



# Risk Management Solutions

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

WINTER 2008



September 18, 1975 – November 22, 2007

## League Mourns Death of Coworker Jason Humphries

It is with heavy hearts that the League family informs you of the tragic death of Jason Humphries who was killed Thanksgiving Day after a fall from a tractor near his home in Mathews, Alabama. He is survived by his wife, Brooke; daughter, Tyler Ann; stepson, Will; his parents Bob and Maralon Humphries; and two brothers, Scott and Brian Humphries. He is also survived by his niece, Kaila; nephew, Mason; and a host of uncles, aunts and cousins. He was preceded in death by his infant son Forrest Humphries and grandparents Harry and Betty Wheeler.

Jason, who was never without an infectious smile and warm greeting, joined the League's staff on October 1, 2001, as a Loss Control Representative – one of the first positions filled in the joint Loss Control Department created by the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation and the Municipal Workers Compensation Fund, Inc. His territory included a number of counties in the central and eastern portion of Alabama where he frequently visited cities, towns and other municipal entities. Jason was a graduate of Auburn University at Montgomery where he earned a B.S. degree in Justice and Public Safety. Prior to joining the League's Loss Control Division, he worked four years with The Parks and Recreation Department of Montgomery.

## 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.

## CLEEP Program

The Certified Law Enforcement Executive Program (CLEEP) is open to all active full-time police chiefs in Alabama who are members in good standing in the Alabama Association of Chiefs of Police (AACOP). **The course listing for 2008 includes:**

- Jan. 16-18, New Chief's Development Seminar  
JSU McClellan, Anniston
- Jan. 17-18, Cultural Sensitivity and Gang Awareness  
JSU McClellan, Anniston
- Feb. 13-14, Alabama Police Chiefs' Conference (Montgomery)
- April 10-11, The Changing Face of Police Work and How to Create & Communicate a Vision for Your Department  
University of North Alabama, Florence
- June 30 – July 1, Alabama Police Chiefs' Conference (Mobile)
- August 21-22, Mandated Employment Policies & Best Practices Harassment Discrimination, Racial Profiling & Related Issues  
University of North Alabama, Florence
- Nov. 6-7, Effective Recruitment & Retention Techniques  
Troy University, Dothan Campus

For more information, visit [www.aacop.com](http://www.aacop.com).



# Proactive Driver Training Program Aids In Development of Safe Driving Techniques

For eight years, the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation and the Municipal Workers Compensation Fund, Inc. have provided the Proactive Driver Training program for law enforcement personnel and other municipal employees in Alabama.

The Swedish-made, state-of-the-art SkidCar System has been shown to instill better driving instincts to help drivers maintain control in the most difficult real-life situations. The vehicle is designed to aid in the development of driving techniques that would be risky to learn in a regular vehicle at higher speeds.

AMIC/MWCF's Proactive Driver Training program consists of a day-long session in which a maximum of nine people are trained using the SkidCar System. The first hour of the course takes place in a classroom setting. The remainder of the program is hands-on and completed in shifts. Three participants ride in the vehicle (one driving, two in the back seat) with the instructor while the remaining six help maintain the training course as they observe how the vehicle responds.

Although the Proactive Driver Training program was originally designed for law enforcement employees, **ALL** municipal employees are strongly encouraged to attend the program for their own driving safety. AMIC/MWCF's goal is to provide as many drivers as possible with the knowledge and skills to safely overcome adverse driving situations they might encounter on a day-to-day basis.

**Stanley Fant** is the SkidCar Coordinator and is responsible for training throughout the state. Fant has 30 years of law enforcement experience as an Alabama State Trooper, including more than 20 years as a highway patrol officer and supervisor. He retired in May 1999 and began working with AMIC/MWCF's Proactive Driver Training program in December 2000.

The Skidcar System is an advanced, computer-controlled driver training tool. Its ladder frame consists of hydraulic outrigger casters mounted to the suspension of the training vehicle. When activated by the instructor, the System lifts the vehicle off the ground just enough to compromise the tire adhesion to the road surface. As a result, the car skids as if it were going 60 miles per hour, when in reality it is traveling at a much safer speed (6 to 25 m.p.h.).

The effect of skidding across the road's surface produced by the Skidcar can be alarming. The intent is for the trainee to learn how to react *quickly* and *safely* when confronted with such a situation in reality. Because the SkidCar exactly duplicates loss of tire traction in hazardous driving conditions such as ice, snow, rain or slick roads from oil or gas spills, it is a very effective training tool. The Skidcar System allows the driver to initiate a skid at very low speeds by incorrect steering and braking. The instructor sits inside the training vehicle with the driver and controls the 20 different traction settings, which duplicate a full range of hazardous driving conditions. A built-in memory allows custom programming of any desired traction setting.

Each SkidCar class consists of nine to 12 students and begins with two hours of classroom training. Each student then receives hands-on driving training during the six to eight hour segment following the classroom presentation. A 2008 SkidCar schedule is posted on the next page. For additional information, contact Donna Wagner at 334-262-2566. ■





# HOT TOPIC!

## Fire Safety and Risk Assessment Part II: Duties of the “Responsible Person”

The “responsible person” is someone who has control, or a degree of control, over the property or fire-prevention systems within the property. If you are the responsible person, you must make sure that everyone who uses your premises can escape if there is a fire. The people you need to think about include anyone who might be on your premises, including employees, visitors or members of the public. You need to pay particular attention to those who may need special help, such as elderly or disabled people or children. You must:

- carry out a fire-risk assessment and identify possible dangers and risks
- think about who might be particularly at risk – you may have disabled employees, or people who work with hazardous chemicals
- get rid of the risk from fire, as far as reasonably possible
- put in place fire precautions to deal with any remaining risks
- make sure there is protection if you use or store flammable or explosive materials
- have a plan to deal with emergencies
- record your findings and review them as and when necessary

If you are the responsible person, you must make sure that the fire-risk assessment is carried out. You can appoint some other competent person to do the actual assessment, but you are still responsible. The enforcing authority, which is usually the local fire authority, must be satisfied with your safety measures. If not, they will tell you what you need to do. If they find major problems they can restrict the use of your premises or close them altogether until you deal with the problems they find.

**If you need assistance with this task, call Todd McCarley, Fire Safety Consultant with the Alabama League of Municipalities, at 334-262-2566.**

# 2008 SKIDCAR SCHEDULE

Open	Feb. 5-15
Open	Feb. 26 – March 7
Open	March 25 – April 4
Roanoke	April 22 – May 2
Tuscaloosa	June 3 – 13
Adamsville	June 24 – 27
Thomasville	July 8 – July 18
Fort McClellan	July 29 – Aug. 8
Decatur	Aug. 19 – 29
Muscle Shoals	Sept. 8 – 19
Ashland	Oct. 7 – 17
Fort Payne	Oct. 28 – 31
Orange Beach	Nov. 11 – 21
Montgomery	Dec. 9 – 19

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

## Defining Moment

**Attractive Nuisance:** An attractive nuisance is an inherently hazardous condition or object that exists on a landowners property that may entice children who are too young to appreciate the risk posed by the object or condition. The attractive nuisance doctrine applies when the landowner creates some “attraction” on the property that is highly dangerous to trespassing children. It imposes upon the owner of the property the duty to take precautions that are “reasonable in light of the normal behavior of young children”. This doctrine has been applied to such hazards as swimming pools, unprotected construction areas and activities, wells, tunnels, storm drains, and abandoned cars and refrigerators.

Attractive nuisances are typically not natural conditions of the land but rather conditions created or maintained by the landowner. The attractive nuisance doctrine arises when the child doesn’t realize the extent of the danger. If something on the property is both alluring and dangerous, a legal responsibility exists for the landowner to prevent injuries to children who may wander or trespass onto the property.



**Dates/locations subject to change.**

**Previous issues of this publication can be found by visiting [www.amicentral.org](http://www.amicentral.org) or [www.alalm.org](http://www.alalm.org) and clicking on the MWCF link.**

## IT'S TIME FOR WORKERS COMP PAYROLL AUDITS!

Every member of the Municipal Workers Compensation Fund, Inc. should have received an audit request for payroll information for the 2007 Fund Year. Some members will be subject to an independent audit from Millennium Insurance Solutions, Inc. and those members will be contacted to set up an appointment. All other members should have received an Audit Request Form. Please fill in this form according to the instructions provided and return as soon as possible to our underwriters at Millennium Risk Managers. **All audit information is due by March 31, 2008.**

If you have not received a request or have any questions, please call Carla Thienpont at Millennium Risk Managers **1-888-736-0210**.

## REMINDER FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL WORKERS COMP FUND!

No premium discount will be issued for  
2008 Statements of Commitment  
received after February 1, 2008!

## Popular Safety Videos

5.046 Winter Driving

7.044 Space Heaters

### DVD ONLY:

5.058 Driving Safely in Winter Conditions

7.096 Slip, Trip and Fall Hazards for Public  
Entities

11.026 Coping with Paperless Workers  
Compensation Reporting

11.027 Developing a Safety Culture

16.005 Hiring, Firing and Retention

**To check-out a safety VHS cassette or DVD:  
call, FAX or e-mail your request to  
Rachel Wagner at: 334-262-2566;  
rachelw@alalm.org; or FAX at 334-263-0200.**



*For more information, call:  
334-262-2566.*



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