

Director's Column

RMD Refines Website

On July 1, Admin's Risk Management Division (RMD) went "live" with a new website that consolidates information and tools from our property and casualty, workers' compensation and safety programs into one package. The new website has consistent navigation across its structure, which will get visitors to the information they need faster. It also features a more modern design and easier access to forms, publications and programs. View these improvements at our new address on the World Wide Web: www.admin.state.mn.us/risk.

RMD customer Richard Marsolek, Bemidji State University, stated that the new site "seems well designed and user friendly. Finding information is a lot more intuitive than on the old site. It also has a fresh, colorful visual appeal."

In mid-August, RMD will turn off its old website, www.mainserver.state.mn.us/risk, along with the websites for workers' compensation <http://www.risk-workerscomp.admin.state.mn.us/>, workers' compensation disability <http://www.risk-wcdisability.admin.state.mn.us/> and safety and industrial hygiene <http://www.risk-safety.admin.state.mn.us/>.



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We ask that you please note the upcoming change and notify other pertinent personnel in your agency about the pending change. If you have links to Risk Management's web content (e.g., work comp forms), please update those soon. Our rollout plan includes an automatic redirect that will send visitors to the new site when they attempt to access the old website; however, we are encouraging our customers to update any links, or references to links, before mid-August.

After you've had a chance to review the new website, tell us what you think. If you don't see a form, program, publication or other content that you are looking for, let us know. We welcome your feedback!



2010 Governor's Safety Award Winners

The Risk Management Division extends a big “thank you” to state agencies for their continued support and commitment to safety.

This commitment was most recently demonstrated by the high turnout of state agency managers, supervisors, safety committee members, safety professionals and interested staff during the 2010 Minnesota Safety & Health Conference, presented earlier this year by the Minnesota Safety Council. The conference is an excellent opportunity for sharing and recognizing safety management approaches and techniques.

A highlight of the conference is the presentation of the Governor's Safety Award to employers achieving outstanding results in safety. Risk Management Division congratulates the following recipients of the Governor's Safety Award:

Award of Honor, for exceptional accomplishment in reducing injuries and illnesses in the workplace:

- Minnesota Department of Human Services - Central Office

Outstanding Achievement Award, for continuing improvement and/or a continuing outstanding safety record:

- Minnesota Correctional Facility - Faribault
- Minnesota Department of Revenue
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Meritorious Achievement Award, for better than average incidence rates:

- Community Behavioral Health Hospitals - Alexandria, Baxter, Fergus Falls and Rochester (Department of Human Services)
- Community Addiction and Recovery Enterprises - Brainerd and Carlton (Department of Human Services)
- Minnesota Correctional Facilities - Lino Lakes, Togo (Thistle Dew Programs), Moose Lake and Willow River
- Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- St. Cloud Technical & Community College

2010 Safety & Loss Control Conference Planning Underway

Mark your calendars now for the 2010 Safety & Loss Control Conference, October 26-27, 2010, at the Hennepin Technical College in Brooklyn Park. A conference website will be available in August with registration beginning in early September. One of this year's keynote speakers will be Dr. Richard Pimentel, a nationally renowned expert on disability management, job recruitment and retention, the Americans with Disabilities Act and attitude change. More information about Dr. Pimentel is online at http://www.miltwright.com/richard_pimentel/index.htm.

Reimbursement for Safety Footwear

Risk Management Division receives numerous questions from agencies about providing safety footwear to employees. Agencies may acquire and provide footwear directly to employees or have employees purchase footwear, subject to reimbursement.

Reimbursement should be according to state policy, which indicates that employees who are required to wear safety footwear are eligible for reimbursement in an amount up to \$100 in a 24-month period.

An exception to the 24-month timeline applies if an employee's safety footwear becomes damaged or worn beyond repair due to performance of assigned job tasks. In this instance, the employee may be eligible for an additional reimbursement within the 24-month period. The employee's immediate supervisor, or other appropriate individual, determines whether the footwear was damaged or worn out beyond repair due to performance of assigned job tasks.

The reimbursement policy is available at: <http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/doc/persl/1410.pdf>



Questions relating to the need for safety footwear should be directed to the employee's agency safety personnel. Purchasing questions and the use of the statewide contract for safety footwear should be referred to the agency's Business Office.

RMF Welcomes its 100th Client!

The Risk Management Fund (RMF) attained an exciting highpoint on July 1



when the Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS) became its 100th client.

Since writing the first auto liability policy in 1987 – shortly after the Risk Management Division (RMD) was established a year earlier – the division has focused on instilling in state agencies the value of insurance and risk management as a budget stabilizer. Over the years, the lines of insurance offered through the RMF have expanded to include auto physical damage and general liability, in 1992, and a full-line property and casualty fund, in 1998. The RMF today offers policyholders loss control services and fleet safety management services, in addition to its hallmark insurance, risk management and claims management services.

Except for auto liability, all other lines of insurance are optional. The division is looking forward to the day when all state agencies are insured through the RMF for property and casualty coverages.

Agency-to-Agency Evidence of Insurance

Risk Management Division (RMD) routinely processes approximately 900 requests a year for evidence of insurance: certificates of insurance and self-insured letters. In an effort to streamline processes and focus attention on essential services, RMD will discontinue issuing agency-to-agency certificates of insurance and self-insured letters.

Certificates of insurance and self-insured letters issued to one state agency on behalf of another state agency have little value. All agencies are insured through the Risk Management Fund (RMF) for auto liability and, in many cases, general liability. Agencies that are not insured through the RMF for general liability are “self-insured,” and pay claims and associated expenses for bodily injury and property damage to third parties from their budgets. Injuries to state employees are covered under the state’s workers’ compensation self-insurance program. Consequently, it is not necessary for agencies to require evidence of insurance from another agency.



All other requests for certificates of insurance and self-insured letters will be processed normally. In addition, RMD will continue to honor agency-to-agency requests for evidence of insurance from quasi-state agencies. For questions, contact Carol Morgan at 651-201-2593 or email at carol.morgan@state.mn.us.



**Risk Management Division
310 Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155-1602**

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