

MANAGEMENT SAFETY NEWSLETTER

SELF INSURED WORKER'S COMPENSATION FUND MEMBERS

APRIL 2015



On April 24th at 11:00 AM, a free luncheon is being provided in the “**Governors C**” conference room. Although there is no cost to you, it is important that we have an accurate head count for the hotelier. Please contact the MAAS Fund office, (517) 346-5212 if you plan to attend, and to let us know how many.

The annual meeting and financial reports will follow the luncheon. The fund will hold the election, whereby three trustees will be voted into terms ending September 30th, 2018.

**Free Luncheon: To RSVP
 Please Contact Larry Andrick at
landrick@miambulance.org**

Following the annual meeting, **dividend checks will be distributed to members in attendance.** We look forward to seeing everyone there.



A Few Ideas To Consider

1. Develop a mentoring program to identify a group of core experiences employees who can serve as positive role models and teacher/partners to newer employees and enhance the safety culture in the organization.
2. Supervisor enforcement of safety protocols and policies need to be consistent. Safety based benchmarks should be integrated into the annual evaluation process for supervisors and managers.
3. Accident investigation and follow up procedures should include a “signed investigation report” from all affected employees as soon as possible. This procedure may require the supervisor to contact the injured employee away from the workplace. This proactive personal contact by senior level management commonly fosters cooperation and facilitates an effective Return to Work Program.

Patient Transfers: The Growing Liability Exposure in the New Millennium

On April 24th at 11:00 AM special guest speaker Orlando Blanco, Esq., a nationally renowned expert and EMS defense attorney, will discuss the growing liability surrounding patient transfers. While the EMS industry devotes a great deal of attention and resources to mitigating risk in a number of high risk areas (i.e. medical procedures, documentation), much less attention and resources are devoted to the significantly growing area of exposure in patient transfers. *Patient transfer incidents represent the most significant area of liability exposure for EMS today in the State of Michigan.*

- ◆ Outline the growing area of risk and liability exposure. Discuss strategy on how best to mitigate the risk and associated liability arising from pre-hospital care transfers.
- ◆ Lack of oversight devoted to patient transfer
- ◆ EMSA immunity issues
- ◆ And much more...

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SAFETY IS A CULTURE -- NOT JUST A PROGRAM

As part of a true safety culture, every employee must take safety seriously in every activity they are a part of. Routine tasks such as lifting and carrying pose just as great a threat of injury as non routine tasks. For the month of April, here are three subject areas that will help build your safety culture:

- ◆ **Training:** Make the most of company safety tools and training resources. It is extremely important for all levels of management to communicate effectively the need for employees to be knowledgeable of and trained in the proper use of all equipment needed to do their job. Never assume that an employee will automatically utilize available personal protective equipment without continued supervisory instruction and motivation.
- ◆ **Awareness:** Carelessness is the most common cause of workplace accidents. Complacency can be dangerous if you think you've done the job so many times that you no longer focus on the job at hand. Do not let emotions get in the way of doing your job. Being tired can slow down your physical and mental reactions, causing your mind to wander. Focusing on the tasks at hand and commitment to "pay attention to detail" is critically important for both the medics and the patient.
- ◆ **Communication:** Always remember to communicate with your partner during every step of the load, lift and transport process. This is where you can get hurt and have your career in EMS threatened. Whether you are engaged in a transfer call or whether you are called to an emergency scene, you need to recognize all existing hazards and how best to manage them. Keep your head on a swivel and be aware of your surrounding conditions at all times.

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our "Self Insured Worker's Compensation Fund", Safety and other support services

MAAS Fund

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Visit us on the web at
www.miambulance.org

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Michigan Association Of Ambulance Services
Self Insured Workers' Compensation Fund
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