

Eureka! Fire Protection District Finds Way to Stave Off Rising Health Care Costs with **ECCHIC**

How many places of employment do you know of where the employees say they are happy with their health care plan and they appreciate the coverage and benefits that they receive? Probably not too many.

Although rare because of the rising health care costs in today's society, this is the opinion of the employees at the Eureka Fire Protection District in Eureka, MO.

Fire Chief, Randy Gabel, says their benefits have basically remained the same since joining with the **ECCHIC** group in 1995, and they have only had to make a few minor changes in the last year. "We still have an excellent plan for employees which they appreciate," says Gabel.

ECCHIC is a team of cost-management specialists providing solutions to *Employers Committed to Control Health Insurance Costs*. The name says it all. This St. Louis-based organization helps businesses manage health insurance costs and lower rates by educating employers and teaching them how to take control of their healthcare dollar.

One of the many ways the **ECCHIC** program helps employers is by allowing them to see exactly where their money is being spent – a novel concept in the world of health insurance. This is one of the many things that Gabel says the **ECCHIC** team does extremely well. "I would rate the knowledge level of where our money goes at 100 percent. We are able to watch where every dollar goes and work to improve that spending each year."

Simply knowing is not enough, though. **ECCHIC** put the fire protection district in control of their money. Officials worked with **ECCHIC** agents to create a tailor-made plan – one that provides the best benefits at the lowest price. Even after the district came up with the coverage that worked for them, **ECCHIC** continued to help them find simple solutions to short-circuit the rising cost of healthcare.

Their alignment with **ECCHIC** really benefited the Eureka Fire Protection District last year when they had to study the issue of health care spending in depth to come up with an economical plan for the next few years. "Our previous plan refused to share this vital information with us," stated Gabel.

Gabel says one of the **ECCHIC** team's strongest attributes is the customer service and follow-up he continues to receive months and years after signing on.

Eureka, MO Fire District

LOCATION: Eureka, MO
GROUP SIZE: 35 Employees
CLIENT SINCE: 1995

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