

Risk Management Solutions



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A Quarterly Newsletter of the AMIC/MWCF Loss Control Division

Use of Drones in Law Enforcement

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nmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), commonly known as drones, are being integrated into law enforcement around the country. Agencies in Alabama are beginning to use UAVs to enhance their operations. If properly used, this technology is an excellent tool for law enforcement.

In 2015 Governor Bentley implemented the ALABAMA UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS (UAS) Task Force to address issues regarding unmanned aerial flights. This task force represents all stakeholders across the state including first responders. According to its mission statement, the task force will recommend a statewide plan for use of UAVs by the State of Alabama to include recommendations of proposed legislation. More information on this task force can be found online at www.alabamauastaskforce.org.

Current uses for law enforcement UAVs include:

- Security surveillance for sporting and other highly attended public events.
- Aerial photographing of vehicle accidents and crime scenes.
- Added security for executing high risk search and arrest warrants.
- Search aid for missing persons.





Photos provided by Oxford Police Department

Above: Drone used by Oxford Police Department. Below: Drone photo of crash scene, Oxford, AL. Next page: Drone photo of crash scene, Oxford, AL.

With the use of drones, police can now search an entire area near the home of a missing person within a short time span. This tool is invaluable to first responders when searching for small children and Alzheimer's patients. While a number of practical usages exist for this equipment when properly employed, agencies must realize that the use of UAVs in law enforcement is relativity new and brings with it certain legal considerations.

The potential for privacy abuses from aerial surveillance has caused some agencies in other states to abandon their plans to use this technology. Agencies choosing to adopt this equipment should only do so after implementing strict policy governing its use. This policy should clearly state that <u>all</u> UAV operators must undergo necessary training covering all aspects of UAV usage and that no person can operate a drone without proper training. This training must cover all federal, state and local laws governing the

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Drones continued from cover

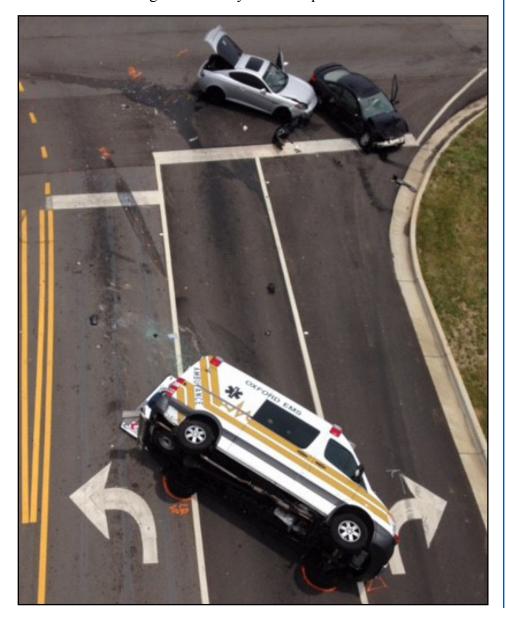
use of UAVs as well as constitutional mandates relating to search and seizure. This written policy should further state that only *departmental approved* UAVs will be used and with no exception will personal equipment of any kind be used. The policy must also conform to all state laws regarding the storage of digital data.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) has issued excellent written guidelines concerning the use of UAVs in law enforcement. This guideline can be accessed through the IACP website at **www.theiacp. org**. The IACP encourages community engagement prior to implementing an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle program and recommends agencies reassure their communities that the protections afforded citizens through the U.S. Constitution will be fully adhered to in all operations of this equipment.

Police agencies that elect to use UAVs should first regulate how they will be used. Agencies must also consider the costs versus the overall benefits to be gained. Another such consideration concerning cost versus benefit involves the municipality's Law Enforcement Liability coverage. Agencies should check with their liability insurance carriers to determine if restrictions apply for this type coverage.

One Alabama law enforcement agency successfully using UAVs is the Oxford Police Department. According to Chief Bill Partridge, their unmanned aerial reconnaissance program has been very successful. "We began using Aerial Platforms (Drones) in 2013," he said. "They have been a huge asset to patrol and investigations – especially in crime scene and traffic homicide photography."

An Unmanned Aerial Vehicle program combined with proper training, a well written policy and approved equipment can be a tremendous asset to law enforcement agencies as they serve and protect their communities.



Defining Moment

Handling a Claim - Dos and Don'ts

When handling a claim, it is always critical for municipalities to proceed carefully. Below is a list of some of the important things to remember when you have an incident, injury or other loss. Please advise the AMIC claims office of all incidents and/or events.

DO:

- Call AMIC immediately! Take pictures of the damage!
- Take pictures of the incident site!
- · Complete an incident report!
- · List witnesses and parties involved!
- File police report (if necessary)!

DON'T

- · Admit liability or pay for a claim yourself!
- Put off filing a claim!
- Disturb/alter the incident site!
- · Discuss confidential claims!
- · Make promises to claimants!
- Forget to file required forms!
- Take threats of claims lightly!

Remember: you can call toll-free even if you only have a question: 1-866-239-AMIC.

Loss Control Services

The Loss Control Division has 11 dedicated staff members and offers a variety of services. Four loss control representatives are assigned to different regions throughout the state. We are continuously adding to our website and refining our services.

- On-site Risk Management with follow-up reports and recommendations
- Specialized law enforcement risk control
- Annual state-wide loss control seminars
- Loss analysis and trending
- Risk Management Solutions, free quarterly newsletter
- Employment Practices Law Hotline
- Proactive Driver Training (SkidCar)
- Firearms Training System (FATS)
- Safety DVD library
- Comprehensive loss control website
- Online training
- Fire extinguisher training

www.losscontrol.org

2015 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)

Aliceville

Anniston Public Library

Bessemer Government Utility Services

Blackbelt Energy

Brent Utilities

Carrollton

Clayhatchee

Collinsville

Cuba

Decatur Municipal Utility Board

Dozier

Fayette Water Works Board

Five Star Water Supply District, Inc.

Foley Public Facilities

Geneva Water Works and Sewer Board

Glencoe Water & Sewer

Greenville YMCA

Gurley

Hartselle Housing Authority

HyTop

Kinsey

Luverne Housing Authority

Magnolia Springs Public Library

Muscle Shoals Electric Board

North Alabama Gas District

North Baldwin Utilities

Odenville

Rainbow City Utilities Board

Rehobeth

Steele Waterworks Board

Tallassee Industrial Development

Tallassee Redevelopment Authority

Thomasville Waterworks & Sewer

Toxey Trinity

Troy Board of Education

Tuscumbia Utilities Department

West Blocton

West Pace Village Cooperative District

West Pace Village Improvement District

Wetumpka Water & Sewer

Gold Awards (Loss ratio below 5%)

Abbeville Fire & Rescue

Abbeville Water & Sewer

Alabama Municipal Electric Authority

Alabama-Tombigbee Regional Commission

Albertville Utilities

Alexander City

Aliceville Governmental Utilities Services Corp

Aliceville Housing Authority Aliceville Water Works & Sewer Board

Allgood Anderson

Anniston Public Library

Arab Sewer

Arab Water Works Board

Ardmore

Ardmore Water & Sewer

Argo Arley

Asbury Water Authority

Ashford

Ashford Housing Authority

Ashland Water Works & Sewer Board

Ashville Water & Sewer Board Atmore Housing Authority

Attalla Water Works Auburn Water Board

Autaugaville

B.B. Comer Memorial Library

Babbie Baileyton Baker Hill Banks

Bay Minette Housing Authority

Bear Creek Beatrice Beaverton Belk

Benton **Berry**

Bessemer Airport Authority Bessemer Public Library Beulah Utilities District

Billingsley

Birmingham Regional Planning Commission General Fund Black Warrior Solid Waste Authority

Blackbelt Energy Blount Co Oneonta Agri-Business

Center

Blountsville Housing Authority

Blountsville Utilities Blue Springs

Boaz Gas Board Boaz Water & Sewer Board

Boligee Brantley

Brantley Housing Authority

Brent

Brent Housing Authority

Brent Utilities

Brewton Housing Authority Bridgeport Housing Authority Bridgeport Utility Board

Brighton Brookside **Butler Utilities**

Cahaba Valley Fire & Med Rescue

District Calera Housing Authority Calera Waterworks

Calhoun County 911 Carbon Hill

Carbon Hill Housing Authority

Carrollton

Cedar Bluff Utility Board

Central Alabama Regional Planning

Commission Centre

Centreville Centreville Water Works & Sewer Board

Chatom Chelsea

Cherokee County Water Authority Cherokee Waterworks & Gas Board Chickasaw Housing Authority

Chickasaw Utilities

Chilton County Solid Waste Dis. Citronelle Historical Preservation

Clanton Housing Authority Clay Co. Emergency Rescue Squad

Clayhatchee Clayton Housing Authority

Clayton Water & Sewer Cleveland

Clio Coker

Coker Water Authority Colbert County Animal

Collinsville Colony Columbia

Columbiana Waterworks Community Life Institute Coosa Valley Water Supply Cottonwood Housing Authority

County Line Courtland Cowarts

Craig Field Airport Authority Crossville Water Works Board

Cullman Utilities

Cumberland Mountain Water Cusseta

Dadeville Gas Board

Dadeville Housing Authority Dadeville Water & Sewer Daleville City Board of Education

Daleville Housing Authority Dallas County Water & Sewer

Deatsville

Deatsville VFD, Inc. Decatur Municipal Utility Board

Decatur Personnel Board Dekalb-Cherokee Co. Gas District Demopolis Water & Sewer Board

Detroit Dodge City

Dora Dora Water & Gas Board

Dothan Double Springs

Douglas Douglas Water & FPA

Dozier Dutton

East Geneva Co. Senior Citizens

Double Springs Waterworks Board

Committee

Eclectic Elba Water & Electric Board

Eldridge Electric Cities of Alabama

Elkmont

Elmore County Economic **Development Authority** Elmore Water Authority

Emelle Enterprise Rescue

Eufaula Housing Authority Eutaw

Eutaw Housing Authority Evergreen Housing Authority Excel

Facility Committee Inc. & Jackson Swim Team Fairview Faunsdale

Fayette Gas Board Fayette Water Works Board Five Points

Five Star Water District Flomaton

Florala Housing Authority Foley Public Athletic & Sports Facilities

Foley Public Facilities Forestdale Fire District Fort Deposit Water Works & Sewer Board

Fort Payne Improvement Auth. Fort Payne Waterworks Board Frisco City

Fruithurst Fire Department

Fulton **Fulton Utilities** Fyffe **Gainesville** Gainesville VFD

Gantt Geiger

Geneva Water Works/Sewer Bd. Georgiana Housing Authority Georgiana Water & Sewer

Geraldine Gilbertown Utility Glen Allen Glencoe

Glencoe Water & Sewer

Glenwood Goldville Good Hope

Gordo

Goodwater Waterworks & Sewer Board

Gordo Water Board Government Utility Services Greene County Ambulance

Service Greensboro Greenville Water Works &Sewer

Board Greenville YMCA Guntersville Electric Board Guntersville Housing Authority

Guntersville Water/Sewer Board Hammondville Hanceville Housing Authority Hanceville Water Works Harpersville Water Board

Hartselle Housing Authority Hartselle Utilities **Headland Housing Authority**

Heath Heflin Water & Sewer Helena

Henagar

Hobson City Hobson City Housing Authority Hokes Bluff

Hokes Bluff Water Board Holly Pond

Horizons Improvement District Huguley Water & Fire Protection

Authority Huntsville Housing Authority Huntsville Tennis Center Board of Control

Airport Hurtsboro

Huntsville-Madison County

Hurtsboro Water Works НуТор Indian Springs Jackson

Jackson Water & Sewer Board Jacksons' Gap

Jackson's Gap Water Authority Jefferson County 911 Kansas

Kellyton Kennedv Kinsev Kinston

LaFavette Lamar County Gas District Langston

Leighton Leighton Water Works/Sewer Bd.

Lexington Linden

Linden Housing Authority

Linden Utilities Lineville Water & Sewer Lisman

Littleville Livingston Loachapoka Lockhart Louisville Lowndesboro

Luverne Housing Authority

Madrid

Malvern

Magnolia Springs Magnolia Springs Public Library

Maplesville Utilities Marshall County Gas Maytown

McIntosh Water & Fire Protection

McKenzie Mentone Mentone Waterworks Board

McIntosh

Midland City Midway

Millerville Water Authority Millry

Minor Heights Fire District Mobile County Emergency Management Agency

Mobile County Personnel Board Mobile Development Enterprise Moody Utilities Mooresville

Moulton Housing Authority Mulga

Muscle Shoals Electric Board Myrtlewood Napier Field Natural Bridge Nauvoo

Nauvoo Waterworks Nectar

Needham **New Brockton** New Brockton Water/Sewer Bd. New London Water and Sewer &

Fire Protection Newbern **Newton Housing Authority**

Newton Water & Sewer

Newville North Baldwin Utilities North Courtland

North Shelby Fire/Emergency Medical Rescue District Northeast Alabama Agri Business

Center Northeast Alabama Gas Cooperative District

Northwest St. Clair County Water Oak Grove Oak Hill Oakman Odenville

Opp Housing Authority Orange Beach Public Library

Orrville

Owens Cross Roads Ozark Board of Education Ozark Dale Co, E-911 Ozark Dale County Economic **Development Corporation** Ozark Housing Community

Ozark Utilities Paint Rock Parrish Pell City Housing Authority Pennington Utilities Perdido Beach Phenix City Utilities Phil Campbell Housing Authority Phil Campbell Water & Sewer Board Pickens County Gas Pickensville Pinckard Pine Apple Pinson Pisgah Pleasant Groves Pollard Prattville Historic Redevelopment Authority Prattville Solid Waste Authority Prattville Waterworks Providence Quint Mar Water Authority Ragland Water Works Board Rainbow City Utilities Board Ranburne Ranburne Water & Sewer Red Bay Water & Gas Red Level Reece City Reform Housing Authority Reform Water & Sewer Board Rehobeth Renaissance Cooperative District Renaissance Improvement District Repton River Falls Riverside Riverview Rockford Rockford Gas Board Rockford Volunteer Fire Department **Rockford Waterworks** Rogersville Rogersville Waterworks & Sewer Russellville Electric Board Russellville Gas Board Russellville Housing Authority Russellville Water Works & Sewer Rutledge Saint Florian Sand Rock Sanford Saraland Sardis City Sardis City Waterworks Board Satsuma Water Works & Sewer Board Scottsboro Public Library Section Section Dutton Waterworks Shiloh Silas Silverhill Slocomb Slocomb Housing Authority Slocomb Water & Sewer Somerville S. Alabama Regional Airport Authority S. Central Alabama Development Co. South Central Alabama Development Commission/ Senior Aides Division

South Vinemont

Spanish Fort

Stevenson

Disposal Authority

Stevenson Utilities

Southeast Alabama Solid Waste

Woodland

Woodstock

Woodville

York

Southside Waterworks Board

Steele Waterworks Board

Storm Water Management Authority Sulligent Housing Authority Sumiton Gas Board Sumiton Water Board Susan Moore Sweet Water Sweet Water Waterworks Sylacauga Parks & Recreation Sylacauga Utilities Sylvan Springs Sylvania Talladega Springs Tallassee Industrial Development Board Tallassee Redevelopment Authority The Tuskegee - UBT Cooperative District Thomaston Water & Gas Thomasville Waterworks & Sewer Thorsby Top of AL Regional Council of Governments - Senior Aides Division Toxey Trafford Tri Community Water System Trinity Troy Board of Education Troy Industrial Development Board Trussville Fire Dept Trussville Utility Board Tuscumbia Housing Authority Tuscumbia Utilities Department Twelve Oaks Improvement District Twin Union Union Grove Union Grove Utilities Union Springs Utility Board Uniontown Upper Bear Creek Water, Sewer & FPA Valley Grande Valley Head Valley Head Water Works Board Vance Vernon Vernon Water & Sewer Board Vina Vincent Vincent Water & Sewer Vredenburgh Wadley Walnut Grove Washington County Library Board Waterloo Waverly Wedowee Water, Sewer & Gas Bd. West Alabama Regional Comm. West Blocton West Etowah Co. Water Authority West Lawrence Water Cooperative West Pace Village Cooperative Dis. West Pace Village Improvement District West Point Wetumpka Water & Sewer Wilcox County Gas Wilsonville Winfield Water Works & Sewer Bd. Winston Cooperative District Winston County Industrial Development Wolf Creek Water, Sewer & FPA

Silver Awards (Loss ratio of 5% - 20%) Adamsville Alabama League of Municipalities Alabaster Albertville Aliceville Altoona Andalusia Andalusia Board Of Education Ashland, Goodwater-Lineville Solid Waste Disposal Authority Ashville Atmore Attalla Auburn Housing Authority Bayou La Batre Water & Sewer Bear Creek Development Authority Birmingham Airport Authority Bridgeport Calera Camden Camp Hill Utilities Cedar Bluff Clarke-Mobile County Gas District Clay Clayton Coffee Springs Coffeeville Coosada Cottonwood Creola Daphne Dauphin Island East Alabama Water, Sewer & Fire Protection East Brewton Waterworks & Sewer Flha Evergreen Florala Gadsden Airport Gardendale Gaylesville Graysville Grove Hill Gurley Hackleburg Hamilton Hamilton Housing Authority Hartford Hayneville Headland Homewood Hueytown Irondale Jacksonville Jasper Jasper Water & Sewer Jemison Kimberly Lake View Leeds Water & Sewer Level Plains I ineville Lipscomb Locust Fork Loxley Marion Millport Mobile Airport Authority Monroeville Montgomery Housing Authority Montgomery Water & Sewer Board Moody

Moundville

Munford

Mount Vernon

Muscle Shoals

North Alabama Gas District North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments Northport Housing Authority Northwest Alabama Gas District Oneonta Oneonta Utilities Opelika Orange Beach Orange Beach Water & Sewer Board Oxford Piedmont Pine Hill Pleasant Grove Powell Priceville Ragland Rainsville Reform Roanoke Rocky Ridge Fire District Samson Satsuma Scottsboro Electric Power Scottsboro Waterworks, Sewer & Gas Board Sheffield Utilities Shorter Sipsey Smiths Station South Alabama Regional Planning Commission South Central Alabama Regional Housing Authority Springville Steele Sulligent Sylacauga Tallassee Tarrant Electric Board Thomaston Thomasville USS Alabama Battleship Commission Vestavia Hills Wave Transit System Weaver Webb Wedowee West Escambia Utilities West Jefferson **Bronze Awards** (Loss ratio of 20% - 40%) Albertville and Boaz Recycling & Solid Waste Disposal Andalusia Utilities Board

Athens Athens Utilities Auburn **Bay Minette** Bessemer Electric and Water Black Blountsville Boaz Brilliant Brookwood C.C.E.M.S. - Coffee County Emergency Management Service Center Point **Chatom Utilities** Cherokee

Chickasaw Childersburg

Sewer & Gas

Childersburg Waterworks,

Gulf Shores Halevville Haleyville Water & Sewer Board Heflin Hollywood Huntsville - Huntsville Transit Ider Jacksonville Water Works, Gas/ Sewer Killen Lincoln Luverne Madison Utilities Maplesville Mobile Water & Sewer Montevallo Muscle Shoals Utilities New Hope North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments Senior Aids Northwest Alabama Council of **Local Governments** Notasulga Opp Pennington Phenix City Phil Campbell Rainbow City Robertsdale Scottsboro Semmes Snead Southeast Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission Southeast Shelby County Emergency Rescue Southside Sumiton **Tarrant City** Triana Troy Troy Housing Services Tuscaloosa Tuscumbia **Need Help** Filing **Work Comp**

Citronelle

Dadeville

Daleville

Demopolis

District

Elberta

Elmore

Fairfield

Fort Payne

Fultondale

Gordon

Greenville

East Brewton

Columbiana

Dauphin Island Water & Sewer

Decatur Housing Authority

East Central Alabama Gas

Florala Water & Sewer Board

Fultondale Gas Board

Claims?

For step-by-step instructions, visit

almwcf.org

Power Line Safety

Will Strength • ARM-P • Loss Control Representative • AMIC/MWCF

unicipal employees often work in locations near power lines. Chances are high that employees who work with bucket trucks, dump trucks, ladder trucks, excavators, backhoes, scaffolds, ladders or other long reach equipment are also working dangerously close to overhead or underground power lines. Many times employees working in these situations believe they are "safe" because they don't contact the power line. What these employees, as well as many people, fail to realize is that electricity can and will arc from the line to you or the piece of equipment you're working with such as an excavator or ladder truck. The airspace around the power line is just as dangerous as the line itself. The safe distance away from the line is determined by the voltage of the line. The higher the voltage, the more likely it is for an arc to occur and the distance the electricity can travel is greater.

If you're working around power lines, keep a safe distance from the lines. If you're not sure of the voltage, you should be at least 10 meters (33 feet) away from the lines and your equipment should be at least 6 meters (20 feet) away. Use a spotter to make sure you're maintaining this minimum safe distance. The spotter should stand at least 10 meters away from the vehicle in case an electrical contact occurs. Contact with power lines carrying less than 750 volts can kill you, seriously injure you and result in loss of equipment or other property damage.

- Before you start work, be sure you and your co-workers know where all the power lines are located **above and below** the ground. **Consider them energized and dangerous.**
- Keep at least 3 meters away from all power lines (or more, depending on the voltage see chart below).
- Call for a cable-locate before you dig to avoid contacting underground power lines.
- Call your local power provider when it's necessary to have power lines insulated, de-energized or moved.
- Before moving ladders, rolling scaffolds or elevating work platforms, always check for overhead lines.
- Request training for working near power lines from your local power company annually.

Should you ever find yourself in a situation where your equipment has made contact with a power line, remain calm. If you make one wrong move, a serious injury or fatality is likely to occur. The equipment you are operating is now charged and the electricity is looking for a path to ground. As long as there is not another hazardous situation that is threatening your life, it is much safer to remain in place until the line has been de-energized.

- Remain calm and stay in place.
- Call or have someone call for help.
- Do not touch anything outside of the equipment. You might create another path to the ground for the electrical current.
- Warn others to stay at least 20 feet away from the equipment.

If it is absolutely necessary to exit the machine due to fire or other hazards, you must do so without touching the equipment and the ground at the same time.

To exit the equipment:

- Jump as far out as possible and make sure you do not fall back against the machine.
- Land with both feet together and shuffle your feet a few inches at a time making sure to never break contact with the ground or cause separation between your feet.
- Don't walk or run. Get to a safe area at least twenty feet or more from the equipment.

The best protection from this type of situation is training and awareness of power lines. Contact your local power company today for training to best protect your employees.



2016 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. Visit www.losscontrol.org for more information.

April 19-29	Phenix City	August 16-19	Huntsville
May 23-27	Eufaula	September 13-16	Muscle Shoals
June 14-24	Fayette	October 11-21	Pelham
July 12-15	Thomasville	November 10-23	Orange Beach
July 19-22	Demopolis		-



Register and pay ONLINE www.losscontrol.org!





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Spring Safety DVDs

- Distractions: Behind the Wheel For Drivers
- 5.053 Landscaping Equipment: Maintenance and Safety
- 5.055
- Distracted Driving: At What Cost?
 The Facts About Ticks and Lyme Disease 7.026
- 7.105 Groundskeeping Safety: Dealing With Bugs and Critters
- 7.106
- Groundskeeping Safety: Be a Pro!
 Protecting Your Feet: Learning Your ABC's 7.108
- Back Injury Prevention for Public Entities (TML) First Aid: Prepared to Help 7.111
- 7.115
- CPR and AED: The Chain of Survival
- Hazards of Cell Phone Usage 7.117
- Safety Procedures for Lawn Mower Operators 7.118
- Landscape Power Tool Safety 7.119
- Hedge Trimmer Safety
- Video Guide to Chainsaw Safety 7.121
- String Trimmer Safety
- **Boating Safety**
- 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