State Informational Data Exchange System (SIDES) Update
For employers using the State Information Data Exchange System (SIDES) to respond to unemployment benefit notices, the system is currently being updated and is expected to be complete the first of April. The update will include a new format for notices and responses. If you have any questions, you may contact Trish Pesek at (307) 473-3708.

OSHA Revision of Rules
The Wyoming Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Commission is alerting the public of revising Chapter 4 of the current Rules – Practice and Procedure. This rule change is to ensure the State of Wyoming is in compliance and consistent with current Federal OSHA rules relating to the Federal Department of Labor, Code of Regulations (Standard-29 CFR), Part 1904, Recording and Reporting Occupational Injuries and Illnesses.

OSHA is notifying Wyoming employers to this revised rule, now effective in Wyoming, which requires employers to notify Wyoming OSHA when an employee suffers a work-related hospitalization, amputation or loss of an eye. The notification is required within 24 hours of the incident. The rule is required by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Previously, OSHA required an employer to only report work-related fatalities and workplace incidents resulting in in-patient hospitalizations of three or more employees. The reporting requirements regarding individual hospitalizations, amputations or loss of an eye were not previously in place. Employers are still required to notify Wyoming OSHA of workplace fatalities within eight hours.

Additional information on the regulations associated with 1904 and the recordkeeping requirements can be found at osha.gov/recordkeeping2014.

The open comment period ends on April 15, 2016. Questions and comments can be directed to Ken Masters at (307) 777-7705.

Workforce-Education Connection (WE Connect): Employment, Earnings, and Postsecondary Enrollment of Wyoming High School Students
Educators and policymakers in Wyoming question what happens to students after they leave Wyoming high schools.

- Part 1: Addresses Wyoming High School Students’ Earnings and Postsecondary Enrollment
- Part 2: Opportunity Cost of Pursuing a Postsecondary Education in Wyoming
- Part 3: Graduation and Work Experience for Students with Special Needs
- Part 4: Turnover Rate and Labor Market Outcomes for Wyoming High School Students
- Part 5: Wyoming High School Students’ Postsecondary Enrollment and Awards

These publications are available online at doe.state.wy.us/LMI/education_WE_connect.htm.

DWS and Partners to Hold Annual Wyoming Safety and Workforce Summit
The Wyoming Department of Workforce Services and its summit partners will hold the second annual Wyoming Safety and Workforce Summit on June 22-23.

The location of the 2016 Wyoming Safety and Workforce Summit will be announced in the coming weeks.

The Wyoming Safety and Workforce Summit is a joint effort between the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, the Wyoming Workforce Development Council, and Wyoming OSHA. The Summit is a collaboration that streamlines several safety conferences that were held in Wyoming and the annual Summit on Workforce Solutions into one event.

DWS Fights Fraud with Prevention and Enforcement Efforts
The DWS Special Investigation Unit continues to make important strides in its fraud prevention and enforcement efforts for Unemployment Insurance and Workers’ Compensation fraud. DWS is working with Wyoming district or county attorneys to prosecute pending cases, amounts to be returned to the state through restitution if prosecution is successful. Fraud can be reported directly to DWS by calling (307) 777-6370, or by visiting wyomingworkforce.org.

Workers’ Compensation Officer/Owner Average Wage for 2015
$11,313/quarter; $3,770/month

Unemployment Insurance Taxable Wage Base for 2015
$24,700
Planning team has compiled a five-part series of WE Connect publications after students leave Wyoming high schools. The DWS, Research & Educators and policymakers in Wyoming question what happens to students’ earnings and postsecondary enrollment of Wyoming high school graduates. Comments can be directed to Ken Masters at: (307) 777-7705.

The regulations associated with Recordkeeping requirements can be found at osha.gov/recordkeeping2014. Additional information on the regulations associated with 1904 and 1910 Injury and Illness Reporting Rules in Place in Wyoming is in compliance and consistent with current Federal OSHA rules relating to the Federal Department of Labor, Code of Regulations, Parts 1904, Recording and Reporting Occupational Injuries and Illnesses.

The Wyoming Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is notifying Wyoming employers to this revised rule, now effective in Wyoming, which requires employers to notify Wyoming OSHA when an employee suffers a work-related hospitalization, amputation or loss of an eye. The notification is required within 24 hours of the incident. The rule is required by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Injuries and Illnesses.

OSHA Revision of Rules
April. The update will include a new format for notices and responses. If businesses implement health and safety training programs in their establishments or help them to purchase needed health and safety equipment that will correct safety hazards.

Wyoming Safety Improvement Fund

The Wyoming Safety Improvement Fund is a program that can help businesses implement health and safety training programs in their establishments or help them to purchase needed health and safety equipment that will correct safety hazards.

Who is eligible to apply?
The Wyoming Safety Improvement Fund is open to Wyoming businesses that:

- Are registered and in good standing with Wyoming Workers’ Compensation;
- Are registered and in good standing with Unemployment Insurance, if required; and
- Are registered with the Wyoming Secretary of State’s Office, if required.

Businesses cannot use the fund to substitute dollars that are normally provided for health and safety equipment or training.

What funds are available?
Businesses can apply for up to $10,000 from July 1 to June 30 of each year. The fund does require a 10 percent match from businesses.

How do Businesses Apply?
Applying for the Wyoming Safety Improvement Fund is easy. The first step is to submit the application that can be found at wyomingworkforce.org. Applications will be evaluated on the applicant’s health and safety needs. Of course, because there are limited dollars, applications will be awarded based on individual needs.

New Wyoming Occupational Safety and Health Administration Injury and Illness Reporting Rules in Place in Wyoming

Wyoming Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is alerting Wyoming employers to a revised rule, now effective in Wyoming, which requires employers to notify Wyoming OSHA when an employee suffers a work-related hospitalization, amputation or loss of an eye. The notification is required within 24 hours of the incident. The rule is required by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Previously, OSHA required an employer to only report work-related fatalities and workplace incidents resulting in in-patient hospitalizations, amputations or loss of an eye were not previously in place. Employers are still required to notify Wyoming OSHA of workplace fatalities within eight hours.

To report an incident, employers can call (800) 321-6742 or contact the local Wyoming OSHA office during normal business hours. An electronic reporting option at www.osha.gov will be available soon.

Additional information on the regulations associated with 1904 and the recordkeeping requirements can be found at osha.gov/recordkeeping2014. Wyoming Grown

The Wyoming Grown program invites people in Wyoming to refer their loved ones, friends and colleagues who have since left the State to consider continuing their career in Wyoming. The program connects individuals with in-demand job opportunities with the State’s top employers.

The program aims to place individuals in critical areas to help employers address workforce shortages and skill gaps. Wyoming Grown primarily utilizes existing resources -- the agency's state-wide network of employment specialists -- to work hand-in-hand with participants and connect them with job opportunities with businesses in our State.

Personal recruiters, found throughout the state, are also a direct point of contact for businesses in the community. As a point person for community employers, personal recruiters assist employers in posting jobs easily and conveniently to the State’s largest job-matching database, Wyoming@Work.

Wyoming Grown is working with over 200 individuals and families interested in relocating to Wyoming and has already assisted 20 participants find employment around the state.