



Quarterly News

Filing and Paying UI Timely Saves Money

Filing Montana Unemployment Insurance quarterly reports and making payment by the due date can result in significant cost savings to your business.

Avoid Interest and Late File Penalty –

- Interest on late payment of tax is assessed at 1.5% per month. In addition, a late filing penalty of \$25 is assessed for reports filed after the due date. If you file late but had no reportable wages, you still are assessed a \$25 penalty for late filing.

Avoid Higher Rates in 2018 –

- An employer’s rate is based, in part, on their record of contributions paid through the quarter ending September 30. If your account is past due, paying in full by December 1, 2017 could result in a lower rate in 2018.
- Also, employers who have not filed all quarterly reports or have a balance due when rates are calculated in early December will receive a penalty rate. A penalty rate is 50% higher than the employer’s experience rate. Resolving a balance due or delinquent report(s) now may result in substantial savings in 2018. You must resolve all money and report delinquencies to avoid a penalty rate. If you have questions about your delinquencies, please call our office at 406-444-3834.

Receive Full FUTA Credit

- Employers who do not pay their state UI contributions timely are not allowed the full 5.4% credit on their FUTA (federal unemployment tax) IRS form 940. Employers who do not pay their state UI contributions are assessed FUTA at 6.0%, rather than at 0.6%. Employers who pay their UI contributions late receive a reduced credit. Be sure to pay your state UI tax timely so you receive the full FUTA credit. See Form 940 Instructions for additional information.

Go Green Now

The UI Division plans to stop mailing UI5V Payment Vouchers to employers after 4th Quarter 2017.

If you already submit or generate your quarterly report or payment voucher using UI eServices or a payroll software program, you can “go green” now.

Simply email uieservices@mt.gov or send a web message from your UI eServices account to let us know we can end UI5V voucher mailings now.

If you want a reminder to file, you can easily set up an electronic notification on eServices prior to the filing deadline.

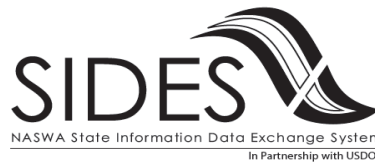
Employers will continue to receive paper UI Quarterly Wage Reports (with the payment voucher) unless you ask us to stop those mailings too.

2017 Assistance for Business Clinics for Remainder of Year

There is still time to attend 2017 Assistance for Business Clinics in September and October. If you are interested in attending, please call a sponsor in these cities for location & fees or visit our website at <http://dli.mt.gov/-assistance-for-business-clinics> for more information.

Lewistown	Sept. 20	(406) 538-8701
Butte	Sept 27	(406) 723-3177
Hamilton	Oct. 4	(406) 363-2400

Unemployment Insurance is also participating in the Billings SafetyFest which takes place Oct 23-25. This is a great opportunity to learn about UI tax and benefits in addition to a variety of safety presentations. Register for SafetyFest at <http://SafetyFestMT.com/>.



SIDES (State Information Data Exchange System) is a convenient and secure way for employers to communicate electronically with the Unemployment Insurance Division. Montana implemented SIDES for benefit separation requests and responses in April, 2017. As of early September, almost 3,200 Montana employers were registered for SIDES.

In our first month of operation, nearly 7% of claims separation requests went through SIDES. By the July, 2017 report, the percentage of SIDES requests topped 21% and estimated savings in postage was \$535. And even better, feedback from Montana employers about SIDES has been positive. Read on:

Jenny Stovall, Stovall Ranches, LLC:

"Thank you for the information, it's very helpful. We had a case a few years ago that was an unfortunate situation where an employee quit in the middle of the night and stole tires and tools from our ranch and other employees. He later filed for unemployment and our notices went to my mother-in-law's house, who at the time was on vacation for 3 weeks. He was awarded the benefits because our timeline had passed. I'm excited about the new SIDES program and believe it will save a lot of money and fraudulent claims."

Angela Benedetti, SHRM-CP, Benefits Manager, Morrison Maierle:

"SIDES has streamlined and expedited the sensitive process of terminating employees. It is more convenient and efficient to receive an email notification for an unemployment claim as we can log in immediately and complete the employer filing online, eliminating paperwork and delays for the employee and the employer!"

Zander Fogg, Payroll/Benefits Manager | Big Sky Resort:

"I just wanted to write you a note to describe to you how thankful I am that Montana Unemployment Insurance has started using the SIDES program to record responses to employee Claim Filing Notices. As the sole responder for a seasonal company that has hundreds of employees filing for unemployment twice per year, I cannot begin to describe to you how much of a benefit the ability to respond online is. The hours and hours that it has saved me (not to mention the decrease in wasted paper) is so appreciated amongst myself and my team. I truly look forward to using it for my upcoming fall layoffs."

We encourage all Montana businesses to get onboard with SIDES now and become familiar with the SIDES separation module because there is more to come. By year-end, the SIDES platform will include monetary and potential charges and earnings verification. Eventually, determinations will be available through SIDES, too.

SIDES = ONE SOLUTION, MANY USES

2018 Taxable Wage Base

The 2018 taxable wage base will be \$32,000, which is 80% of the 2016 average annual wage (rounded to the nearest \$100). We recommend you not update payroll software with the 2018 taxable wage base until AFTER you file the UI report for the fourth quarter of 2017.