

THE POOL CUE

Volume XI, Issue 3 July 2005

MICHIGAN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION SELF-INSURANCE POOL

MCRCSIP MISSION STATEMENT

“The Mission of the Michigan County Road Commission Self-Insurance Pool is to administer a self-insurance program and to assist members with risk management efforts.”

MCRCSIP 21st ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**July 20-21, 2005
Soaring Eagle Resort – Mt. Pleasant**

It's not too late! If you have not already registered for our annual membership meeting and wish to do so, please call 1-800-842-4971 or go to our web site, www.mcrcsip.org to register on-line.

MCRCSIP.....A Panel Looks at Its Past, Its Present and Its Future.

An overview and discussion of the evolution of the MCRCSIP and some new information for members will be the program presented during the Annual Membership Meeting Workshop held on Wednesday, July 20th, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Residing on the panel will be Karl Schmidt, Chair of the MCRCSIP Board of Directors; Tom Brouwer, MCRCSIP Administrator; Charles “Chip” Behler, Smith Haughey Rice & Roegge; Brian Brice, Merrill Lynch – The Brice Group; Mark Jahnke, Specialty Claims Services; Michael Kluck, Michael R. Kluck and

Associates; and Mike Shultz, MCRCSIP Loss Control. Time will be allowed for questions and answers.

A buffet luncheon will be served from 11:30 – 12:30, prior to the start of the program. We hope to see you there!

FINANCIAL EXCELLENCE

For the eighth consecutive year, MCRCSIP has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United State and Canada. This award presented by the GFOA is the highest form of recognition for excellence in State and local government accounting.

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SAY IT AIN'T SO!

Mark Jahnke
Specialty Claims Services, Inc.

The first time we heard it, “on the Q.T.” from a road commission employee, we thought it was an aberration. Now that we’ve heard it a second and third time, from different road commission employees in different parts of the State, it appears to be more than just idle chatter!

What we have heard is that some road commissions are de-emphasizing their efforts regarding roadway signing due to the current status of highway law in the State of Michigan. The thought process being conveyed to us is that since a road authority can no longer be held legally liable in a lawsuit relating to signing issues, priorities have shifted away from maintaining and upgrading traffic control devices.

Our hope is that we’re only hearing perceptions of “slacking off” in signing efforts, not actual conscious decisions to reduce activities in this area. Like the disillusioned young boy pleaded to “Shoeless” Joe Jackson during the Black Sox scandal in 1919, we are imploring member road commissions to “say it ain’t so!”

Although legal liability no longer attaches to signing issues, there remains a statutory legal duty to place and maintain traffic control devices that conform to the Michigan Manual [MCL257.610 (a)]. Also, legal liability relative to signing could return suddenly, either through legislation or the court system, so road commissions should never get lax in this area. How long would it take to “catch up” if signing efforts were to “slide” for a few years?

Most importantly, motorists depend on the traffic control devices that are provided by your road commission to help them navigate your road system safely. Lives are

literally at stake when it comes to signing decisions, the lives of everyone who travel your roadways, including family, friends, neighbors and strangers. Due to this moral issue alone, signing should always remain a top priority at your road commission!



WORK ZONE SAFETY AWARENESS

Mike Shultz
Assistant Administrator
Loss Control/Training

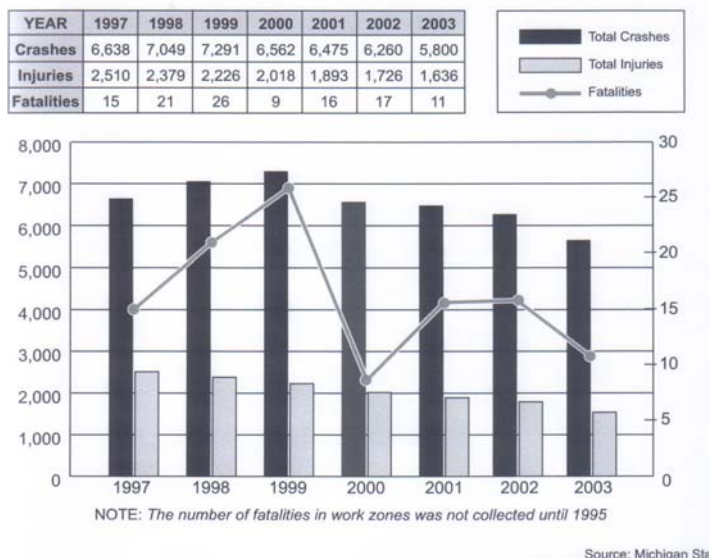
A work zone safety fact sheet from the Federal Highway Administration indicates that between 1997 and 2003, nationally there was an estimated 102,000 work zone crashes causing injury to 41,000 people. The same fact sheet indicates that fatal crashes increased as much as 50% from 1997 (693 deaths) to 2003 (1028 deaths). This reflects room for improvement in the area of work zone accident prevention in every state. Putting these numbers in perspective, they translate into:

- Approximately 1 injury every 13 minutes (or about 113 injuries per day)
- Approximately 1 fatality every 8.5 hours (or about 3 fatal injuries per day)

During this same period, the Michigan State Police has submitted a Michigan Work Zone Crash Comparison Chart. The following chart reflects in decrease in crashes, injuries and fatalities from the construction year 2001 and 2002.

Continued on page 3.....

1997-2003 Michigan Work Zone Crash Comparison



ACCIDENT PREVENTION: Using the “Three E’s to Safety”, (Engineering, Education, Enforcement) plays an important role in reducing accident trends.

Engineering – Establishing and maintaining safer work zone methods.

Education – Providing new employee training with annual worker refresher training.

Enforcement – Supervisors monitoring/enforcing work zone safety procedures.

Note: This includes educating the motoring public and have police agencies enforcing work zone speed laws.

The following six (6) areas can serve as a helpful reminder to supervisors and employees:

1. **Advance Warning Signs:** Ensure that all warning signs are in good condition, and are properly positioned along the roadway. Use the MMUTCD under Part 6 to guide you with the appropriate sign messages, sign spacing, etc. When work is no longer present, turn the sign face away from traffic or take down the sign. NOTE: The “Michigan Andy’s Law” signing requirements should be followed when necessary or required.

2. **Traffic Cones and Barrels:** Cones and Barrels help guide motorists, helping to keep a margin of safety between you and traffic. Use these devices to help separate traffic from your work area or as part of a taper when a lane is closed to approaching traffic. Again, the MMUTCD provides examples of when and how to use these devices.
3. **Traffic Regulators:** A traffic regulator plays an important role in alerting and giving guidance to approaching motorists. NEVER give this job to someone that is not qualified and/or properly trained. Make sure your traffic regulators are wearing the correct attire to include a proper sign paddle. In some instances, a traffic regulator believes that they can only be effective by standing in the road. This could be a deadly mistake! Work zone safety trainers make it clear that a traffic regulator should never stand in the road unless specific circumstances call for it. Accordingly, regulators should follow the traffic regulator guidebook and follow the instructions in the most recent MDOT traffic regulating training video.
4. **Road Closures:** Road closures might be necessary under certain instances or the best option to keep traffic away from your work activities. Ensure that Type III barricades are used with the appropriate signing “ROAD CLOSED”, advance signing and barricade warning lights. Detour routes should be considered as necessary to guide motorists around the work zone.
5. **Vehicle Positioning:** It may be necessary to park or temporarily park a vehicle along the road to perform work along the shoulder or within the traffic lane. To avoid a collision, position the vehicle onto the shoulder as far away from traffic as possible. Take great care when stepping out of the vehicle near traffic.
6. **Vehicle Warning Lights:** To help bring attention to your vehicles and equipment, flashing warning lights can be a big help. Turn on warning lights while at the work site and any other time your road commission safety policy requires it.



BACKING ACCIDENT PREVENTION

Using Radar Technology

Mike Shultz
Assistant Administrator
Loss Control/Training

It should be no surprise that backing accidents have occurred around our facilities and worksites. Specifically, claim information indicates that over the years, our drivers have backed into such items as (but not limited to) facility walls/doors, parked/stopped vehicles, poles and abutments. With each accident, thousands of dollars are spent repairing vehicles (direct costs) and the related indirect expenses (i.e. vehicle down time). In addition to property damage, backing related accidents can seriously injure or kill an employee or pedestrian. For all the above mentioned reasons, it makes sense to educate truck drivers and equipment operators about safe backing practices.

In recent years, technology has produced vehicle radar based back-up aids that can provide an additional element of safety during a backing maneuver. With one brand, when the vehicle is placed in reverse, the radar unit can detect persons and objects if within 16.4 feet from the rear of the truck. As a driver backs closer to the person or object, the 85 dB alarm (in the cab) will alert the driver. Several MCRCSIP members have tested these radar units with great success. They are pleased to report that they function in all conditions, to include winter weather, when ice/snow has accumulated on the rear of the truck.

Furthermore, the units are cost affordable and can be easily installed to existing trucks and equipment. Although no mechanical device should be solely relied upon as a complete fix, it can support your employees safe driving habits.

If you are interested in vehicle backing awareness training or would like more information on a radar back-up aid, please to contact Mike Shultz (616-866-3168) or email mshultz@mcrsip.org.

MUSKEGON COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION ANNUAL SAFETY & TRAINING CONFERENCE DATE CHANGE

The Muskegon County Road Commission is making preparations for its 14th Annual Safety Conference. In previous years, attendees, and those who could not attend because of the time of year, suggested that the date of the conference be changed so that it did not conflict with the construction season or other activities. In an attempt to respond to these requests, and to encourage more participation in the conference, the date has been changed to October 5, 6, and 7, 2005. Again this year, the conference will provide low cost training in many MIOSHA required areas such as First Aid, CPR, PPE, Work Zone Signing, Chainsaw Operation, Miss Dig and many more. You will be receiving additional information about the conference by regular mail shortly. In the meantime, please mark the new conference dates on your calendars.

Please call or email James Stibitz (231-788 2381) jstibitz@muskegoncountyroads.org or Bruce Gasaway (231-788-7280) bgasaway@muskegoncountyroads.org at the Muskegon County Road Commission.



NEW MCRC SIP LOSS PREVENTION TRAINING TOPICS

Due to member training requests, MCRC SIP has added four (4) new programs. Please contact MCRC SIP Loss Control for in-house training or additional information.

EPL – DIVERSITY AND RESPECT: In today's diverse workplace, it's more important than ever to understand what harassment is and how to prevent it. The difficulty with this idea is that it's not always easy to define what constitutes harassment and what doesn't. This program is designed to be a communication tool to further help eliminate offensive behaviors and communication, making our work cultures comfortable, productive and harassment free for everyone.

SAFETY 101 – HEARING CONSERVATION:

Hearing loss can occur to almost anyone, whether job related or not. In fact, studies have shown that some hearing loss can be part of the natural aging process. When exposed to excessive noise levels (85 db or greater), it can deteriorate your ability to hear. It is important to understand what constitutes excessive noise levels, and how to protect yourself on and off the job. This Safety 101 level training provides basic information on monitoring the work environment, testing your hearing and wearing personal protective equipment.

SAFETY 101 - BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS:

When exposed to blood and other body fluids, it is extremely important to take "Universal Precautions"

to prevent exposure to blood borne pathogens such as HIV, HBV, and HCV. Exposure can occur when (but not limited to) assisting an injured person or cleaning up after an accident. This Safety 101 level training provides basis information on:

- Learning the facts about blood borne pathogens
- Taking simple measures to protect yourself
- Understanding and avoiding risky situations

SAFETY 101 - RESPIRATORY PROTECTION:

When respirators are necessary and used in the workplace, respiratory protection training is extremely important. OSHA's respiratory protection rule requires certain information to be communicated when the respiratory protection standard applies. This Safety 101 level training provides basis information on:

- Selecting the correct respirator and usage (including limitations)
- Medical evaluations and fit-testing
- Inspections, cleaning and storage

NEW MCRC SIP PROPERTY PROGRAM

In April, our new property program was introduced to our MCRC SIP Members. You are now able to access and manage your own licensed, off-road, and property schedules on the internet. We are very pleased with the program and to date, we have only received positive feedback from users. If you have experienced any problems viewing or updating your schedules, please contact Kay Newberry, knewberry@mcrsip.org, or Matt Morgan, mmorgan@mcrsip.org.

MCRCSIP BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

July 20-21
Annual Meeting Soaring Eagle Resort
Mt. Pleasant

September 15-16 Hamilton Inn Select
Mackinaw City

Meetings are open to all members and are moved around the State in order to be as convenient and accessible as possible to those wishing to attend.



When you come to a fork in the road, take it.

Yogi Berra

WORD SEARCH

E	A	G	L	E	A	T	H	E	R	T	C
A	X	N	I	W	S	W	A	G	G	E	R
W	L	C	A	M	P	A	N	E	L	a	I
A	E	R	E	N	O	I	S	S	I	M	E
R	D	E	A	L	T	A	C	K	L	E	D
E	A	A	D	E	L	F	O	L	D	D	S
N	A	M	E	M	B	E	R	S	H	I	P
U	O	M	F	I	N	A	N	C	I	A	L
R	O	O	I	I	S	S	N	C	O	L	A
P	R	E	S	E	N	T	K	Q	E	P	T
G	U	E	S	T	S	E	O	C	U	B	E
S	U	F	U	T	U	R	E	R	A	E	S
T	S	T	R	A	I	N	S	I	M	R	T
A	O	A	E	E	I	A	T	A	E	R	T
R	I	P	P	L	E	A	S	A	N	T	Y

Award	Aware	Axle
Bait	Banquet	Camp
Cola	Cope	Cream
Cried	Cube	Dealt
Eagle	Eastern	Excellence
Financial	Fine	Fissure
Fold	Free	Future
Guests	Leather	Line
Media	Meeting	Membership
Mission	Mop	Name
Panel	Pass	Plates
Pleasant	Present	Prune
Ram	Ripple	Rot
Scorn	Soon	Spot
Star	Storm	Strain
Stunt	Suet	Swagger
Tackled	Team	Top
Tracks	Treat	Tutor
Win		

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REMINDER!

We're Here For You – Guaranteed

We cover your liability. If you feel you have a problem,
please call us.

1-800-842-4971

For additional copies of the "Pool Cue" please call or
e.mail Janet Wise or Kay Newberry.

SPECIALTY CLAIMS SERVICES, INC. 42450 Garfield, Suite E P.O. Box 381136 Clinton Township, MI 48038

Phone: (586) 226-2446 or 877-855-8614
Fax (586) 226-2217

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Andrea Alef	Extension 102
Jim Kesek	Extension 103
Paul Palazzola	Extension 104
Paul Aubin	Extension 105

NOTICE!

Please call our **24-HOUR EMERGENCY PAGER
NUMBER** to report serious accidents that need
immediate attention after hours.

Call **1-800-209-8349** and a Specialty Claims
Investigator will respond to your call A.S.A.P.



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