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## ONLINE UNIVERSITY COURSE HIGHLIGHT

**WO11: Working Outdoors  
in Warm Weather Climates**

Learn more online  
[www.imwca.org](http://www.imwca.org)

■ IOWA MUNICIPALITIES WORKERS' COMPENSATION ASSOCIATION

# IMWCA

Comments or suggestions, call  
Bethany Crile, newsletter editor, at  
(515) 244-7282 or email  
[bethanycrile@iowaleague.org](mailto:bethanycrile@iowaleague.org).

# the Informer

*A monthly newsletter addressing workplace safety by Iowa Municipalities Workers' Compensation Association.*

## OSHA Consultation

More often than not, when you hear the acronym OSHA, you think of enforcement, citations and fines. Here in Iowa we are fortunate to have a state run organization that, in addition to enforcing Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations, has a group of experts that will come to your location upon request to provide free consultation services.

Henry County decided that they would take advantage of this service and set up a consultation earlier this year. Derek Wellington, safety director for the county requested IOSH visit the county and perform a health and safety audit. Because consultation is a voluntary activity, you must make a formal request. You have the choice to request a health audit, a safety audit or both. You also have the choice to limit the scope of the audit, or you may choose a complete review of your operations. This service is confidential, no information is provided to the OSHA enforcement staff. Your only obligation is to make a commitment to correct serious job safety and health hazards in a timely manner. The only case where consultation would be required to refer a violation to enforcement is when serious violations are not corrected within the agreed upon time. OSHA encourages employers to take advantage of a full audit, and that is exactly what Henry County did.

So on January 17, 2013 OSHA met Derek at the county courthouse. After completing some paperwork, they embarked on a full scale review of the county's operations. Derek said together "they went out and started going through our facilities, they took LOTS of pictures and documented things. They always told me what they were doing and any issues they were finding." The end result was two reports, a 22-page health survey and a 62-page safety survey. Both reports included a number of serious violations, and as mentioned earlier the county agreed to correct these violations within an agreed upon time period. In this case, 30 days was the deadline. Derek was able to meet the date; however, there are procedures where you can ask for an extension if necessary.

The actual report lists each violation, identifies the type (e.g. Serious), gives a location, states the condition, and provided the applicable OSHA standard the condition violates. The report also provided the potential effects the violation may cause, and provides the recommended action necessary to correct the violation. Check out the sample on the next page.

The safety report listed several electrical hazards, and in each case the report included a photo of the violation. The report also included some examples of the correct way to use electrical cords and outlets in the workplace. Accord-

ing to Derek “both guys were very professional and very nice to work with, and willing to explain everything or answer all of my questions.”

The end result: the county received some excellent safety and health advice; they were able to correct all the violations within the allotted time. Best of all, the employees of Henry County are provided a safer work environment, so they have every opportunity to go home safe at the end of the day.

To learn more about Iowa OSHA consultation, visit: [www.iowaworkforce.org/labor/iosh/consultation/index.htm](http://www.iowaworkforce.org/labor/iosh/consultation/index.htm)

**Hazard Type** | Serious

**Location** | Where battery water will be added.

**Condition** | There is a shower but no eye wash.

**Standard** | 1910.151 (c) Where the eyes or body of any person may be exposed to injurious corrosive materials, suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body shall be provided within the work area for immediate emergency use.

**Potential Effects** | Battery acid burn.

**Recommended Action** | While waiting for a suitable eyewash/shower to be installed, do not add water to batteries. When adding water to batteries, the employees must use proper personal protective equipment for eye, face and body.

## Seeking board member

Are you interested in serving on the board of Trustees for the Iowa Municipalities Workers' Compensation Association (IMWCA)? In anticipation of a city seat opening on the board, we are in the process of identifying interested representatives from the IMWCA membership. You must be an elected or appointed official from a member entity to be eligible for election to the board.

The IMWCA Board of Trustees governs the operations of the association and meets five times a year with staff from the Iowa League of Cities who provides the administrative services for the association. The nine-member board is comprised of five city and four county officials. Each trustee is elected to a three-year term with no limit on the number of terms.

Interested officials are invited to submit a letter of interest by June 28, 2013, to [jeffhovey@iowaleague.org](mailto:jeffhovey@iowaleague.org) or by regular mail to: Director of Risk Services, Iowa League of Cities, 500 SW 7th, Suite 101, Des Moines, IA 50309.

## Safely Speaking

## National Safety Month: It starts with me

Each June, the National Safety Council encourages organizations to participate in National Safety Month, an annual observance to educate and influence behaviors around leading causes of preventable injuries and deaths.

This year's theme, “Safety Starts with Me,” emphasizes that successful organizations engage everyone in safety and create a culture where people feel a personal responsibility not only for their own safety, but for that of their coworkers, family and friends. While leadership from the top is important, creating a culture where there is a sense of ownership in safety by all makes everyone in the organization a safety leader.

The National Safety Council's Web site, [www.nsc.org/nsc\\_events/Nat\\_Safe\\_Month/Pages/home.aspx](http://www.nsc.org/nsc_events/Nat_Safe_Month/Pages/home.aspx), allows you to sign up for the free, downloadable materials including social media messages you can share to get your friends, family and coworkers excited about National Safety Month.

## Fax, address changing

Later this month, IMWCA's mailing address and fax number are changing. You can already send faxes to our new number: (978) 367-2862. However, beginning June 22 all faxes should be sent there, and all mail should be sent to our new mailing address: 500 SW 7th Street, Suite 101 in Des Moines, IA 50309.

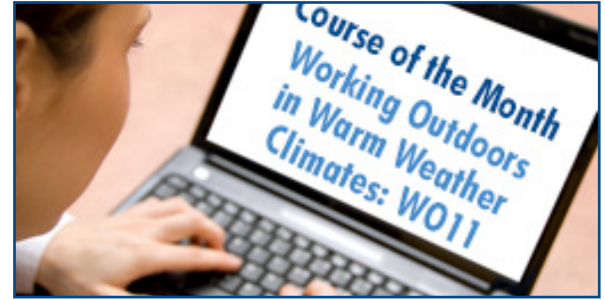
While our administrator, the Iowa League of Cities, is undergoing the address change, IMWCA's claims and underwriting providers will be unavailable, as phones and email will be down the afternoon of Thursday, June 20 and all day Friday, June 21. Company Nurse will still be available to provide triage and first report of injury services.

## Excellence in Financial Reporting!

Dana Monosmith, controller for the Iowa Municipalities Workers' Compensation Association (IMWCA), was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada (GFOA) for the IMWCA Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) from fiscal year 2012. This is the 14th consecutive year that Dana has received the award. Since joining the organization in April 1998, she has implemented procedures that have raised accounting standards for both the League and IMWCA to a very high level. Dana is to be commended for her excellent work and is certainly deserving of this recognition from a national organization.

# Online University update

IMWCA has about 1,200 Online University users with plans to make room for another 300 in the coming fiscal year. Right now we are scrubbing the user list to remove anyone who has not accessed the system for two or more years. Deactivated users may re-register at any time. We also plan to add another 12 courses to this online training over fiscal year 2013-2014. Your loss control team is reviewing available courses and will publicize the additions as soon as the list is complete. If you haven't already taken advantage of the Online University, or you want to learn more, visit [www.imwca.org/LossControl/pages/OnlineUniversity.aspx](http://www.imwca.org/LossControl/pages/OnlineUniversity.aspx).



## Tick season is coming on strong

As spring time brings warm weather, it also brings ticks. Some experts are saying this year may be especially bad since warmer winters do not kill ticks, even if there is snow. An increase in white-tailed deer that spread ticks and the use of fewer insecticides are other reasons the population has exploded.

Adult black-legged ticks (more commonly known as deer ticks) live mostly on and depend on deer in order to reproduce by laying 2,000 or more eggs. Their offspring arrive in May and can live on smaller animals like birds and rodents. Other types of ticks found in Iowa are the wood tick and the lone star tick.

Though deer ticks are the only ones that can carry bacteria that cause Lyme disease, other ticks carry a variety of disease-causing agents that can lead to complications. For this reason it's important to watch for symptoms if you find a tick attached to you. Contact your doctor if you experience tick-borne disease symptoms, like muscle or joint aches, stiff neck, headache, weakness, fever, swollen lymph nodes or other flu-like symptoms.

When venturing outside, especially in wooded areas, the best way to prevent ticks is by wearing long sleeves, pants,

a hat and applying repellent that contains DEET. If you do find a tick that has attached itself, remove it with a pair of tweezers by gently pulling, but don't twist, as it can break the head off and leave it stuck in your body. Then disinfect the area. Remember to check your pets as well, so they don't bring ticks into your home.

If you find a tick that you'd like tested for Lyme disease, an Iowa State University entomologist can test it for you. Simply wrap the tick in a tissue, add a blade of grass, seal in a zip-top bag and mail to: Department of Entomology, Lyme Disease Project, 436 Science Hall II, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-3222.

Lean more from our sources:

- [www.kcrg.com/news/local/Ticks-Could-Be-Trouble-This-Summer-209014101.html](http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/Ticks-Could-Be-Trouble-This-Summer-209014101.html)
- [www.veterinarypracticenews.com/vet-cover-stories/tick-populations-to-explode.aspx](http://www.veterinarypracticenews.com/vet-cover-stories/tick-populations-to-explode.aspx)
- [www.kwwl.com/story/22286215/2013/05/17/high-risk-now-for-tick-borne-lyme-disease-in-northeast-iowa](http://www.kwwl.com/story/22286215/2013/05/17/high-risk-now-for-tick-borne-lyme-disease-in-northeast-iowa)
- [www.uihealthcare.org/Adam/?/HIE%20Multimedia/1/002856](http://www.uihealthcare.org/Adam/?/HIE%20Multimedia/1/002856)

IMWCA Informer is a bimonthly newsletter published by the Iowa Municipalities Workers' Compensation Association (IMWCA) in cooperation with the Iowa League of Cities.

This newsletter is designed to educate local officials on workers' compensation issues. Suggestions for articles or topics to appear in IMWCA Informer are always welcome. Contact IMWCA at (515) 244-7282. You may also view this publication online at [www.imwca.org](http://www.imwca.org).

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