



This issue of the Workers Comp Forum e-newsletter tackles the emerging safety concerns of noise exposure at work and how to keep employees out of trouble at the company holiday party. Plus, find news on medical costs and increasing OSHA standards, as well as regulatory/legal updates from California, Texas and Oregon.

The e-newsletter is released twice a month and highlights the latest material posted on the Workers Comp Forum, a Web site that brings together the best comp and disability minds from the *Workers' Compensation Report, Risk & Insurance*® and other resources from LRP Publications.

## Workers' Comp News

[Increasing workers' comp medical costs are major concern, insurers say](#)

[Group's report highlights key issues in addressing independent contractors](#)

[Call for Presentations: Annual Workers' Comp Conference](#)

[Metabolic syndrome found in nearly 25% of workers, study finds](#)

[Election outcome increases likelihood of stronger OSHA, ergo standard](#)

[More News](#)

## Regulatory/Legal Updates

[California: Audit procedures, administrative penalty schedule](#)

[Oregon: Medicare secondary payer mandatory reporting requirements](#)

[Lack of 'magic words' isn't fatal to validity of impairment rating](#)

[Texas: Division seeks comments on bill submission](#)

[Specimen validity testing becomes mandatory](#)

[More Updates](#)

## Columnists



**You Be The Judge**  
By Elizabeth Morrow  
[A Hobby or Ability to Work?](#)

Do a gun enthusiast's activities warrant cutting off PTB benefits? David McGraw was declared permanently and totally disabled in 1986. In 1990, McGraw and his wife, Mary, converted their garage into a small machine shop with a counter/service area in front. [MORE](#)



**Working Comp**  
By David Huth  
[TPA=Takes A Piece of the Action?](#)

During these very challenging economic times, every penny we spend deserves a second look, and as a result, the need for pricing transparency in our industry has never been greater. [MORE](#)

## Features

[Take Steps to Prevent Accidents at Company-Sponsored Holiday Parties](#)

The company holiday party season is upon us. While these events can help show employees appreciation for a job well done, holiday gatherings can also hold employers liable for accidents, injuries, and sexual harassment incidents that may occur if things get out of hand. [MORE](#)

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[Don't Neglect Noise Exposure in Setting up Workplace Safety Programs](#)

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