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State of California

DWCNewsline

Division of Workers' Compensation
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Cryospec, Inc. keeping employees healthy and happy with help from the Division of Workers' Compensation

When one of Cryospec Incorporated's valued client services employees was diagnosed with the onset of carpal tunnel syndrome in the summer of 2008, Business Manager Ellen Punch didn't know she was going to be able to keep her worker on the job and not pay a dime out of pocket to do so. Her first concern was for her employee's health.

"The pain became so severe Christina found herself suffering all day at work and unable to sleep well at nights," says Punch.

Because Christina's doctor said the injury likely stemmed from her repetitive on-the-job computer work, it was covered under the company's workers' compensation policy.

Cryospec, Inc. received the reimbursement it needed to bring a valued employee back to work following her injury through the Division of Workers' Compensation's (DWC) Return to Work Reimbursement Program. The program was enacted in 2004 to help small business in California by providing reimbursement for worksite accommodations to bring an injured employee back to work, or keep them working following an injury.

The DWC's new "Bring 'em back...or just keep 'em working" campaign delivers information small businesses need, in a user-friendly Web site, to apply for reimbursement when they make purchases to help employees stay working while they recover.

You can read the rest of Christina's and the Cryospec story by following this link <http://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/ReturntoWorkReimbursementProgram/CryospecInc.htm> or by going to www.bringemback.org.

As well as Christina's experience, other examples of purchases the state has provided reimbursement for include:

- A platform and extended eyepiece for a biological analyst
- Custom knee pads for a tile setter
- A computer keyboard tray and document holder for an office administrator

In addition to providing reimbursement for purchases that bring an employee back to work or keep them on the job, the state's return to work experts are available to provide consultations and presentations for employers or employer organizations on the subject.

Questions? Contact the Return to Work Reimbursement Program at (510) 286-6990 or e-mail the Return to Work Reimbursement Program staff at DWCReturntoWork@dir.ca.gov.

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