

Risk Management Solutions



Spring 2015

A Quarterly Newsletter of the AMIC/MWCF Loss Control Division

Abbeville Develops Safety Incentive Program

Stephanie Southerland, CMC, CPM, Loss Control Representative

ccording to statistics from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there were 66 people killed on the job in the state of Alabama in 2013 – seven were people employed by local governmental entities. Most fatal work injuries in Alabama, as well as the United States as a whole, are transportation incidents. Other common work related deaths involve injuries inflicted by people or animals as well as slips, trips or falls. Based on these facts, there is certainly reason for ongoing workplace training as well as continued efforts for improved on-the-job safety.

Safety Incentive Programs are universal interventions that may reduce the number and severity of workplace injuries and lower your insurance premiums. Most successful injury and illness prevention programs are based on a set of key elements: management leadership, worker participation, hazard identification, hazard prevention and control, education and training and program evaluation and improvement. The goal is for your employees to understand and participate in achieving and maintaining safe surroundings. A thorough safety program will ensure cost savings to the employer as well as reducing fatalities, injuries and illnesses.

A valuable tool that may be incorporated into your own Safety Incentive Program is the Loss Control Division's website, **www.losscontrol.org**, where AMIC/MWCF members can access free specialized online training as well as a comprehensive listing of DVDs and videos available through our Safety Video Library. We have partnered with LocalGovU to create an Online Learning Center that provides a variety of course topics, including risk management, human resources, safety and law enforcement. Courses are available on a 24/7 basis from any computer with internet access and are *free* to our members. Courses change on a quarterly basis, with new courses becoming available on the first business day of October, January, April and July. Each course is written specifically for public entities and typically takes about 30 minutes to complete.

The City of Abbeville has established an Employee Recognition Program that incorporates the use of the Loss Control Division's online training as part of its employee incentives. Employees earn points throughout the calendar year based on safety, cost savings and online training. Abbeville awards 500 to 1000 points to a department or an employee who recognizes a safety violation or a situation that could potentially occur and takes action to prevent serious injuries and/or repetitive injuries or damage. The City also awards points for achieving educational milestones, such as completing a certificate program, diplomas, degrees, industry or professional designations, to include Online Training via the Loss Control Division's website. Points are then used to bid on a number of rewards during a live auction at Abbeville's annual Employee Appreciation Dinner.

City Clerk Pam Ward said the program is funded entirely through public donations; no city tax dollars are used. "The program has brought a heightened sense of awareness to several aspects of the City," she said. "Cost cutting, safety and innovation are more prevalent because there are rewards tied to them. Personal skills learning has also increased with the added benefits. Our team all enjoy our end-of-year party and spending their



rewards. The program is a win-win for all of us."

Recognizing employee contributions to an organization fosters productivity, improves relationships and enhances loyalty. Safety programs coupled with employee recognition events serve a dual purpose and are extremely beneficial. They don't have to be complicated. A blend of tools and strategies can be used to engage employees. In addition to formal incentives, if your organization has a Facebook, Instagram or Twitter account you may choose to recognize your employees publicly through these social media forums, providing an added boost to your safety programs throughout the year.

While the number of work related fatalities has decreased annually, safety programs remain a critical element to encouraging a conscious effort to eliminate work related deaths. Please take advantage of the online training offered through the Loss Control Division's website and consider implementing a formal safety program for your employees.

Another service provided by the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation (AMIC) and the Municipal Workers Compensation Fund (MWCF) founded by the Alabama League of Municipalities (ALM).

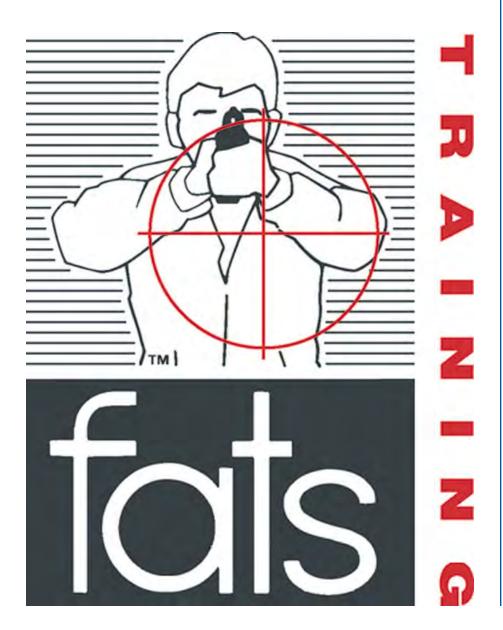
FATS Features High-Def Training Scenarios

The Loss Control Division is excited to announce that our FATS (Firearms Training System) has been updated and now features new scenarios and equipment. This important training system has been made available through the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation (AMIC) and the Municipal Workers Compensation Fund (MWCF) for more than a decade and with the enhanced system, we will continue to offer low cost, hands-on training for all our insured police departments.

The demands on law enforcement have never been greater and this training gives officers the ability to make better life and death decisions. FATS employs digital interactive training technology, allowing officers to improve their decision-making skills by responding to real-life situations where the use of lethal force may be necessary. Our new system is now more user friendly, self-calibrates, is in high-definition (HD) and features a larger screen with updated training scenarios. With this new system, firearms instructors can work with officers on the fundamentals of shooting prior to live fire. FATS is particularly beneficial for less skilled shooters, saving police departments considerable cost in ammunition.

The Loss Control Division plans to have FATS on display and available for testing at the Expo Hall during the Alabama League of Municipalities' Annual Convention in Tuscaloosa this May – so be sure to stop by and try out the new system!

For more information on our FATS program, visit our website at losscontrol.org.



Loss Control Seminars Planned for August Mark your Calendars!

AMIC/MWCF's Loss Control Division is offering its annual training seminars this August. These seminars have always been well attended and we look forward to continuing that success with this year's events. As always, when choosing our topics we try to consider the broad spectrum of different people, job titles and interests we have at these events.

For more information and to register, visit **losscontrol.org** and click on the link for the seminars. You can also pay online with your credit card. *Please remember to register for your preferred location as soon as possible as some locations have limited space.* Lunch will be provided.

Dates and Locations:

Tuesday, Aug. 11	Madison City Hall 100 Hughes Road, Madison
Thursday, Aug. 13	Alabaster Municipal Building 1953 Municipal Way, Alabaster
Tuesday, Aug. 18	Summerdale City Hall 502 W Lee Avenue, Summerdale
Wednesday, Aug. 19	Alabama League of Municipalities 535 Adams Ave., Montgomery

Need Help Filing Work Comp Claims?

For step-by-step instructions, visit

www.almwcf.org

By Popular Demand: Pay for Training with a Credit Card

You can now not only register your employees online for the Loss Control Division's very popular SkidCar training, you can also pay using a credit card. Both registration and payment can be done quickly and easily via our website, **Iosscontrol. org** – simply go to the SkidCar section, click on the listed location you would like to register for and you will be able to register your employees and have the option of paying using a credit card. Of course, you can also register online and mail a check if that's your preferred method of payment. **Please note that the only way to pay with a credit card is online.** We cannot process credit cards any other way. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Wagner, Loss Control Coordinator, at 334-262-2566.

2014 Risk Management Awards

In recognition of the efforts and successes of our members, the AMIC and MWCF Board of Directors established the Risk Management Awards system in 2002.

Awards are determined based on the loss ratios for each member's prior year. For members of both the AMIC and MWCF programs, the loss ratios are combined and divided by two to reflect the overall loss ratio. Members are eligible to receive the Presidents Award once every five years and the Gold, Silver and Bronze annually.

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

Alabama League of Municipalities Aliceville Housing Authority Ashland Bear Creek Development Authority Beaverton Belle Fontaine Improvement District **Benton** Birmingham Parking Authority Boaz Gas Board Butler Carbon Hill Housing Authority Cherokee Waterworks & Gas Board Chilton County Solid Waste Disposal Community Life Institute Crossville Deatsville VFD, Inc. Detroit East Alabama Regional Planning & **Development Commission** Eva Fruithurst Fire Department Fulton Fulton Utilities Board Glenwood Hartselle Utilities Hobson City Housing Authority Langston Linden Utilities Lisman Louisville Midfield Mobile County Personnel Board Nauvoo Waterworks Needham Opelika Waterworks Board Orange Beach Water & Sewer Board Perdido Beach Pickensville Pine Apple Ranburne Ranburne Water & Sewer **Renaissance Cooperative District** Renaissance Improvement District Russellville Electric Board Russellville Waterworks & Sewer Spirit of Anniston Main Street Program, Inc. Storm Water Management Authority Thomaston Water & Gas Triana Union Upper Bear Creek Water, Sewer & FPA Wedowee West Point

Gold Awards (Loss ratio below 5%) Abbeville Fire & Rescue Addison Alabama League of Municipalities Alabama Municipal Election Authority Alabaster Water Board Albertville and Boaz Recycling and Gas Solid Waste Disposal Aliceville Housing Authority Aliceville Water & Sewer Allgood Andalusia Board of Education Anderson Anniston Public Library Arab Sewer Board Clio Arab Water Works Board Ardmore Water Arley Asbury Water Board Ashford Housing Authority Ashland Water & Sewer Board Ashville Ashville Water & Sewer Board Atmore Housing Authority Attalla Water Works Board Autauga/Prattville Library Autaugaville B.B. Comer Memorial Library Babbie Baker Hill Banks **Bay Minette** Bayou La Batre Bear Creek Beaverton Belle Fontaine Improvement District Benton Cuba **Bessemer Public Library** Birmingham Regional Planning **Commission General Fund** Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center Black Black Warrior Solid Waste Authority Blackbelt Energy Blount County Oneonta Agri-Business Center Blountsville Blountsville Housing Authority **Blountsville Utilities** Boligee Brantley Housing Authority Brent Brent Housing Authority **Brent Utilities Brewton Housing Authority** Brewton Natural Gas Bridgeport Housing Authority Bridgeport Utility Board **Butler Utilities** C.C.E.M.S. Calera Housing Authority Calera Waterworks Camden Camp Hill Utilities Carbon Hill Housing Authority Carbon Hill Utility Board Epes Carrollton Castleberry Cedar Bluff Utility Board Eva Central Alabama Regional Planning

Commission

Centreville Water Works & Sewer Roard Chatom Chelsea Cherokee Waterworks & Gas Board Chickasaw Chickasaw Utilities Childersburg Waterworks, Sewer & Chilton County Solid Waste Disposal Citronelle Historical Preservation Society, Inc. Clanton Housing Authority Clavhatchee Clayton Housing Authority **Coffee Springs** Coffeeville Coffeeville Waterworks Coker Coker Water Authority **Colbert County Animal** Colony Columbiana Columbiana Waterworks Community Life Institute Coosa Valley Water Cottonwood Housing Authority Country Crossing Cooperative District **Country Crossing Improvement** District County Line Cowarts Craig Field Airport Authority Crossville **Crossville Water Board** Cumberland Mountain Water Dadeville Housing Authority **Dale County Commission** Daleville City Board of Education Dauphin Island Water Deatsville Deatsville VFD, Inc. Decatur Housing Authority Decatur Municipal Utility Board Decatur Personnel Board Deer Run Golf Course Moulton Detroit Dothan **Double Springs Waterworks Board** Dozier East Brewton East Brewton Waterworks & Sewer East Central Alabama Gas District East Geneva Co. Senior Citizens Committee Elba Water & Electric Board Flberta Elkmont Elmore Elmore County Economic Dev. Elmore Water Authority Emelle Enterprise Rescue Eufaula Housing Authority Eutaw Housing Authority **Evergreen Housing Authority**

Excel Facility Committee, Inc. Fairview Faunsdale Fayette Gas Board Fayette Housing Authority Five Points Five Star Water District Florala Housing Authority Foley Public Facility Forestdale Fire District Fort Deposit Water Works & Sewer Board Fort Payne Improvement Authority Frisco City Fruithurst Fire Department Fulton Fulton Utilities Board Fyffe Gadsden Airport Authority Gainesville Gainesville VFD Gantt Garden City Gaylesville Geiger Geneva Water Georgiana Housing Authority Georgiana Water & Sewer Geraldine Gilbertown Utility Glen Allen Glencoe Water & Sewer Glenwood Goldville Good Hope Goodwater Gordo Water Board Governmental Utility Services (Bessemer) Grand Bay Water System Greene County Ambulance Service Greensboro Utility Board Greenville Waterworks & Sewer Greenville YMCA Guin Water & Sewer Board Guntersville Housing Authority Hammondville Hanceville Hanceville Housing Authority Hanceville Water & Sewer Harpersville Harpersville Water Board Hartselle Housing Authority Hartselle Utilities Headland Housing Authority Heath Heflin Hobson City Housing Authority Hokes Bluff Hokes Bluff Water Board Hollywood Horizons Improvement District Huntsville Tennis Board Huntsville-Madison County Airport Hurtsboro Water Works НуТор Ider Indian Springs Indian Springs Village Jackson's Gap

Jefferson County 911 Kansas Kellyton Kennedy Kinsey Kinston Lamar County Gas District Langston Leesburg Legacy Springs Improvement #1 Leighton Leighton Water Works & Sewer Board Level Plains Linden Housing Authority Linden Utilities Lineville Lineville Water & Sewer Lipscomb Lisman Littleville Loachapoka Locust Fork Lowndesboro Luverne Housing Authority Lynn Magnolia Springs Magnolia Springs Public Library Malvern Maplesville Margaret Maytown McIntosh McIntosh Water & Fire Mentone Midland City Millport Millry Mobile County Emergency Management Mobile Metro Transit Management Monroeville Housing Authority Montevallo Mooresville Morris Mosses Moulton Gas Board Moulton Housing Authority Moulton Water & Sewer Board Mulga Munford Muscle Shoals Electric Board Myrtlewood Napier Field Natural Bridge Nauvoo Nauvoo Waterworks Needham New Brockton Newbern Newton Water & Sewer Newville North Alabama Gas District North Baldwin Utilities North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments Senior Aides Northeast Alabama Agri **Business Center** Northeast Alabama Gas Northport Housing Authority N.W. Alabama Council of Local Government - Senior Aides Program continued next page

Northwest Alabama Gas District Oak Hill Odenville Ohatchee **Opp Housing Authority Opp Utilities** Orange Beach Public Library Orange Beach Water & Sewer Board Orrville Ozark Housing Authority Ozark-Dale County Economic Development Corp. Paint Rock Pell City Housing Authority Pennington Utilities Perdido Beach Phenix City Utilities Phil Campbell Housing Authority Pickens County Gas Pickensville Pike Road Pine Apple Pinson Pisgah Pleasant Groves Pollard Prattville Historic Redevelopment Authority Prattville Solid Waste Authority Prattville Waterworks Priceville Prichard Water Providence Ragland Ragland Water Works & Gas Rainbow City Utilities Board Ranburne Ranburne Water & Sewer Red Bav Red Level **Reform Housing Authority** Reform Water & Sewer Board Rehoheth Renaissance Cooperative District Renaissance Improvement District **River Falls** Riverside Rockford Rockford Gas Board **Rockford Waterworks** Rocky Ridge Fire District Rogersville Waterworks & Sewer Russellville Electric Board Russellville Gas Board Russellville Housing Authority Russellville Waterworks & Sewer Saint Florian Sand Rock Sanford Sardis City Sardis City Waterworks Board Satsuma Waterworks & Sewer Board Scottsboro Public Library Semmes Shiloh Shorter Silas Sipsey Skyline Slocomb Water & Sewer Smiths Station Somerville South Central Alabama Development Commission

South Central Alabama Development Commission/ Senior Aides Division South Vinemont Southeast Alabama Solid Waste **Disposal Authority** Spirit of Anniston Main Street Program Steele Steele Waterworks Board Stevenson Utilities Storm Water Management Authority Sulligent Housing Authority Sumiton Gas Board Sumiton Water Board Susan Moore Sweet Water Sweet Water Water Works Sylacauga Parks and Recreation Sylvan Springs Sylvania Talladega Springs Tallassee Tallassee Industrial Development Board Tallassee Redevelopment Authority The Plaza at the Towers Thomaston Thomaston Water & Gas Thomasville Waterworks & Sewer Town Creek Toxey Trafford Tri Community Water System Trinity Troy Board of Education Troy Housing Services Trussville Utility Board Tuscumbia Housing Authority Tuscumbia Utilities Department Tuskegee Housing Authority Tuskegee UBT Cooperative District Tuskegee Utility Board Twelve Oaks Improvement District Twin Union Union Grove Union Grove Utilities Union Springs Utility Board Uniontown Upper Bear Creek Water, Sewer & FPA Valley Grande Vernon Water & Sewer Board Vincent Vincent Water & Sewer Vredenburgh Walnut Grove Washington County Library Board Waterloo Waverly Webb Wedowee Wedowee Water, Sewer & Gas Board West Escambia Utilities West Jefferson West Lawrence Water Cooperative West Pace Village Coop. District West Pace Village Improvement District West Point Wetumpka Water & Sewer Wilcox County Gas Wilton Winston Cooperative District Winston Co. Industrial Dev. Authority Woodville

Silver Awards (Loss ratio of 5% - 20%) Abbeville Water & Sewer Alabaster Albertville Albertville Utilities Alexander City Aliceville Anniston Anniston Housing Authority Ardmore Ariton Ashford Athens Utilities Auburn Water Board Bear Creek Development Authority Berry **Beulah Utilities District** Birmingham Parking Authority Brundidge Cahaba Valley Fire & Emergency Medical Rescue District Cedar Bluff Citronelle Clanton Clarke-Mobile County Gas District Clay Clavton Clayton Water & Sewer Coaling Collinsville Cottonwood Creola Cullman-Jefferson Counties Gas District Daleville Decatur Dutton East Alabama Regional Planning & **Development Commission** East Alabama Water, Sewer & Fire Eclectic Flha Fufaula Water Works Futaw Favette Foley/Riviera Utilities Fort Deposit Fultondale Fultondale Gas Board Gadsden Gardendale Gilbertown Grant Gravsville Greensboro Greenville Gulf Shores Gurley Hamilton Hamilton Housing Authority Hayneville Highland Lake Hobson City Jemison Killen Leeds Water & Sewer Lexington Lincoln Lockhart Louisville Luverne Madison Utilities Marshall County Gas District McKenzie

Midfield Minor Heights Fire District Mobile Airport Authority Montgomery Housing Authority Montgomery Water & Sewer Moody Moulton Mulga Waterworks & Utility Board New Brockton Water & Sewer Board New Hope New Site Northwest Alabama Council Of Local Governments Oneonta Opelika Waterworks Board

New Brockton Water & Sewer Northwest Alabama Council Of Local Governments Opelika Waterworks Board Orange Beach Ozark Utilities Parrish Pelham Phil Campbell Water & Sewer Board Piedmont Rainbow City Rainsville Red Bay Water & Gas Reform Roanoke Russellville Samson Scottsboro Electric Power Section Silverhill South Alabama Utilities Southside Sumiton Summerdale Tarrant Electric Department Taylor Thorsby Triana Tuscaloosa Parking & Transit Authority Union Springs Vance West Alabama Health Services Winfield Woodland **Bronze Awards**

(Loss ratio of 20% - 40%)

Andalusia Andalusia Utilities Arah Ashland Ashland, Goodwater-Lineville Solid Waste Disposal Authority Athens Atmore Attalla Bayou La Batre Water & Sewer Boaz Gas Board Boaz Water & Sewer Board **Brantlev** Brilliant Butler Calera Centreville Chatom Utility Cherokee Cherokee County Water Chickasaw Housing Authority Columbia Coosada

Courtland Daphne Daphne Utilities Dauphin Island **Demopolis Water** Dora **Double Springs** Fairfield Falkville Favette Water Works Board Florala Georgiana Gordo Gulf Shores Utility Board Hackleburg Haleyville Hartselle Heflin Water & Sewer Homewood Hueytown Huntsville & Madison County Senior Center Huntsville Housing Authority Hurtsboro Jackson Water & Sewer Board Livingston Loxley Madison Midway Mobile Water & Sewer Monroeville Moundville Oak Grove Opelika **Owens Cross Roads** Oxford Ozark Phil Campbell Pinckard Pleasant Grove Prattville Prichard Robertsdale Saraland Satsuma Scottsboro Scottsboro Sewer & Waterworks Board Section-Dutton Water Selma Spanish Fort Springville Sulligent Sylacauga Sylacauga Utilities Tarrant City Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments Senior Aides Division Trussville Tuscumbia Tuskegee Valley Valley Head Water Works Board Vernon Vestavia Hills Warrior West Blockton Westover Wetumpka Woodstock York

Cordova Water & Gas Board

Playground Safety Tips

Todd McCarley, Loss Control Representative, AMIC/MWCF

Municipal playgrounds are popular family destinations within many cities and towns; therefore, safeguarding and maintaining the equipment is vital. Below are several key steps that should be taken to ensure your citizens have a great experience each time they visit your municipal playground.

- **1.** Have proper surface material around playground equipment. Avoid asphalt, concrete, grass and soil. Acceptable surfaces include shredded rubber, mulch or fine sand.
- 2. Surfacing should be at least 9 inches deep and extended a minimum of 6 feet in all directions around stationary equipment.
- **3.** Surfacing may need to extend further than 6 feet depending on the height of the equipment.
- 4. Check equipment frequently for sharp points, corners and edges that can develop as a result of wear and tear on the equipment.

Instruct parents and guardians to:

- Always supervise children when using playground equipment.
- Remove hoods and drawstrings from the child's clothing.
- Ensure that children play on age appropriate equipment.

2015 SkidCar Schedule

Through an advanced, computer-controlled driver training vehicle known as the Skidcar System, trainees learn how to react quickly and safely to a range of hazardous driving conditions. Training is conducted throughout the state at a minimal cost.

We currently have a limited number of open dates. If you want to host the SkidCar, contact Stan Fant at 251-802-6904. The SkidCar calendar is also posted at www.losscontrol.org.

April 7-17	
May 12-22	
June 16-26	
July 14-24	
August 11-21	

RoanokeSeptember 8-18WinfieldOctober 6-16OPENNovember 3-13ThomasvilleDecember 1-11Decatur

Guntersville OPEN Orange Beach Montgomery

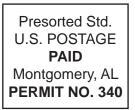
Register and pay ONLINE at www.losscontrol.org!





Loss Control Division

P.O. Box 1270 • 535 Adams Avenue • Montgomery, AL • 36102 CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Spring Safety DVDs

- 5.049 Distractions: Behind the Wheel For Drivers
- 5.053 Landscaping Equipment: Maintenance and Safety
- 5.055 Distracted Driving: At What Cost?
- 7.008 Dog Bite Prevention
- 7.026 The Facts About Ticks and Lyme Disease
- 7.105 Groundskeeping Safety: Dealing With Bugs and Critters
- 7.106 Groundskeeping Safety: Be a Pro!
- 7.108 Protecting Your Feet: Learning Your ABC's
- 7.115- First Aid: Prepared to Help 7.116- CPR and AED: The Chain of
- 7.116- CPR and AED: The Chain of Survival 7.117- Hazards of Cell Phone Usage
- 7.117- Hazards of Cell Phone Usage7.118- Safety Procedures for Lawn Mo
- 7.118- Safety Procedures for Lawn Mower Operators7.119- Landscape Power Tool Safety
- 7.120- Hedge Trimmer Safety
- 7.121- Video Guide to Chainsaw Safety
- 7.122- String Trimmer Safety
- 7.123- Boating Safety
- 7.128- Golf Cart & Low Speed Vehicle Safety: On & Off the Course

Video/DVD requests to: Rachel Wagner at: 334-262-2566;

rachelw@alalm.org; or FAX at 334-263-0200.

Employment Practices Law Hotline

1-800-864-5324

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.

www.losscontrol.org