

THE INCIDENT REPORT

...a monthly newsletter from Districts Mutual Insurance

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THE DEC PAGE

Snow Removal Season Has Arrived - STEVEN STOEGER-MOORE, EXECUTIVE VP - DMI

Snow removal requires lifting, bending and twisting motions. If your body is not prepared for strenuous activity, serious injuries can occur. The Consumer Product Safety Commission reported 36,000 people were treated for snow and ice removal injuries in 2006. Of this total, 5,000 were injured while using snow blowers resulting in back and shoulder strains and finger amputations.

So how do you avoid becoming a "statistic" during the 2007 snow removal season? Employees routinely assigned snow removal work need to be physically capable of performing these tasks. Perhaps a physical exam or fitness for duty checkup is in order. Staff routinely outdoors require proper clothing: a hat, gloves, work boots, warm socks, and layered clothing are recommended.

Snow removal work should begin early before heavy/large accumulation occurs. Before beginning work – warm up muscles by stretching and performing light exercise. To avoid dehydration, drink plenty of water. Use the proper tools for the work at hand. Push snow instead of lifting for example. There are several ergonomically designed snow shovels that can reduce bending.

If you are using power equipment, familiarize yourself with proper operation before starting work. Reading the instruction manual can be very helpful. Always keep your hands and feet away from moving parts. Servicing the machine, adding fuel, or clearing a clogged discharge chute is only to be done with the engine off. Stop the engine before you inspect the auger or blades. With some care and common sense, snow removal season can be safe.



BRIGHT IDEAS - Minimize the Effects of the Flu Season

Wash your hands several times a day – use soap and water and scrub for 15-20 seconds.

Clean and Disinfect commonly handled interior surfaces/items.

- o Door handles
- o Eating surfaces
- o Phone

For more information please visit the CDC website at: www.cdc.gov

Insuring Risk - Sharing Rewards



News, Announcements, etc...

DMI Upcoming Events - DMI Quarterly Meetings are scheduled at the Wisconsin Technical College Foundation, Waunakee at the following dates and times:

DMI Board of Directors: January 24th, 2 p.m.

DMI RiskManagers: January 25th, 10 a.m.

Agendas and e-packets coming soon!

DMI Presents...The next DMI Presents...is scheduled for February 8th from 10:30 - 11:45 a.m.

Workers' Comp Payments In Wisconsin Continue to Rise - A 2007 Study by the Workers' Compensation Research Institute stated the average medical payment per claim to injured workers in Wisconsin continued to grow at a double digit rate due to rapidly rising prices paid to hospital and non-hospital services. The utilization of medical services was described as generally stable but prices for non-hospital services were the highest and fastest growing among 13 states included in the study. Prices paid in Wisconsin were more than double the median study state for major surgery and more than 50% higher for most other services.

Keep in mind expenses associated with a workers' compensation claim can dramatically and adversely affect the modification factor (severity portion of the mod factor formula). Cost control is vital once a claim occurs.

Another Doozey! (Post Magazine) - In Nebraska 65 new car owners were desperately hoping it would be a white Christmas after a car dealership offered \$10,000 to anyone who purchased a car during the month of December and it snowed on Christmas day. Lloyd's of London accepted the \$1.5M risk, which agreed to pay out the prize money if at least 4 inches of snow fell. Editor's note: We're not sure about the outcome of this offer nor whether LoL had to pay.

Crawlin' the Web

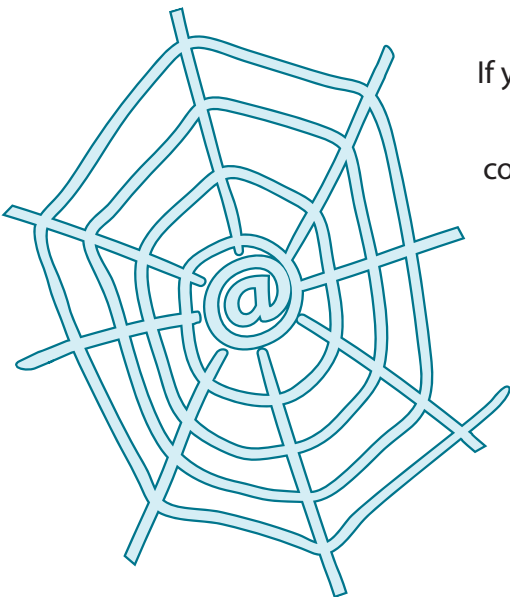
If you have any suggestions for information you would like to see posted on the DMI Website - or - if you have problems accessing information please contact your DMI Representative or geri@districtsmutualinsurance.com for assistance. The following updates have been posted on the DMI website:

Chemical Security Remains a Hot Issue for Colleges and Universities
- Cynthia Eghblania, Co-Chair of the WTCS Loss Control and Risk Management Committee

GO TO...Consultant Reports HAZARDOUS MATERIALS Section

Meeting Agendas will be added soon.

GO TO...Meetings Section



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