

# The Incident Report

...a monthly newsletter from Districts Mutual Insurance

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## THE DEC PAGE [Material Handling Injuries] BY STEVEN STOEGER-MOORE, EXECUTIVE VP - DMI

DMI Workers' Compensation loss data reflects development in the frequency and severity of injuries related to material handling. Injuries affecting the back and/or shoulder are the result. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics shoulder injuries can keep an employee out of work nearly three times longer than back injuries. Repetitive lifting tasks can put an employee at risk for back or shoulder injury. According to a study performed by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health shoulder injuries can also result from pushing or pulling heavy loads.

The proper equipment and utilization of good body posture and lifting techniques can greatly reduce the potential for loss. Set up sessions for the "at-risk" employees from receiving, maintenance, food services, book store, grounds, public safety, etc. to provide the training opportunity to learn and practice proper lifting techniques. Survey the job site to eliminate heavy lifting requirements (for example: eliminate 80 lb. bags of ice melt and utilize 40 lb. bags) require employees to store lighter weight items on the higher shelves. Establish a practice of pushing loaded carts not pulling. Work stations can be evaluated to minimize the amount of reaching and lifting overhead. Whenever possible rotate employees to minimize the repetition of tasks. Get assistance to lift objects that are heavy or awkward.

A proactive approach in assessing a task and evaluating a work site can minimize the potential for loss. Training is available for the "at-risk" employees. Need assistance? Please get in touch with the DMI office for your material handling needs.



### **Bright Ideas: Campus Safety: Are You Prepared?** Jim Lang – Gallagher Bassett Loss Control Services

Does your college have formalized and written plans to adequately address an emergency situation? Are you prepared? A crisis such as fire, terrorism or natural disaster can occur with little or no warning. Colleges need to have written and organized plans to prepare them to survive a disaster, limit financial losses and avoid business interruption. The worst time to think about emergency preparedness is after an emergency situation occurs.

The primary element of a good emergency plan or procedure is that it is well written and easy to understand. A "recipe" type format is ideal for most procedures. A description of the problem, what to do and how to do it is essentially the formula to use. It is recommended that emergency plans be created for the following emergency situations: **Fire Alarm Activation** (no smoke or fire present in the building); **Fire** (smoke or flames in the building); **Severe Weather Conditions** (thunderstorms, tornados, floods, etc.); **Civil Disturbance, Terrorism or National Emergency**; **Chemical Spills and Leaks**; **Evacuation and Relocation**; **Utility Interruptions** (gas, water, electricity, etc.)

Occupants of campus buildings, especially the faculty and staff, need to know what to do during a potentially dangerous situation. Life-safety can only be reasonably assured during a crisis if a plan of action is in place and practiced on a regular basis. In today's modern and uncertain times, nothing can be left to chance.

**Are you prepared?** For the full version of this article go the DMI website under Hot Topics – School Safety or click here.

*Insuring Risk - Sharing Rewards*

## Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College - John Will

Personally

John was recently appointed as the Vice President, Administrative Services at WITC after serving just over a year as Controller and 6 months as Interim Vice President, Administrative Services. John says, "I feel fortunate to be working in the Technical College System and in education in general. I'm learning every day, and look forward to making a positive contribution at WITC." He has a double major in accounting and economics from UW-Eau Claire and a master's degree in school business management from UW-Whitewater. Prior to working at WITC he was employed in public accounting and in K-12 education as a school business manager.

John has been married to Kimberly for 9 years; they have two girls, Anna (4) and Josephine (1). Spending time with his family is John's favorite pastime. John and his family settled in Northwestern Wisconsin to be close to their extended family and to enjoy the beautiful Northwoods. They currently reside in Spooner, Wisconsin, but will be moving to a new lake home in Birchwood, Wisconsin in May. John's hobbies include grouse hunting with his black lab, fishing, and playing basketball. His favorite sports teams are the Packers and Badgers, and he views any televised game as an opportunity to relax.

## News, etc...

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** The next round of DMI Quarterly Meetings will be held on January 25th and 26th. All meetings are scheduled to be held at the WTCS Foundation Office in Waunakee. Following are upcoming scheduled meeting dates:

- Board of Directors: April 26th and July 12th.
- Annual Meeting: April 27th - 9 a.m.
- Risk Managers: April 27th (directly following Annual Meeting) and July 13th.

**DMI Presents...** is coming - **February 9th from 10:30 - 11:45 a.m.** This installment will be a panel discussion on "Campus Violence Preparedness". An announcement with additional details has been sent - broadcast locations will follow at a later date.



## Crawlin' the Web

Sections that have been updated since the last installment of the "TIR" are the Hot Topics, Forms and Meetings sections. The "Policies and Procedures" section will be debuting next week! Full of Policies and Procedures that the DMI Board of Directors has approved and adopted, i.e. DMI Motor Vehicle Record Check Policy, etc. Remember to look to the website for forms, minutes, agendas and other great resources!

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