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April 14, 2011 Conference
The Governor of Wyoming and the Wyoming Department of Employment are recognizing Wyoming private and government employers that have made outstanding achievements in workplace safety and health. The Governor’s Awards for Safety and Health are the highest honor given by the State of Wyoming for recognition of an employer’s commitment to excellence in workplace safety and health.

It is the intent of the Governor and the Interim Director of the Department of Employment, through this recognition, to promote a greater awareness of workplace safety and health throughout the State of Wyoming.

Awards
Awards will be presented at the 6th Annual Wyoming Department of Employment Safety Conference on April 14, 2011, at the Ramkota, 800 N Poplar, Casper. For motel reservations call 307-266-6000.

For additional information, go to: http://doe.wyo.gov/employers/SafetyConf/Pages/default.aspx

Displaced Workers Struggle to Find Jobs
During Wyoming’s most recent economic downturn, the statewide re-employment rate for men who entered the Unemployment Insurance (UI) system fell from 77.2% in 2005 to 57.8% in 2009. Also during this time, men were less likely to be re-employed than women. Nonresident workers were less likely than resident workers to be found working in Wyoming in subsequent quarters following job loss. This information was taken from the article titled “Tracking Workers’ Re-Employment After Job Loss” from the November 2010 issue of Wyoming Labor Force Trends. The article can be found online at http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/1110/a1.htm. For more information about Wyoming’s workforce, see the Wyoming Labor Market Information website at http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI.

The UI Taxable Wage Base for 2011 is $22,300.00

The WC Corporate Officer/LLC Member Average Wage per quarter for 2011 is $10,172.49

The Quarterly Connection
YOUR LINK TO THE MOST CURRENT INFORMATION REGARDING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE, WORKERS’ COMPENSATION, and LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

Note: Throughout this newsletter, “UI” refers to “Unemployment Insurance” and “WC” refers to “Workers’ Compensation.”

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The 7th Annual Governor’s Summit on Workforce Solutions promises to be one of the best and most exciting yet. The conference will provide an opportunity to enhance the partnerships between employers, workforce and economic development professionals, educators and other state and local partners.

As the employment landscape across Wyoming continues to change, the Wyoming Workforce Development Council remains committed to assisting Wyoming companies in addressing their workforce issues to remain competitive and increase prosperity. This year the Council has renewed its investment in Wyoming’s most important workforce asset, its workers. By investing in industry partnerships, the Council is taking a proactive approach to solving the recruitment, development and retention issues that Wyoming’s industries face. More importantly, these partnerships represent a commitment to Wyoming’s workers by ensuring that jobs that pay good wages and provide benefits are available now and in the future. This Summit will be an opportunity to examine and expand those partnerships.

In partnership with the Governor’s Office and the Department of Workforce Services, the Council sponsors the annual Governor’s Summit on Workforce Solutions. For more information or to register go to http://wyowdc.org/summit.

Interim Director of the Wyoming Department of Employment (con’t)

Prior to her service at the Carbon County Higher Education Center, she served as an assistant business manager for Carbon County School District No. 1 and has been an adjunct faculty member at Western Wyoming Community College since 1989.

Evans holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Finance and a Master’s Degree in Adult Education from the University of Wyoming. In addition to the Wyoming Workforce Development Council, Joan has also served as President of the Wyoming Lifelong Learning Association, and she served as a member on the Advisory Board for Wyoming PBS, Cheyenne Rotary, the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities, the Carbon County Economic Development Council and the Wyoming Government Investment Fund Board of Trustees, among other organizations. She has received numerous personal and professional commendations.

Do you use WIRE?

WIRE is the electronic program created for UI, joint UI/WC and quarterly WC reporting.

Fourth quarter 2010 summary and wage record reports were filed by 12,203 employers using WIRE. During the month of January, 202,465 employee wage records were filed on WIRE.

If you are one of the 9,600 Wyoming employers who are not using WIRE, please reconsider. WIRE is designed to be secure and user friendly. A WIRE account can be established by going to https://doe.state.wy.us/wire and clicking on “Create an Online Account.” WIRE eliminates the need to mail paper forms, automatically computes excess wage limitations, computes the taxes due and provides a single summary (UI and/or WC) payment coupon. The report is filed with the Division when the employer finishes the WIRE process. Reports filed on WIRE can be accessed by the employer at any time.