

Risk Management Solutions

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ALABAMA MUNICIPAL INSURANCE CORPORATION AND THE MUNICIPAL WORKERS COMPENSATION FUND, INC.

SPRING 2009

AMIC Celebrates 20 Years: 1989-2009

he Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation (AMIC) is celebrating its 20-year anniversary as a mutual insurance provider to Alabama's municipalities.

"You have to be passionate about this business to succeed," said Steve Wells, AMIC president. "You also have to keep a constant watch on the market. AMIC wouldn't be available – let alone successful – if it weren't for the foresight of the Alabama League of Municipalities."

During the hard insurance market of the 1980s, the League's executive committee had the forward vision to create AMIC, an organization that would bring affordable and reliable insurance coverage to Alabama's municipalities. Twenty years ago in Alabama, if a municipality could find insurance it paid exorbitant rates for coverage. Now, two decades later, AMIC continues to provide excellent coverage and affordable rates to its municipal clientele. Even following several subsequent and destructive hurricane seasons when coverage, particularly along Alabama's Gulf Coast, was hard to find (or nonexistent), AMIC did not waver and continues to serve coastal municipal members.

Incorporated March 29, 1989, AMIC is a not-for-profit mutual insurance company organized under the laws of the state of Alabama and owned by its participating Alabama member municipalities. AMIC began issuing coverage on September 28, 1989 and continues to write all lines of automobile insurance, commercial general liability, police professional liability, public officials errors and omissions coverage, bonds, property, inland marine and so forth. AMIC is the only company writing municipal business in Alabama that offers first dollar defense coverage as well as co-volunteer liability. AMIC also provides 24-hour, 7-day-a-week, 1-866 convenience for member claims.

Coverage is available to municipalities as well as other incorporated municipal entities such as utility boards, industrial development boards and housing authorities. "Any instrument of a municipality we can pretty well provide coverage for," Wells said.

AMIC includes co-volunteer liability for fire and police volunteers protecting their personal liability and is one of the few insurers to cover multi-jurisdictional law enforcement activities, such as federally funded drug task forces. A member of the Insurance Guaranty Fund, AMIC is rated A- (Excellent) by the A.M. Best Company, the leading insurance company rating service in the world. Visit **www.amicentral.org** for additional information.



2008 Risk Management Awards

Instituting risk management and loss control activities by the members of the Municipal Workers Compensation Fund (MWCF) and the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation (AMIC) are considered to be proactive steps that benefit not only the member's loss ratio but the overall success of the MWCF and AMIC insurance programs. Not only are employee, property and liability losses minimized, but – most importantly employees and citizens reap the rewards of a safer workplace and community.

In recognition of the efforts and successes of our members, the Board of Directors of the MWCF and AMIC approved the establishment of a Risk Management Award during 2002. It was determined that an award program would be developed based on the loss ratios for the member's prior year. For those members of both the MWCF and AMIC programs, the loss ratios would be combined and divided by two to reflect the overall loss ratio.

Four levels of awards are being presented to acknowledge the efforts and accomplishments of those members in the areas of Risk Management for the year 2008. Members are eligible to receive the Presidents Award once every five years and the Gold, Silver and Bronze annually.

- ALM President's Award; Top 5% for 5 years
- Gold Award; Loss Ratio below 5%
- Silver Award; Loss Ratio of 5% to 20%
- Bronze Award; Loss Ratio of 20% to 40%

Awards were mailed to the recipients along with a press release. Recipients of these awards are being acknowledged in this issue of the *Risk Management Solutions* newsletter and at the League Convention in May.

EPA Fueling Station Regulations

Richard Buttenshaw, ARM-P, CIC, Loss Control Representative

In the aftermath of the recent hurricanes, many municipalities have implemented a detailed emergency plan that includes provisions for fueling their emergency vehicles in times of crisis when local gas station operations may not be available. For some, this has taken the form of installing above-ground fuel tanks at their public works facility for emergencies and/or day-to-day use. And while above-ground tanks can certainly provide the municipality a means to be self-sufficient during a crisis, there are extra responsibilities that come with storing large amounts of gasoline and/or petroleum products. Several Federal requirements regarding the use of such tanks apply.

Discharges of chemicals, petroleum or non-petroleum oils, from storage tanks can contaminate source water and any product spilled, leaked or lost from storage tanks may accumulate in soils or be carried away in storm runoff. Even a small spill can have a serious impact. A spill of only one gallon of oil can contaminate a million gallons of water. Causes for storage tank releases include holes from corrosion, failure of piping systems and spills and overfills, as well as equipment failure and human operational error. Consequently the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has introduced *The Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC)* regulations that require owners or operators of certain above ground oil storage facilities to prepare and comply with written, site-specific spill prevention plans.

The Federal AST (Above-ground Storage Tanks) Requirements are under 40 CFR Part 112 and apply to:

- Single above-ground tanks with an oil storage capacity of more than 660 gallons.
- Facilities with a total above ground oil storage capacity of more than 1,320 gallons.





• Facilities with a combined underground oil storage capacity greater than 42,000 gallons.

Please note that State AST regulations may be more stringent or differ in other ways from the Federal requirements. You must check with local regulatory authorities to make sure which ASTs are subject to what requirements. Taking necessary precautions – even when not required by regulations – is a good loss control measure for all storage facilities.

When touring such facilities through loss control visits, the League's Loss Control Reps are discovering numerous installations that fail to comply with one of the most important regulations: **containment**. All ASTs should have a *secondary containment* area that contains spills and allows leaks to be more easily detected. The containment area surrounding the tank should hold 110 percent of the contents of the largest tank plus freeboard for precipitation. In addition, the secondary AST containment areas must be impermeable to the materials being stored. Methods include walls, berms, dikes, liners, vaults and double-walled tanks. A manually controlled sump pump should be used to collect rain water that may accumulate in the secondary containment area and any discharge should be inspected for petroleum and/or chemicals prior to being dispensed. Furthermore, ASTs should be *routinely* monitored and inspected to ensure they are not leaking. Areas to inspect include tank foundations, connections, coatings, tank walls and piping systems.

Many incorrectly assume these regulations only apply to the large storage tanks associated with large scale oil distribution facilities. However, you need to immediately check the size of the tanks you use to store gasoline. A 660 gallon tank may be a lot smaller than you think!

Defining Moment

Inland Marine Insurance

The term Inland Marine has historical roots in insurance policies that dealt with transportation. The earliest inland marine policies were insuring boats and their cargo. As transportation activities changed through history, so has the terminology and associated inland marine insurance coverages. Today, the basis of inland marine insurance coverages is transportation and communications. In addition to goods in transit, it covers a variety of property that can be transported or considered an instrument of transportation or communication. The following is a partial list of items that might be listed on your Inland Marine schedule:

- · Contractors equipment such as backhoe, mowers, bush hogs, tractors
- Trailers used to transport equipment
- Communications items such as radios, telephone systems, towers, computers, video and surveillance systems
- Electronic equipment and media
- Message signs

Due to the diversity of items that could be listed on the Inland Marine policies, it is recommended that an inland marine property inventory be conducted on a regular basis. You should verify with your agent that these items are scheduled and properly valued in the event of a loss.

2008 Risk Management Awards

ALM President's Awards (Top 5% for 5 years)

Alexander City Berry Housing Authority **Birmingham Parking Authority** Birmingham Water Boaz Gas Board Camp Hill Chickasaw Utilities Chilton County Solid Waste Disposal Cottonwood Daleville Detroit East Alabama Mental Health & Retardation East Central Alabama Solid Waste Disposal Elba Fort Payne Improvement Authority Gadsden Airport Authority Gaylesville Georgiana Water & Sewer Good Hope Greensboro Hokes Bluff Sewer Board Jacksonville Killen Lineville Malvern Monroeville Housing Authority Munford Odenville Orrville Prichard Water Ranburne Scottsboro Electric Power Scottsboro Housing Authority Shorter Spanish Fort Spirit of Anniston Main Street Program, Inc. Upper Bear Creek Water, Sewer & FPA Wetumpka Water & Sewer

Gold Awards (Loss ratio below 5%)

Abbeville Housing Authority Addison Akron Alabama Municipal Election Authority Alabama-Tombigbee Regional Commission Aliceville Housing Authority Allgood Altoona Andalusia Housing Authority Anderson Anniston Housing Authority Arab Housing Authority Arab Sewer Board Arab Water Works Board Ardmore Argo Ariton Arley Ashland Water & Sewer Board Ashland, Goodwater-Lineville Solid Waste **Disposal Authority** Ashville Water & Sewer Board Athens Housing Authority Attalla Housing Authority

Autauga/Prattville Library Baileyton Banks Bay Minette Housing Authority Bear Creek Development Authority Bear Creek Water Works Board Beaverton Benton Berry Berry Gas Board Berry Housing Authority **Birmingham Parking Authority** Birmingham Water Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center Black Black Warrior Solid Waste Authority **Blountsville Utilities** Boaz Gas Board Boaz Water & Sewer Board Boligee **Boston Housing Authority** Brantley Brent **Brent Housing Authority Brewton Housing Authority** Brewton Natural Gas Bridgeport Housing Authority Bridgeport Utility Board Brilliant Brookside Brundidge Housing Authority Butler Calera Housing Authority **Calera Waterworks** Camp Hill Camp Hill Utilities Carbon Hill Housing Authority Carrollton Cedar Bluff Central Alabama Regional Planning Commission Centreville Water Works & Sewer Board Chatom Chatom Utility Cherokee Waterworks & Gas Board Chickasaw Housing Authority Chickasaw Utilities Childersburg Housing Authority Childersburg Waterworks, Sewer & Gas Chilton County Solid Waste Disposal Clanton Housing Authority Clayhatchee Clayton Housing Authority Clayton Water & Sewer Cleveland Coaling Coffeeville Coffeeville Waterworks Coker **Colbert County Animal** Colony Columbiana Columbiana Housing Authority Community Life Institute Coosa Valley Water Coosada Cordova Cordova Housing Authority Cottonwood Cottonwood Housing Authority

County Line Cowarts Craig Field Airport Authority Crossville Water Board Cullman Housing Authority Cullman-Jefferson Counties Gas District Dadeville Housing Authority Daleville Dauphin Island Dauphin Island Water Deatsville Deatsville VFD, Inc. Decatur Housing Authority Decatur Personnel Board Dekalb-Cherokee Counties Gas District **Demopolis Housing Authority** Detroit Dodge City Dora Waterworks & Gas Board Dothan **Dothan Housing Authority Double Springs Waterworks Board** Douglas Dozier Dutton East Alabama Regional Planning & **Development Commission** East Brewton East Brewton Waterworks & Sewer East Central Alabama Gas District East Central Alabama Solid Waste Disposal East Geneva Co. Senior Citizens Committee Eclectic Water & Sewer Board Elba Elba Housing Authority Elba Water & Electric Board Eldridge Elmore Elmore County Economic Dev Elmore Water Authority Emelle Enterprise Housing Authority Enterprise Rescue Eufaula Housing Authority Eufaula Housing Development Eutaw Housing Authority Eva **Evergreen Housing Authority** Fairfield Housing Authority Fairview Faunsdale Fayette Gas Board Fayette Housing Authority Five Points Five Star Water District Flomaton Florala Housing Authority Foley Housing Authority Forkland Fort Payne Waterworks Board Fruithurst Fire Department Fyffe Gadsden Airport Authority Gadsden Emergency Management Agency Gainesville Gantt Garden City Gaylesville Geiger

Geneva Water Georgiana Housing Authority Georgiana Water & Sewer Geraldine Gilbertown Glen Allen Glencoe Water & Sewer Glenwood Goldville Good Hope Goodwater Goodwater Housing Authority Goodwater Waterworks & Sewer Gordo Housing Authority Gordo Water Board Gordon Goshen Governmental Utility Services (Bessemer) Greene County Ambulance Service Greensboro Utility Board Grove Hill Guin Housing Authority Guin Water & Sewer Board Guntersville Housing Authority Gurley H. E. L. P., Inc. Hackleburg Hackleburg Housing Authority Haleyville Housing Authority Hamilton Housing Authority Hammondville Hanceville Harpersville Water Board Hartselle Hartselle Housing Authority Hayden Headland Housing Authority Heath Heflin Housing Authority Helena Helena Utilities Highland Lake Hobson City Hobson City Housing Authority Hodges Hokes Bluff Sewer Board Hokes Bluff Water Board Holly Pond Hollywood Hoover Hurtsboro НуТор Ider Indian Springs Jasper Housing Authority Jemison Kansas Kennedy Killen Kinsey Lake-View Lamar County Gas District Langston Lawrence-Colbert Counties Gas Board Leeds Housing Authority Leeds Water & Sewer Lee-Russell Council of Local Governments Leighton

Gold Awards Cont.

Leighton Water Works & Sewer Board Lexington Linden Housing Authority Linden Utilities Lipscomb Lisman Livingston Loachapoka Lockhart Locust Fork Louisville Lowndesboro Luverne Luverne Housing Authority Magnolia Springs Malvern Maplesville Water Works & Gas Board Margaret Marion Housing Authority Marshall County Gas District Maytown McKenzie Mentone Millport Housing Authority Mobile County Emergency Management Mobile County Personnel Board Monroeville Housing Authority Montevallo Water & Sewer Mooresville Moulton Housing Authority Moulton Water & Sewer Board Mulga Waterworks & Utility Board Munford Muscle Shoals Electric Board Myrtlewood Napier Field Natural Bridge Nauvoo Waterworks Nectar Needham New Brockton New Brockton Housing Authority New Hope New Site Newbern Newton Housing Authority Newton Water & Sewer North Alabama Gas District Northwest Alabama Council Of Local Governments Northwest Alabama Gas District Notasulga Oak Hill Oakman Odenville **Odenville Utilities Oneonta Housing Authority** Opelika Housing Authority **Opelika Waterworks Board Opp Housing Authority** Orange Beach Water & Sewer Board Orrville **Owens Cross Roads** Ozark Dale Co, E-911 **Ozark Utilities** Paint Rock Parrish Housing Authority Pell City Housing Authority Phenix City Housing Authority Phil Campbell

Phil Campbell Housing Authority

Phil Campbell Water & Sewer Board **Pickens County Gas** Pickensville **Piedmont Housing Authority** Pike Road Pinckard Pine Apple Pine Hill Pinson Pisgah Pleasant Groves Pollard Powell Prattville Housing Authority Prattville Solid Waste Authority Prattville Waterworks Prichard Housing Authority Prichard Water Ragland Housing Authority Ragland Water Works & Gas Rainsville Ranburne Red Bay Red Bay Housing Authority Red Level **Reform Housing Authority** Reform Water & Sewer Board Rehobeth Repton Roanoke Housing Authority Robertsdale Rockford Rockford Gas Board Rogersville Rogersville Waterworks & Sewer Russellville Electric Board Russellville Gas Board Russellville Housing Authority Russellville Waterworks & Sewer Rutledge Saint Florian Samson Housing Authority Sand Rock Sardis City Waterworks Board Satsuma Satsuma Waterworks & Sewer Board Scottsboro Electric Power Scottsboro Housing Authority Section Shorter Silas Silverhill Skyline Slocomb Slocomb Housing Authority Slocomb Water & Sewer Smiths Station Somerville South Central Alabama Development Commission South Central Alabama Development Commission/ Senior Aides Division South Central Alabama Regional Housing Authority South Vinemont Southside Waterworks Board Spirit of Anniston Main Street Program, Inc. Steele Waterworks Board Stevenson Stevenson Housing Authority

Storm Water Management Authority

Sulligent Housing Authority

Sumiton Gas Board Sumiton Housing Authority Sumiton Water Board Sweet Water Sweet Water Water Works Sylvan Springs Sylvania Talladega Springs Tarrant Housing Authority Thomaston Thomaston Water & Gas Thomasville Waterworks & Sewer Toxey Tri Community Water System Triana Housing Authority **Troy Housing Authority** Trussville Utility Board **Tuscaloosa Housing Authority** Tuscumbia Utilities Department **Tuskegee Housing Authority** Tuskegee Utility Board Twin Union Union Grove Utilities Union Springs Utility Board Uniontown Housing Authority Upper Bear Creek Water, Sewer & FPA USS Alabama Battleship Commission Valley Grande Valley Head Valley Head Housing Authority Valley Head Water Works Board Vance Vina Vincent Vincent Housing Authority Vredenburgh Walnut Grove Warrior Washington County Library Board Weaver Webb Wedowee Wedowee Water, Sewer & Gas Board West Alabama Regional Commission West Anniston Community Development Corporation West Blockton West Jefferson West Point Wetumpka Water & Sewer Wilcox County Gas Wilsonville Wilton Wilton Water and Gas Winfield Housing Authority Winston County Industrial Development Authority Woodland Woodstock Woodville

Silver Awards (Loss ratio of 5% to 20%)

Abbeville Water & Sewer Alabama League of Municipalities Albertville Utilities Alexander City Alexander City Housing Authority Aliceville Aliceville Water & Sewer Andalusia Utilities Anniston Arab Asbury Water Board Athens Atmore Atmore Utilities Auburn Water Board Bear Creek Beatrice **Birmingham Airport Authority** Birmingham Regional Planning **Commission Senior Aide** Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority Blountsville Boaz **Brent Utilities** Brighton Brookwood Brundidge Camden Carbon Hill Center Point Centre Centreville Clarke-Mobile County Gas District Clay Clayton Clio Coffee Springs Collinsville **Columbiana Waterworks** Cordova Water & Gas Board Daphne Daphne Utilities Decatur Municipal Utility Board Demopolis **Demopolis Water** Dora East Alabama Mental Health & Retardation Elberta Elkmont Eutaw Falkville Fayette Water Works Board Florala Water and Sewer Board Florence Housing Authority Foley Fort Deposit Fort Payne Fort Payne Housing Authority Fort Payne Improvement Authority Fultondale Fultondale Gas Board Gadsden Gardendale Geneva Georgiana Glencoe Gordo Greensboro

Greenville Guin Guntersville Electric Board Guntersville Water & Sewer Board Haleyville Water & Sewer Board Harpersville Headland Heflin Heflin Water & Sewer Henagar Hokes Bluff Huntsville Housing Authority Huntsville-Madison County Airport Jacksonville Jacksonville Water Works, Gas/Sewer Kinston Leeds Lincoln Linden Lineville Lineville Water & Sewer Littleville Loxley McIntosh Midfield Millport Mobile Airport Authority Monroeville Montevallo Moulton **Muscle Shoals Utilities** North Baldwin Utilities (COMBINED WITH Bay Minette Utilities) Northport Housing Authority Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments - Auto Oak Grove Oneonta **Orange Beach** Parrish Water & Sewer Board Pennington Pennington Utilities Phenix City Piedmont Prichard Rainbow City Utilities Board Red Bay Water & Gas Reform Roanoke Samson Saraland Scottsboro Sewer & Waterworks Board Section-Dutton Water Selma Water & Sewer Sheffield Southeast Alabama Gas Spanish Fort Stevenson Utilities Summerdale Sylacauga Housing Authority Talladega Housing Authority Talladega Water & Sewer Board Tallassee Tarrant Electric Department Taylor Trafford Tuscaloosa Parking & Transit Authority Union Springs Vernon Vernon Water & Sewer Board Winfield Winfield Waterworks & Sewer

Bronze Awards (Loss ratio of 20% to 40%)

Abbeville Adamsville Alabaster Albertville Andalusia Anniston Water Board Ashford Ashland Attalla Auburn Autaugaville Baker Hill Bay Minette Bayou La Batre Bayou La Batre Water & Sewer Bessemer Electric and Water **Birmingham District Housing Authority** Butler Utilities Castleberry Cedar Bluff Utility Board Centre Waterworks & Sewer Chelsea Childersburg Citronelle Clanton Columbia Courtland Cuba Cullman **Cullman Utilities** Eufaula Excel Fairfield Fairhope Gilbertown Utility Gulf Shores Gulf Shores Utility Board Halevville Hartselle Utilities Hillsboro Homewood Irondale Kimberly LaFayette Lanett Lynn Marion Midway Millry Moody Mountain Brook Mulga Newton Ohatchee Oneonta Utilities Opelika Oxford Water & Sewer Board Ozark Pelham Priceville Reece City Riverside Rockford Waterworks Russellville Scottsboro Selma **Sheffield Utilities** Sipsey South Alabama Utilities



Upcoming Loss Control Seminars

Detailed information will be mailed in upcoming weeks; however, mark your calendars for the following:

June 3 – Priceville • June 4 – Talladega June 16 – Livingston • June 17 – Andalusia

Seminar Topics:

- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Top 10 Property Issues
- Fire Extinguishers: What Are They Really For?
- Loss Control Resources

Previous issues of this publication are posted online at www.amicentral.org or www.alalm.org (click on the MWCF link).

2009 SkidCar Schedule

Homewood	April 14-24
Cullman	May 12-15
Phenix City	June 2-12
Slocomb	June 23-July 2
NE Law Enforcement Academy	July 7-17
Decatur	Aug. 4-14
Gardendale	Sept. 8-18
Mobile (FULL)	Sept. 29-Oct. 9
Orange Beach	Nov. 3-13
Montgomery	Dec. 1-11

For more information, contact Donna Wagner at 334-262-2566.



Dates/locations subject to change.

Popular Safety DVDs

Right of Way Mowing Safety	5.032
Tractor Safety	5.039
Wheelbarrows	5.045
Responding to Bites & Stings	7.067
Responding to Allergic Reaction	7.068
Responding to Asthma	7.070
Inspecting Playgrounds for Hazards	7.083
Softball & Baseball Field Maintenance & Safety	7.084
Outdoor Safety: Critters & Plants	7.029
Fleas, Ticks & Other Parasites	1.004
Lyme Disease: Danger in the Grass	7.026
Groundskeeping Safety: Bugs & Critters	7.105
Groundskeeping Safety: Be a Pro!	7.106
Protecting Your Feet: Learning Your ABC's	7.108
A Practical Approach to Ladder Safety	7.110
Special EventsSpecial Liabilities	16.007
Recreational Activity Liability	16.008
Managing the Risks of Volunteers	16.009

Call, FAX or e-mail your Video/DVD request to Rachel Wagner at: 334-262-2566; rachelw@alalm.org; or FAX at 334-263-0200.

Through a toll-free Employment Practices Law Hotline, members can be in direct contact with an attorney specializing in employment-related issues. When faced with a potential employment situation, the hotline provides a no-cost, 30 minute consultation.



For move information, саШ:



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