and Electrical and Alarm Contractor license holders who have not yet renewed will have until September 30th. The extension of the renewal deadline will not affect the expiration date on the license, which will remain August 31, 2010. Licensed contractors who have already renewed do not need to do anything.

**WORKERS' COMP RATES WILL PROBABLY
BE REDUCED
AGAIN FOR 2009**

The rates that Florida employers pay for workers' compensation insurance will most likely go down again in 2009. A rate filing currently awaiting approval by the Florida Insurance Commissioner calls for an overall reduction in workers' comp rates of 14.1 percent. If approved, this rate decrease would represent a cost savings of about \$465 million for Florida employers effective January 1, 2009. This proposed rate decrease is the 6th consecutive rate decrease since 2003, and the cumulative rate decrease would be about 58 percent.

Please keep in mind that the 14.1% reduction is an average reduction in the overall rate that Florida employers pay for workers' comp insurance. Also, the rate reduction is not final until approved by the Insurance Commissioner, and would go in effect for new policies renewed after January 1, 2009. If approved, the overall average rate impact by industry group is as follows:

- Construction – 15.8% reduction
- Office/Clerical – 15.1% reduction
- Goods/Services – 14.1% reduction
- Miscellaneous – 8.5% reduction