







## Local Government Risk Management Services, Inc.

# Safety Theme

A Service Organization of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia and the Georgia Municipal Association

The Safety Theme program is designed to help you get an important safety message across to all employees in a simple-to-use format that can be completed each month.

## Monthly Theme Poster

Make copies, and post them wherever you will get the most impact.

## Safety Theme Article

The article expands on the poster message for the month. Make copies and hand them out to each meeting participant.

### Participant Sign-In Sheet

Use the sign-in sheet to document your safety training.

## Suggested Agenda for the Monthly Safety Meeting

- Assemble the paticipants.
- Hand out copies of the article and pass around the sign-in sheet.
- Read the Safety Theme aloud.
- Discuss aspects of the theme relevant to the department, with examples. Ask for ideas and encourage participation.

## **Training Calendar**

#### **Contracts for Local Governments**

July 19 Cornelia, Habersham County
July 20 Cartersville, Bartow County
August 2 Tifton, Tift County
August 3 Statesboro, Bulloch County

### **Advanced Workers' Compensation**

August 10 Statesboro, Bulloch County
September 13 Cartersville, Bartow County
September 15 Gainesville, Hall County
October 6 Macon, Bibb County
Tifton, Tift County

## Local Government Safety Coordinator 1 & 2

August 31 Savannah, Chatham County September 7 Cornelia, Habersham County September 21 Tifton, Tift County October 4 Macon, Bibb County

### Local Government Safety Coordinator 3

September 1 Savannah, Chatham County September 9 Cornelia, Habersham County September 22 Tifton, Tift County October 5 Macon, Bibb County

### **Health Promotion Champion**

September 21 Tifton, Tift County
September 22 Statesboro, Bulloch County
September 27 Macon, Bibb County
September 28 Gainesville, Hall County
September 29 Cartersville, Bartow County





# Safety Bulletin

## **Drain the Ditch**



## Avoid the Itch!

## **Drain the Ditch, Avoid the Itch!**

"The nation is on the verge of a public health emergency," said the National Governors Association in a statement May 9 urging Congress and the Obama Administration to take swift action to approve funding to combat the spread of the Zika virus.

Federal agencies are also taking the threat of a Zika outbreak very seriously as the summer months approach.

#### For instance:

- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) are monitoring the Zika virus outbreak spreading through Central and South America, Mexico, and parts of the Caribbean. They have noted that workers exposed to mosquitoes or the blood or bodily fluids of infected people may be at risk for occupationally-acquired Zika infection.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced a National Zika Summit in April to prepare for the possibility of mosquito-borne transmission of the Zika virus in parts of the continental United States. The CDC also explained that the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and Puerto Rico have experienced active Zika transmission, and in one case, an individual in Puerto Rice died after becoming infected with the virus.

Zika, a predominantly mosquito-borne and potentially sexually transmitted virus that can result in a condition called microcephaly in unborn children, was thrust into the spotlight earlier this year when the World Health Organization (WHO) declared it a global health emergency. Also earlier this year, WHO and the CDC formulated travel advisories to help



minimize the spread of the virus. At the end of April the first pregnancy where the fetus had the zika virus was found in the United States. The mother had contracted the virus in Honduras.

Zika is not the only mosquito-borne disease that affects humans. Taking precautions for one mosquito-borne disease is taking precautions for them all. Summer is when mosquito populations explode. A few simple precautions can help protect you against bites

- Make sure all containers (planters, water bowls, etc,.) that have standing water are emptied. Any place where water collects – such as low points in your yard or drainage ditches – should also be checked, dried, and emptied if possible. These are great breeding grounds for mosquitos.
- Check with your local government to see if they have a mosquito control program.
- Many fire stations provide an annual giveaway of mosquito prevention briquettes.
- Use an insect repellent when outdoors.



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