Electronic Data Interchange makes filing First Reports of Injury Easy

Today, with the use of the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) and other computer-to-computer exchanges permitting the transfer of electronic information, workers' compensation insurance carriers or their third party administrators are able to quickly and securely file Employer First Reports of Injury (Form 1s) with the Vermont Department of Labor's Workers' Compensation and Safety Division. Employers are encouraged to get to know their insurance adjusters and learn how best to report accidents and injury data to take best advantage of this new technology.

In the past, employers struggled to complete paper Form 1s by hand and then send them by first class mail to the Department and their insurance carriers within 72 hours of notice of injuries. Upon receipt, Department staff had to manually enter the data into the Workers' Compensation database. Today, with electronic transmissions, injury reports can be sent with lightning speed to the carrier, from there to the EDI vendor, and from the vendor to the Department of Labor for automatic download into the Worker' Compensation database. With the exception of "first-aid-only injury" claims filed solely with the Worker's Compensation and Safety Division in strict compliance with 21 V.S.A. §640(e), employers now have little reason to file paper Form 1s with the Department.

So save time, money and trees by working with your carrier to file injury data electronically. For more information about Vermont's EDI program, contact Becky Morris, VDOL's Data Analyst and Information Coordinator, at (802) 828-5985 or check out our web site: www.labor.vermont.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=1542