



# Risk Management Solutions

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

Winter 2012

## AMIC/MWCF Debuts New State-of-the-Art SKIDCAR



**B**ecause they must often operate vehicles at high speeds and in hazardous conditions, driving skills are critical for law enforcement and emergency personnel.

The League's Loss Control Department has offered Proactive Driver Training to its AMIC and MWCF members for 11 years. In April 2000, a state-of-the-art SKIDCAR system was purchased and the League began offering AMIC/MWCF's Proactive Driver training throughout the state in early 2001.

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 SKIDCAR System is specifically designed to aid in the development of techniques that would be risky to learn in a regular vehicle at higher speeds. It consists of a steel framework on electro-hydraulic wheels attached to the suspension of a vehicle that, through the use of an instructor-operated electronic controller, can be adjusted to simulate loss of front, rear or four-wheel grip at low speeds. This means the instructor can create subtle-to-extreme skid conditions at a low speed in a small geographic space.

This past October, AMIC/MWCF purchased a new vehicle



Stanley Fant, AMIC/MWCF's Proactive Driver Training coordinator, stands with the new, state-of-the-art Chevrolet Caprice PPV purchased for the SKIDCAR System.

for its Proactive Driver Program – a state-of-the-art Chevrolet Caprice PPV (Police Patrol Vehicle) built in Australia and especially designed with electronic stabilization.

“This car uses a computer to sense if the driver is yawing to the left or right and then uses the braking system and throttle and steering control to help the driver avoid or overcome a skid,” said Stanley Fant, SKIDCAR Coordinator for AMIC/MWCF. “It gives the driver feedback in order to perform safer driving techniques. The Alabama League of Municipalities is the first organization to use this newly designed vehicle in a SKIDCAR program.”

AMIC/MWCF's Proactive Driver Training program is offered throughout the state at various times of the year and 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 observe how the vehicle responds and help maintain the training course.

Stanley Fant, who is responsible for AMIC/MWCF's Proactive Driver Training program, 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.

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 techniques and skills to safely overcome adverse driving situations they might encounter on a day-to-day basis.

For more information on AMIC/MWCF's Proactive Driver Training program, contact Donna Wagner, Loss Control Coordinator, at 334-262-2566 or via email at [donnaw@alalm.org](mailto:donnaw@alalm.org).

# Loss Control Guidelines for Roof Maintenance

Periodic roof inspections are the most effective method of ensuring that roofing systems are adequately maintained. All building roof systems should be visually inspected at least two times per year to identify potential roof leaks that, if repaired promptly, can prevent or reduce resulting water damage to the inside and/or exterior of buildings. As part of a roof maintenance program, it is important that documentation of roofing contractors and roofing product warranties or guarantees be maintained by the building owner. Repairs made to roofing structures by contractors not qualified under the warranty can nullify the roof warranty due to improper installation and using roofing products not under the original manufacturer's warranty.

## Loss Control Tips for Prolonging the Life of Your Roof

1. Record maintenance procedures as they occur. Log all roof access times and other trades working on the roof in case damage should occur. Report damage to the appropriate department as soon as it occurs so repairs may be quickly scheduled and executed.
2. Maintain a file for all records relating to the respective roof, including the manufacturer's guarantee (if any), invoices, inspection reports, repair and maintenance bills, original construction drawings and specifications, etc.
3. Inspect the exterior of the building for settlement or movement. Structural movement may result in splits in the roof membrane.
4. Repairs should be performed as soon as needed – a nuisance leak can develop into a major problem, degrading insulation and destroying a large portion of the roof assembly. While a roofing contractor authorized by the membrane manufacturer should perform repairs and maintenance work, the owner can help maintain the roof by ensuring

that minor clean-up and maintenance procedures are performed (e.g., regular inspection and cleaning of debris from roof and around roof drains).

5. Notify responsible party immediately after a roof leak occurs. If possible, note conditions resulting in leakage. Heavy or light rain, wind direction, temperature, and the time of year that the leak occurs are all important pieces to tracing roof leaks. Note whether the leak stops shortly after each rain or continues to drip until the roof is dry. With the facts in hand, the diagnosis and repair of roof problems can proceed more rapidly.
6. In some emergency situations, owner-applied temporary patches may be made to stop leaks to minimize property loss. Except for these certain emergency situations, owners should not attempt roof repairs.
7. Utilize roofing professionals or thoroughly trained maintenance personnel for roof-related issues. The puncturing of a blister or the spreading of a liquid-applied coating or bituminous cement may only cover up evidence needed to ascertain the real problem.
8. Regularly inspect the roof at least twice a year (spring and fall). Inspect the roof for damage after severe weather conditions, such as hail storms, heavy rains, high winds, etc.
9. Remove any debris, such as leaves, branches, dirt, rocks, bottles, etc that have accumulated on the roof. Clean gutters, downspouts, scuppers and the surrounding roof areas to ensure proper drainage.
10. Examine masonry walls, metal and membrane wall coverings, and copings for cracks, bad mortar joints, deteriorated sealant, loose masonry/coping stones and indications of water absorption. Repair all such conditions to prevent water infiltration. ■

## AMIC Promotions, New Employee



**David Sikes**, who has been with AMIC for nearly 15 years, was promoted from Senior Claims Adjuster to Litigation Manager.



**Grace Pendley**, who has been with AMIC since 2008, was promoted from Receptionist to Claims Clerk.



**Megan Burns** joined the AMIC staff in November as Receptionist.



# IT'S TIME FOR WORKERS COMP PAYROLL AUDITS!

Every member of the Municipal Workers Compensation Fund, Inc. will soon receive an audit request for payroll information for the 2011 Fund Year. Many members will be subject to an independent audit from Overland Solutions, and those members will be contacted to set up an appointment. All other members will be receiving 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, 2012.**

If you have not received a request by 1/31/12 or have any questions, please call **Carla Thienpont at Millennium Risk Managers 1-888-736-0210.**

## 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 2012 includes:**

- **Jan 31-Feb 1:** Alabama Police Chiefs' Winter Conference/ Critical Employee Emergency Planning; Von Braun Center, Huntsville
- **Feb 23-24:** Beyond Survival toward Officer Wellness Part 1 and 2; University of North Alabama, Florence
- **April 19-20:** Organized Performance and Evaluation/Stress and Time Management; La Quinta Inn, Dothan
- **June 6-8:** New Chief's Development Seminar; Jacksonville State University, McClellan Campus **NOTE: All new police chiefs are highly encouraged to attend this seminar. The seminar is free to those who have not yet attended.**
- **June 7-8:** Crime Scene Management: Developing a Multi-Agency Approach Policy and Procedure Development; Jackson State University, McClellan Campus
- **July 30-Aug 1:** Alabama Police Chiefs' Summer Conference/ Sovereign Citizens Movement; Meyer Civic Center, Gulf Shores
- **November 1-2:** Effective Management and Supervisory Techniques/Managing Multiple Priorities; University of North Alabama, Florence

To register online: [www.jsu.edu/coned/cleep.html](http://www.jsu.edu/coned/cleep.html). For additional information, call 256-782-5918 or 800-634-7100 or email [ConEd.Help@jsu.edu](mailto:ConEd.Help@jsu.edu).

# Defining Moment

## Compressor Maintenance AND Air Analysis

These days more and more Fire Departments are accessing a valuable resource that gives firefighters the ability to enter hostile environments: an air compressor and self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). Even the smallest of departments are now sometimes able to purchase this equipment with grant money or donations. Without such breathing equipment firefighters might not be able to render assistance to those trapped inside burning buildings.

The good news is that, thankfully, this equipment is not often needed on a regular basis; however, when it is necessary, it should, of course, function correctly. The first step in ensuring this happens is to make sure that the compressor itself is annually inspected by a certified technician to determine that it can, indeed, fill those SCBA tanks. However, a second and *equally important* step is to then ensure that the air put into those SCBA tanks is of a **breathable** quality. Not all air is necessarily good, clean, breathable air! Therefore, it is vital that, not only is the compressor serviced to make sure it runs, but that the air it is pumping has been analyzed to make sure it is clean and safe for the firefighters to breath.

The National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) requires that the air is analyzed by a certified laboratory at least *quarterly* under their "NFPA 1989 Standard on Breathing Air Quality for Fire and Emergency Services Respiratory Protection." The good news is that an air analysis is fairly easy and inexpensive. The bad news is that, while many Fire Departments are vigilant about conducting the annual service, we are discovering that many are not including the second step of air analysis as often as needed. The danger is that, although the compressor is filling the tanks, it is filling them with unclean air that *may cause serious injury or death* of a firefighter breathing it while fighting a fire. So please check with your Fire Chief and make sure that both the annual service and quarterly air analysis is being done at your Fire Department, and keep your firefighters safe!

Richard Buttenshaw, ARM-P, CIC  
Loss Control Representative



SCBA Compressor



**ALABAMA LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES**  
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## Winter Safety DVDs

- 5.003 – The Invisible Killer: Carbon Monoxide
- 5.025 – Portable Generators
- 5.046 – Winter Driving
- 5.049 – Distractions: Behind the Wheel For Drivers
- 5.058 – Driving Safely in Winter Conditions
- 5.061 – Road Rage: Highway Havoc
- 5.062 – A DUI Story... What If?
- 5.063 – Defensive Driving for Government Employees
- 7.044 – Space Heaters
- 7.109 – Working Safely in Cold Weather
- 12.011 – Static Electricity

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

## ATTENTION!

**For step-by-step instructions on filing work comp claims, visit:**

**[www.alalm.org/MWCF/claimreporting.html](http://www.alalm.org/MWCF/claimreporting.html)**

### 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.

## 2012 SKIDCAR SCHEDULE

**Date/location subject to change.**

Moody	Feb. 7 – 17	Russellville	July 24 – Aug. 3
Eufaula	March 6 – 13	Decatur	Aug. 14 – 24
Roanoke	March 14 – 16	Open	Sept. 11 – 21
Open	April 3 – 13	Open	Oct. 9 – 19
Open	May 1 – 11	Orange Beach	Nov. 6 – 16
Homewood	June 12 – 22	Montgomery	Dec. 11 – 21
Thomasville	July 10 – 13		



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

