



SHARE

AUGUST 2022
ISSUE #17

SAFETY HEALTH AND RISK E-CONNECT NEWSLETTER

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC. - A Service Organization of the ASSOCIATION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GEORGIA and the GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author's and do not reflect the views of LGRMS, ACCG, or GMA.

TRENCHING *and* EXCAVATION SAFETY

P. 7

Also in this issue

**FLU PREVENTION
COMPLIANCE VS. RISK ASSESSMENTS
AND THE HOTSHEET**

SAFETY THEME

DOWNLOAD THIS
MONTH'S SAFETY POSTER

HEALTH PROMOTION SERVICES

CHECK OUT THE LIVING
WELL GEORGIA CORNE

RISK/LIABILITY

CHECK OUT THIS MONTH'S
LIABILITY BEAT



CONTENTS

- 3 A Note from the Editor
Welcome to August
- 4 Director's Corner
Compliance vs. Risk Assessments
- 7 Trenching & Excavation Safety
- 10 Master Contact List
- 11 Liability Beat
Deadly Force Against Unarmed Stranded Motorist
- 16 Fun With Safety
- 18 HPS Living Well Georgia
Bend Don't Break
- 23 Safety Theme
Don't Keep it to Yourself
- 26 Safety Bulletin
Don't Be Afraid to Report Accidents
- 27 The Hot Sheet
- 32 Safety Forms
General Safety Inspection Form/Attendance
- 35 LGRMS Contacts



3500 Parkway Lane
Suite 110
Peachtree Corners, GA 30092

www.lgrms.com

UPCOMING WEBINARS AND TRAINING EVENTS

SAFETY COORDINATOR I & II DAY 1 | 8:30AM - 11:30AM

August 30 - Gainesville

SAFETY COORDINATOR III & IV DAY 2 | 12:30AM - 3:30PM

August 31 - Gainesville

LAW ENFORCEMENT

FULL DAY | 8:30AM - 4:00PM

October 25 - Tifton

October 26 - Macon

October 27 - Cartersville

FIRE FIGHTER CANCER TRAINING

HALF DAY | 8:30AM - 12:30PM

TBD - Thomasville, GA

November 16 - Brunswick/Glynn County

November 29 - Cartersville

November 30 - Gainesville

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Dates may be subject to change. Please check the LGRMS website for the most current listing of training events in your area. Please visit:

www.lgrms.com/trainingeventcalendar



Welcome to the August edition of SHARE, the monthly publication of Local Government Risk Management Services (LGRMS). SHARE is sent to all GIRMA/IRMA, WC, and Life & Health members 10 times per year.

SHARE has two sections: (1) a general safety, risk, and health section, and (2) a worker safety-focused section similar to the old Safety Theme.

We cover those topics and issues most relevant to Local Governments in Georgia, plus some new features. We look forward to your feedback. The LGRMS SHARE is published on or around the 20th of each month. If you are not currently on the distribution list to receive our monthly newsletter, it can be downloaded for free from the LGRMS website (www.lgrms.com).

IN THIS ISSUE

In this issue we have a variety of articles focusing on current topics affecting local governments. Workers and worker safety is always our number one focus. As part of that, our focus for workers is reporting work-related accidents. The Safety Theme delves into why employees may be reluctant to disclose accidents that happen on the job. We continue the exploration

of this phenomenon in the Director's Corner. Here we examine performance standards and associated risk assessments. Also included are articles discussing Deadly Force Against Unarmed, Stranded Motorists, Trenching and Excavation Safety, Flu prevention, and a list of upcoming training events currently available for registration. To do so, go to www.lgrms.com and click on TRAINING EVENT CALENDAR to see what is offered. For questions or issues, contact Tamara Chapman at tchapman@lgrms.com, or Cortney Steptor at csteptor@lgrms.com.

Be safe.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact: Dennis Watts, dwatts@lgrms.com, or Tammy Chapman, tchapman@lgrms.com.



DIRECTOR'S CORNER



By Dan Beck, LGRMS Director

Compliance vs. Risk Assessments

Are you in total compliance with all state and federal risk-related regulations? If you can answer this question, with anything better than, “I’m not sure”, you are better than me. The federal and state governments have volumes of regulations. It is an overwhelming task to ensure you are meeting the expectations of each of those regulations. The role of LGRMS and your organization’s safety professional is to identify those regulations that present the most potential to have an

impact. Then develop a plan to ensure compliance.

Most federal/state regulations are “Prescriptive”; meaning they provide specific details on actions that must be taken (i.e., fire extinguisher per building or powered industrial truck pre-shift inspections). Most international standards are based on “Performance”; meaning identify what we need to achieve. Many experts believe that Performance Standards are much better than Prescriptive Standards, because they:

- Are proactive vs. reactive.
- Offer a great opportunity for engagement.
- Provide a great leading measure.

So how do Performance Standards work? Most Performance Standards require you to do a risk assessment. The risk assessment process consists of:

1. Risk Identification
2. Risk Evaluation
3. Risk Prioritization
4. Risk Control

Risk Identification: Work with employees to identify all job tasks. Identify potential risks within each of those job tasks.

Risk Evaluation: For each of the identified risks, evaluate the potential likelihood and severity of occurrence. There are many different rating systems, I prefer the one shown below. Once you have selected the rating for likelihood and severity, multiply those numbers and you will have your risk score.

LIKELIHOOD (L)	EXAMPLE	RATING
Most Likely	The most likely result of the hazard/event being realized	5
Possible	Has a good chance of occurring and is not unusual	4
Conceivable	Might be occurring sometime in the future	3
Remote	Has not been known to occur after many years	2
Inconceivable	Is practically impossible and has never occurred	1

SEVERITY (S)	EXAMPLE	RATING
Catastrophic	Numerous fatalities, irrecoverable property damage and productivity	5
Fatal	Approximately one single fatality major property damage if hazard is realized	4
Serious	Non-fatal injury, permanent disability	3
Minor	Disabling but not permanent injury	2
Negligible	Minor abrasions, bruises, cuts, first aid type injury	1

Risk Prioritization: Rank the job tasks risk scores from highest to lowest.

Risk Control: You really want to focus on those high scores that are not controlled.

RISK	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
15 - 25	HIGH	A HIGH risk requires immediate action to control the hazard as detailed in the hierarchy of control. Actions taken must be documented on the risk assessment form including date for completion.
5 - 12	MEDIUM	A MEDIUM risk requires a planned approach to controlling the hazard and applies temporary measure if required. Actions taken must be documented on the risk assessment form including date for completion.
1 - 4	LOW	A risk identified as LOW may be considered as acceptable and further reduction may not be necessary. However, if the risk can be resolved quickly and efficiently, control measures should be implemented and recorded.

Below is what a completed risk assessment may look like.

2. Hazard Identification			3. Risk Analysis			4. Risk Control								
Work Activity/ Process/ Task	Hazards	Potential Cause/ Effect	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Score	Current Controls in Place	Likelihood with current control in place	Control Code	New Likelihood Score	Severity with Control in Place	Risk Priority Score	Recommended Controls	Due Date	Post - Risk Priority Score
Cooling Tower,- check spray nozzles	Pump is running at the time, PPM Chemicals Chlorine Sulfenic acid,	Chemical Burn	3	2	6	LOTO Training PPE	1	2	2	2	4	Training, PPE,		
Using 2 skyjacks and a lifts, too complete work on equipment within the high ceilings	Work completed 20 to 30 feet overhead.	Fracture, Contusions, Fatality	3	4	12	Training, Fall arrest and protection systems in place	1	2	2	4	8	Increase focus on Fall Protection Training		
Compression Tanks - no maintenance	Potential for explosions compressed air	lacerations, contusions, fatality	2	5	10				2	4	8	Conduct PM and inspections on pressure vessles		
Fork truck- changing LP Tanks	Extreme Cold of LP, fire explosion of LB	Chemical/ thermal burns	3	2	6	Training, wearing PPE	1	3	3	2	6	enforce		

If you are interested in learning more about this process, please contact me with any questions or concerns.



TRENCHING *and* EXCAVATION SAFETY



by
Vincent Scott
LGRMS Loss Control Representative

Trenching and Excavating are recognized as the most hazardous construction operations, killing an average of 33 people and injuring hundreds each year. Through the first half of this year, OSHA has recorded 22 trenching deaths – already a 47% increase from the 15 recorded in all of 2021. “Every one of these tragedies could have been prevented had employers complied with OSHA standards,” agency administrator Doug Parker said in a press release. “There simply is no excuse for ignoring safety requirements to prevent trench collapses and cave-ins, and leaving families, friends and co-workers to grieve when the solutions are so well-understood.”

Yes, I know that in the state of Georgia local governments don’t come under the purview of OSHA. Nevertheless, local government entities should safeguard employees and educate them that going into an unprotected trench for any reason and for

any period can have fatal consequences. A competent person should be onsite for all trenching and excavation activities. Someone who is trained to identify the protective system needed to protect employees. This person must also be able to evaluate the weather conditions, soil classification, water content of the soil, and other trenching hazards.

WARNING SIGNS OF FAILURE:

- Tension cracks in sidewalls, slopes, and surface adjacent to excavations. Ground settlement or subsidence. Spalling or sloughing soils. Changes in wall slope or a bulge. Increase in strut loads. Excessive seepage and piping of fine soils. Softening of sidewalls or boiling of trench bottom. Creaking or popping sounds. Visual deformation of bracing system or trench.

- **SLOPING/BENCHING - CHECK FOR:** Excessive vibration. Location of spoil pile and backfill. Equipment location relative to excavation. Excessive wear or damage to equipment. Signs of distress cracking, bulging, etc. Improper installation procedures or alignment of members. Incorrect installation of connections. Workers in unbraced trench or improper system being used.

- **SHORING/BRACING - CHECK FOR:** Maintenance of proper slope ratio. Excessive vibrations. Location of the spoil pile, trees, or structures. Equipment location relative to the excavation. Secondary soil or rock structure. Presence of water seepage and/or rainfall. Signs of distress.

- **TRENCH SHIELD/BOX – CHECK FOR:** Clearance between shield and trench sidewalls. Adequate free- board at top of shield. Proper slope above

shield. Current certification of shield. Excessive wear or damage or improper use of shield. Workers in an unshielded trench or improper shield being used.

LGRMS offers Trenching and Excavation Awareness training via in-person and web-based, please contact your Risk Control Consultant to identify what works best for your organization.

References

https://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/22787-steep-rise-in-trenching-deaths-spurs-enhanced-enforcement-outreach-from-oshaw?utm_source=sfmc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=mbrnewsalertjul15&utm_content=



REGISTER FOR AN LGRMS IN-PERSON REGIONAL TRAINING CLASS TODAY!

Register for an LGRMS Regional Training Event Today!

No images? [Click here](#)



- SIGN UP TODAY -

**LGRMS Regional Training Classes are
NOW OPEN for Registration!**

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

WHAT'S NEW

**WOULD YOU MIND LETTING US
KNOW IF ANYTHING HAS CHANGED?**

FILL OUT THE FORM ON PG. 10

As we all strive to get back to some sense of normalcy, changes in personnel continue to occur. Try as we might to keep our distribution lists up to date, we find that we need your help. As a result of the ongoing pandemic, many of you have experienced changes in personnel, or have had to alter the way you conduct business altogether. To ensure that we are able to keep you abreast of program changes, training dates, etc., we are asking that you please take a moment to complete the Contact Information form on page 10.

For your convenience, we have made it fillable (meaning that you can fill it out online, save, and send it back via email); or if you prefer, you may print it out, complete the required fields, and send it back to us via mail or fax.

LGRMS

Attn: Tamara Chapman
3500 Parkway Lane
Suite 110
Peachtree Corners, GA 30092

Email: lgrmsadmin@lgrms.com

Fax: 770-246-3149

CONTACT LIST FORM

Date:

ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

ACCG

GMA

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____ COUNTRY _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

PRIMARY CONTACT NAME _____

TITLE _____

ROLE LOSS CONTROL HEALTH & WELLNESS

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

ARE YOU THE SAFETY COORDINATOR YES NO

IF NO, PLEASE PROVIDE NAME & EMAIL _____

SECONDARY CONTACT NAME _____

TITLE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

MEMBER DISTRIBUTION LISTS & ACCESS

Select all that apply

SHARE Newsletter LGRMS WEBSITE LocalGovU BrainShark

Other _____

FOR LGRMS OFFICE ONLY

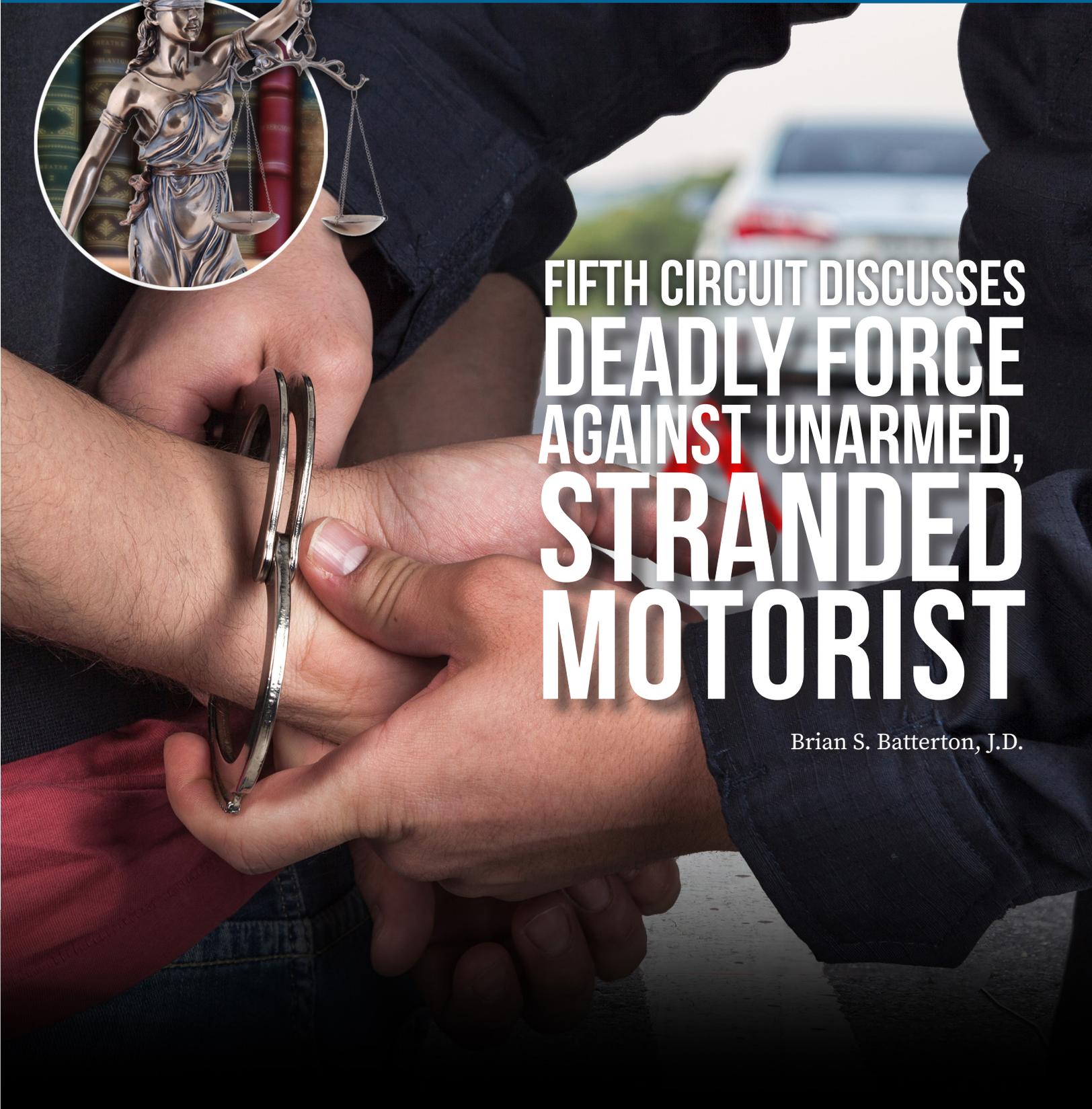
Contact info has been added to:

Date Received: _____

Request Recieved by: _____

- CAMPAIGN MONITOR IMIS EMAIL LIST BrainShark SHARE LIST

LIABILITY BEAT



FIFTH CIRCUIT DISCUSSES DEADLY FORCE AGAINST UNARMED, STRANDED MOTORIST

Brian S. Batterton, J.D.

On April 21, 2021, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals decided *Batyukova v. Doege*[i], which involved a deputy who shot an unarmed, stranded motorist who refused to follow verbal commands, used profanity at the deputy, and reached for her waistband behind her back. The relevant facts of *Batyukova*, taken directly from the case, are as follows:

Brandon Doege was a deputy of the Bexar County, Texas Sheriff's Office who worked in the county's adult-detention center. He was not a patrol officer and had not undergone the same training as patrol officers. He was, though, commissioned as a peace officer and had received basic training for that role.

Shortly before midnight on June 28, 2018, Deputy Doege was driving westbound on U.S. Highway 90 on his way home from a shift. He was in his uniform and driving his personal vehicle, which was equipped with red and blue police-style lights. After he crossed the line from Bexar County into Medina County, Deputy Doege encountered *Batyukova's* vehicle stopped in the left-hand lane of the highway. Deputy Doege activated his red and blue lights and parked behind her so he could render aid. At that time, he called 911 and informed the Medina County dispatcher that he was an off-duty deputy, that he had encountered a vehicle in the middle of the road with its hazard lights on, that he was in his personal vehicle with red and blue lights, and that he had not yet approached the vehicle.

Batyukova then began to exit her vehicle. Deputy Doege opened his door and yelled out to *Batyukova*,

"let me see your hands" and "get out of the vehicle." She stepped out of the vehicle, which prompted Deputy Doege to yell "put your hands on the hood." Instead of complying with the commands, *Batyukova* gave Deputy Doege the middle finger, shouted "f**k you," and said that she hated America. Still on the line with 911, Deputy Doege asked the dispatcher to send a police unit.

It is undisputed that, over the course of the short encounter, *Batyukova* yelled "f**k you," "f**k America," and "I hate America." The parties dispute whether *Batyukova* also said "death to America" and "you're going to f**king die tonight." Deputy Doege testified that *Batyukova* made those statements and that they contributed to his fearing for his life, but *Batyukova* denies doing so.

After requesting a police unit, Deputy Doege again yelled "put your hands on the hood." He also asked her "what is going on" as she continued to shout expletives. After ignoring almost every command Deputy Doege gave, *Batyukova* began to walk towards Deputy Doege's vehicle. Deputy Doege quickly put his vehicle in reverse and backed up to maintain distance.

Batyukova stopped her approach when Deputy Doege exited his vehicle and drew his weapon. Standing behind his door, Deputy Doege yelled "get down now" and "let me see your hands." At that point, with a cigarette in one hand, *Batyukova* reached her other hand towards the waistband of her pants. Her hand went behind her back and

disappeared from Deputy Doege's view. An instant later, Deputy Doege fired five shots. Bullets struck her wrist, leg, and abdomen.

The video evidence shows that, immediately after shooting, Deputy Doege told the dispatcher "shots fired, shots fired . . . she reached behind her back." In his deposition, he testified that it was the combination of her saying "you're going to f**king die tonight" and her hand reaching behind her back towards her waistband that made him fear for his life. According to his statement to the Medina County Sheriff's Office, when Batyukova "reached behind her towards her waistband," Deputy Doege "thought she was reaching for a weapon to kill [him]" and "was in fear for [his] life."

After the incident, Batyukova told news reporters that she was attempting to "moon" Deputy Doege. Similarly, she told Medina County investigators that she was attempting to show Deputy Doege her "beautiful a**." In her deposition nearly two years later, she contradicted her previous accounts and claimed that she never attempted to moon Deputy Doege. Regardless, it is conclusively established by deemed admission that Batyukova "reached toward[s] [her] waistband because [she] intended to lower [her] pants in order to display [her] buttocks to Deputy Doege."

[A] Medina County deputy then approached Batyukova, determined that she was breathing and responsive, and stayed with her until EMS arrived.

EMS arrived about 15 minutes after she was shot. Batyukova had several gunshot wounds, a fractured wrist, and an exposed bone. She had also lost approximately 1,500 mL of blood. She survived her wounds.[ii]

Batyukova sued Deputy Doege and alleged, among other things, excessive force under the Fourth Amendment for pointing his weapon at her, and excessive force under the Fourth Amendment for shooting her. The district court granted summary judgment for the deputy and other defendants and held that use of force did not violate the Fourth Amendment. Batyukova appealed the grant of summary judgment to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. [Note: This article will only cover the Fourth Amendment use of force claims.]

At the outset, the Fifth Circuit discussed qualified immunity, which protects government officials from suit in circumstances where the government official, such as a law enforcement officer, exercises his discretionary authority. Use of force situations involve discretionary authority and implicate qualified immunity. In order for a plaintiff to defeat qualified immunity, the plaintiff must show (1) that the officer violated her constitutional rights, and (2) that the right was clearly established such that another reasonable officer in the same situation would have known he was violating the plaintiff's rights. In order to show a right was clearly established, a plaintiff can show a case, or line of relevant cases, of an officer acting in similar circumstances, where the conduct was held to violate the constitution. Additionally, a plaintiff can also argue that it should have been obvious to any reasonable officer that the conduct violated the constitution.

The court then examined legal principles that are relevant to the issue of whether Deputy Doege violated the Fourth Amendment when he pointed his gun at, and shot, Batyukova. The court stated

The reasonableness of an officer's use of force "requires careful attention to the facts and circumstances of each particular case." *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386, 396, 109 S. Ct. 1865, 104 L. Ed. 2d 443 (1989). This usually includes consideration of [1]"the severity of the crime at issue, [2] whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others, and [3] whether he is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight." *Id.* In cases involving the use of deadly force, though, "our 'objective reasonableness' balancing test is constrained." *Flores v. City of Palacios*, 381 F.3d 391, 399 (5th Cir. 2004). "The use of deadly force violates the Fourth Amendment unless 'the officer has probable cause to believe that the suspect poses a threat of serious physical harm, either to the officer or to others.'" *Romero v. City of Grapevine*, 888 F.3d 170, 176 (5th Cir. 2018) (quoting *Tennessee v. Garner*, 471 U.S. 1, 11, 105 S. Ct. 1694, 85 L. Ed. 2d 1 (1985)). Stated differently, "[a]n officer's use of deadly force is not excessive, and thus no constitutional violation occurs, when the officer reasonably believes that the suspect poses a threat of serious harm." *Manis v. Lawson*, 585 F.3d 839, 843 (5th Cir. 2009).

"[W]e are careful to avoid 'second-guessing a police officer's assessment, made on the scene, of the

danger presented by a particular situation.'" *Garza*, 943 F.3d at 745 (quoting *Ryburn v. Huff*, 565 U.S. 469, 477, 132 S. Ct. 987, 181 L. Ed. 2d 966 (2012)). "The calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgments — in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving — about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation." *Graham*, 490 U.S. at 396-97. [iii]

The court of appeals then examined the undisputed facts that are relevant to the use of force issue in Batyukova's case. The relevant facts are as follows:

- Batyukova ignored Deputy Doege's commands to show her hands and to place her hands on the hood of her vehicle.
- Batyukova shouted profanity at Deputy Doege and gave him the middle finger.
- Batyukova started walking toward Deputy Doege, which caused him to reverse his vehicle to maintain distance.
- Batyukova failed to comply with Deputy Doege's command to "get down." Batyukova reached behind her back, toward her waistband, with her hand out of view of the deputy

The district court determined that a reasonable officer in Deputy Doege's situation could have believed that Batyukova was a threat to his safety, and the decision to use deadly force was reasonable under the Fourth Amendment. As such, the deputy was entitled to qualified immunity because the plaintiff was unable to establish a constitutional violation, which is the first prong needed

to defeat qualified immunity.

The court of appeals stated that rather than decide the first prong of the qualified immunity analysis, they would examine and decide the case based on the second prong, particularly whether the law was clearly established that Deputy Doege's conduct was a violation. Under this analysis, the court stated

To overcome qualified immunity in this case, Batyukova must show that clearly established law prohibited using deadly force against a person who (1) repeatedly ignored commands, such as to show her hands, to place her hands on the hood of her vehicle, or to get down; and then (2) reached her hand behind her back towards her waistband, which the officer perceived to be a reach for a weapon to use against him.[iv]

The court then examined numerous cases cited by Batyukova. The court stated that Batyukova failed to identify clearly established law that prohibited Deputy Doege use of deadly force in this incident.

In fact, the court of appeals cited to two cases that supported the use of deadly force in Batyukova's case. Specifically, the court stated

More factually comparable are two precedents in which the use of deadly force was held to be reasonable because the officer had reason to perceive a threat of serious harm. In one, **it was reasonable to use deadly force when the officer perceived a**

suspect's sudden reach towards his waistband "to be consistent with a suspect retrieving a weapon." *Salazar-Limon v. City of Hous.*, 826 F.3d 272, 275, 278 (5th Cir. 2016). **We have also held that the use of deadly force is reasonable when a person, "in defiance of the officers' contrary orders, reached under the seat of his vehicle and appeared to retrieve an object that [one officer] reasonably believed to be a weapon."** *Manis*, 585 F.3d at 845.

Similarly to the facts of this case, the person in *Manis* was not suspected of criminal activity but, rather, was approached because his vehicle was idling on railroad tracks at an intersection. *Id.* at 841. Though there are factual distinctions to be made, **both Salazar-Limon and Manis involved the use of deadly force following a person's reach for what reasonably could have been a weapon. In both, the use of deadly force was held to be reasonable.[v]**

As such, the court affirmed the grant of qualified immunity for Deputy Doege.

Citations

- [i] No. 20-50425 (5th Cir. Decided April 21, 2021)
- [ii] *Id.* at 1-6
- [iii] *Id.* at 9-11 (emphasis added)
- [iv] *Id.* at 13
- [v] *Id.* at 15-16 (emphasis added)



August SHARE

Who said safety can't be fun? Test your knowledge and see how much you have retained from the articles in this month's SHARE Newsletter. Solve each puzzle using words and clues scattered throughout the publication. **Check your answers on p. 22**

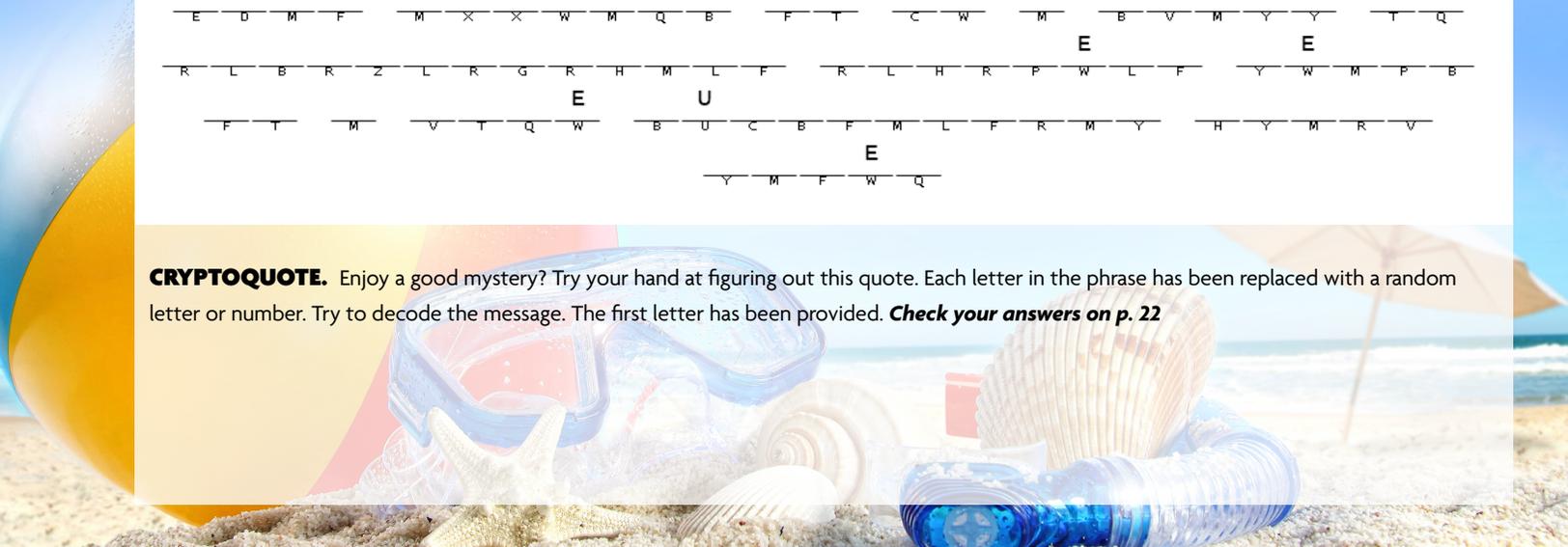
H Z N G D B Q Y G F R S Y L P A B N I C
 Y L D A E D T N H C E K T U A T T M L K
 W Y J G A E I T C G A I O N T T M Z C M
 L G X P F C Q K L N S D L G E U A T V N
 O K N A A O D N Z I O V W T N D Z F Q T
 F B S R Q U E V L H N P Y I B M I M G T
 Y L B Q N X B Y E C A O T K F P R C F D
 P R E V E N T I O N B Y O S S T Z H C M
 W A R N I N G V F E L H C P I D R W G A
 C J Q L G S M N C R E T K J Q R F I Q H
 A O X I Z K G H N T N K B V J O O U F G
 S W M Q M E R M L S E U Z U M J L T V N
 S W L P L E P U Z B S R J E K F D W O Q
 E G D G L L T O K F S F A I L U R E O M
 S T J W T I M A S Q G I G O G D A M A E
 S Q F P M E A O C T B I A K S V Z R H O
 M K V K O G V N X H U W X K U J A V S L
 E E V I T P I R C S E R P J Q E H T K Z
 N D Z R B S E C N E U Q E S N O C Q O H
 T M T S O M Y W Z E F G F T F P T T S I

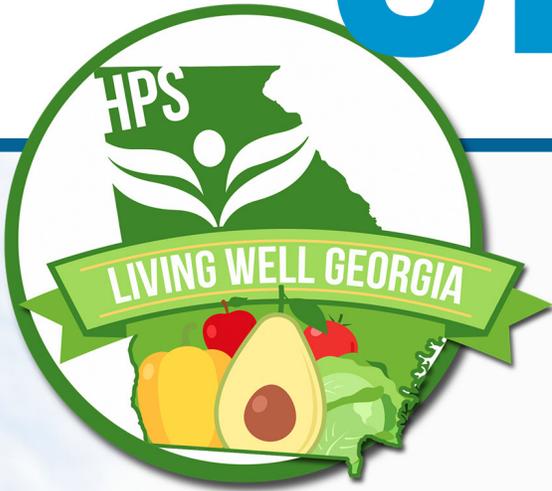
- accidents
- assessment
- bracing
- compliance
- consequences
- deadly
- failure
- fatal
- flu
- hazard
- immunity
- leaks
- motorist
- posture
- prescriptive
- prevention
- reasonableness
- safety
- trenching
- warning

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
				W																U					

E D M F M X X W M Q B F T C W M B V M Y Y T Q
 R L B R Z L R G R H M L F R L H R P W L F Y W M P B
 F T M V T Q W B U C B F M L F R M Y H Y M R V
 Y M F W Q

CRYPTOQUOTE. Enjoy a good mystery? Try your hand at figuring out this quote. Each letter in the phrase has been replaced with a random letter or number. Try to decode the message. The first letter has been provided. **Check your answers on p. 22**





Bend DON'T BREAK



by Candace Amos
LGRMS Health Promotion Representative

Do you wake up in the morning with a kink in your neck? Do your knees hurt when you climb stairs? Is a sore muscle or achy joint causing pain that interferes with your everyday life? These are signs you may have a Musculoskeletal Disorder (MSD).

Musculoskeletal injuries have an impact on your entire body and mind. Preventive measures to avoid such injuries include:

- Good posture really is a tool for a healthy body! As you stand, walk, carry packages, sit, or kneel, good posture is an important element.
- Take stretch breaks. If you sit all day, get up and walk around for five minutes every hour. Stretch your arms, legs, and shoulders.
- Practice proper lifting. Carrying heavy items on a regular basis can hurt parts of your body.
- Keep joints, muscles, and bones strong. Perform strength building exercises, especially focused on core strength (abdominals and back). Make sure to get enough Vitamin D and calcium for healthy bones.
- Quit smoking. Smoking can cause a loss of bone mineral content and an increase in fractures.

There are many treatments for MSDs, depending on their location and severity. Medications, acupuncture, chiropractic, physical therapy, massage, or surgery may be beneficial.

*The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) reported in 2014 that world-wide MSDs

are the second leading cause of disability.

*The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that 31.8 new cases of MSDs per 10,000 full-time workers per year are due to overexertion, body reaction, or repetitive motions.

“Are you moving poorly because you are in PAIN? Or are you in PAIN because you are moving poorly?” Gray Cook

And there are many ways you can protect yourself, as well as your employees’ health. You can start by participating in the LGRMS HPS Forum Call, in which we’ll go over a Health Toolkit that provides “tools” to promote health in your organization.



The Health Toolkit for September is available now. In it, you'll receive all the tools you'll need beforehand to start planning.



The 2022 Monthly Forum Call calendar is out too. The Forum Call is for Health Promotion Champions and individuals responsible as health promotion leaders, administrators, HR and personnel directors, clerks, health/safety coordinators, and wellness/health benefit coordinators. All are welcome to participate. You'll receive an invite each month. Please stay on the lookout!

CALENDAR 2022 Monthly Forum Call

- **January**
 - Monthly Forum Call calendar placed in SHARE
 - February Toolkit available
- **February**
 - Forum Call will be held on 02/18/2022
 - Will discuss March Toolkit
- **March**
 - Forum Call will be held on 03/18/2022
 - Will discuss April Toolkit
- **April**
 - Forum Call will be held on 04/14/2022
 - Will discuss May Toolkit
- **May**
 - Forum Call will be held on 05/20/2022
 - Will discuss June Toolkit
- **June**
 - Forum Call will be held on 06/17/2022
 - Will discuss July Toolkit

Call Time
11:30 AM-12:00 PM

Dial-In Number
(267) 930-4000

Participant Code
491-626-960

- **July**
 - Forum Call will be held on 07/15/2022
 - Will discuss August Toolkit
- **August**
 - Forum Call will be held on 08/19/2022
 - Will discuss September Toolkit
- **September**
 - Forum Call will be held on 09/16/2022
 - Will discuss October Toolkit
- **October**
 - Forum Call will be held on 10/21/2022
 - Will discuss November Toolkit
- **November**
 - Forum Call will be held on 11/18/2022
 - Will discuss December Toolkit
- **December**
 - Forum Call will be held on 12/16/2022
 - Will discuss January Toolkit

20 | SHARE NEWS



Report Accidents

**DON'T
KEEP ^{IT} TO
*yourself***

Resist the temptation not to
report work-related injuries!

Why are Employees "afraid to tell?"

While we receive a good share of claims for workers' compensation accidents, we realize that still numerous accidents go un-reported by employees. What often happens is that employees do not report injuries, and what appears to be a small or insignificant incident leads to a more substantial claim later. Why is it that employees are reluctant to report injuries?

There are several reasons for this, according to sources around the state. Some include:

PEER PRESSURE - nobody wants to be seen as a "wimp". This is particularly pronounced among road and streets personnel.

EMBARRASSMENT - It is sometimes humiliating when an employee slips and falls or does something "stupid" and gets hurt.

FEAR OF LOSING THEIR JOBS - Many people are afraid that if they admit they have injured themselves they will lose their jobs or be demoted to a lesser position.

So, why is it so important to report injuries to management anyway?

Our Doctors tell us that it is a major problem when injuries go unreported because they can become more serious if untreated. This is especially true in cases of back and spine related injuries. A sore or strained back on Tuesday, if not reported, could easily become a

full-blown ruptured disc on Thursday. (And we all know what that means \$\$\$..!)

As if that is not enough reason alone, the fact that an injury(s) goes unreported could mean that a piece of equipment is unsafe or a procedure used is hazardous to the workers, meaning the same or similar accident will occur again, perhaps with more serious consequences the next time.

The key here is that management can't fix what they don't know exists! If no problem is reported to them, they will assume that the job, activity etc. is safe and no change or modification is necessary. It will always be less expensive to solve a safety problem early on in the game than to wait until that problem seriously injures someone, so it is extremely important to get the word to management as soon as possible.

The following is focused on the supervisory / management level for action)

How do we send the right message to our employees to let them know that they should report all injuries, no matter how slight? The first step is to have a good plan of what to do when an accident occurs and follow it every time. This includes getting immediate treatment for the injured employee, getting a statement from the employee and witnesses (if any) as to exactly what happened, when where, how etc. and completing all workers' comp forms promptly. These activities show the workers that you are serious about their safety and health and will respond in ways that will protect them today and down the road.

Another way to get the message across is to freely discuss the injury at safety meetings, not to embarrass but to inform all workers that we live in a dangerous world and that it can happen to any of them at any time! Hold these safety meetings on a regular basis so as not to be tagged as only "reactionary".

Find ways to put the injuries of the past in front of the workers routinely to emphasize your commitment to making the job safer. Some organizations post the investigation findings and management action so workers can see that management is not just paying "lip-service" to safety but is doing something about it!

Whatever it takes for your organization, the important thing is for your people to realize that they can positively effect the safety of all employees by promptly reporting all injuries (and near misses!) no matter how slight.





SAFETY THEME POSTER

AUGUST 2022
ISSUE #17

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC., - A Service Organization of the ASSOCIATION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GEORGIA and the GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

Don't be Afraid to
**Report
Accidents.**

Small or insignificant incidents can lead to more substantial claims later.





Real Accounts of **Serious Incidents**
or **High Potential Near Misses!**

The purpose of the “**HOTSHEET**” is to advise members of a serious incident or high potential near miss. By sharing this information and acting on the findings, we can reduce the potential for loss cause hazards to other employees, property, and equipment.

Within this **HOTSHEET**, you learn about five major fires that occurred in the last 2 years and have all resulted in building, equipment, and vehicle losses. Please distribute to any employee that oversees/manages any battery charging and vehicle maintenance within your organization.

1

FIRE CAUSES TOTAL LOSS OF BUILDING, 4 AMBULANCES, AND ANOTHER VEHICLE

Replacement Cost: \$1,600,000

Incident Description: The fire caused a total loss to the building, 4 ambulances, 1 coroner’s vehicle, contents, and personal property. Subrogation is still pending against the at-fault company. Litigation will likely result.

Cause: This fire occurred in an ambulance. Experts have determined that the cause was an outside shop that was altering the ambulance and when doing so spliced into the GM wiring resulting in the fire.





More "HOTSHEET" scenarios below.

2

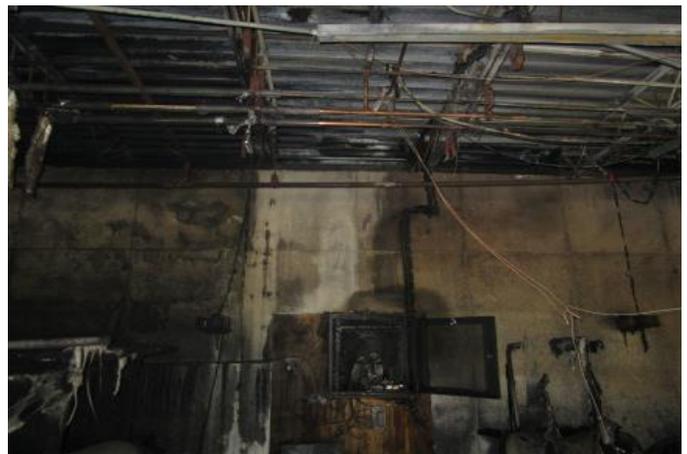
FIRE CAUSES SEVERE DAMAGE TO NEW GOLF CART BUILDING AND 17 GOLF CARTS

Replacement Cost: \$2,180,000

Incident Description: The fire resulted in severe building damage and loss of contents to the building, pro shop, restaurant equipment, and 17 golf carts.

Cause: Actual cause is still under investigation by experts. The fire originated in the lower level of the building where the golf carts were being charged. The Fire Marshal believes that the fire either started from the leased Yamaha charger or from the battery in the golf cart. When charging batteries, flammable vapors are released. If there is not proper ventilation and the build up of vapors reach the LFL (Lower Flammable Limit), a spark can ignite.

Recommended Corrective Action: All battery charging areas should be properly ventilated and monitored with alarms to ensure that the LFL (Lower Flammable Limits) are never reached.





More "HOTSHEET" scenarios below.

3

FIRE CAUSES TOTAL LOSS TO AMBULANCE

Replacement Cost: \$121,000

Incident Description: The fire resulted in damage to the building and total loss damage to an ambulance.

Cause: The cause of the fire is still under investigation and subrogation is pending. The fire originated in the area of the block power supply in the engine.





More "HOTSHEET" scenarios below.

4

FIRE CAUSES TOTAL LOSS TO A BUILDING AND FIRE TRUCK (Date of Loss 11/27/21)

Replacement Cost: \$404,000

Incident Description: After responding to a fire call, the volunteer firefighter backed the fire engine (2001 Freightliner built by E-ONE) in to the fire house. The fire engine was not plugged because, it was an older model. After about 2 hours, the fire started in the fire engine's motor compartment. The fire resulted in a total loss to the building and fire truck.

Cause: The investigation determined the fire started in the engine compartment near the fire wall. There was no shoreline plugged into the truck and the battery switch was found in the off position. Based on those facts, it is believed that the fire may have been started by something related to driving the truck prior to the fire. According to the supplied maintenance records, in January of 2021, the member's shop installed an instrument cluster into the fire truck. The cluster came out of a truck on their scrap yard pile. The replacement cluster may be the object that caused the fire.

Recommended Corrective Action: Ensure that all replacement parts are high quality and from a trusted source.





More "HOTSHEET" scenarios below.

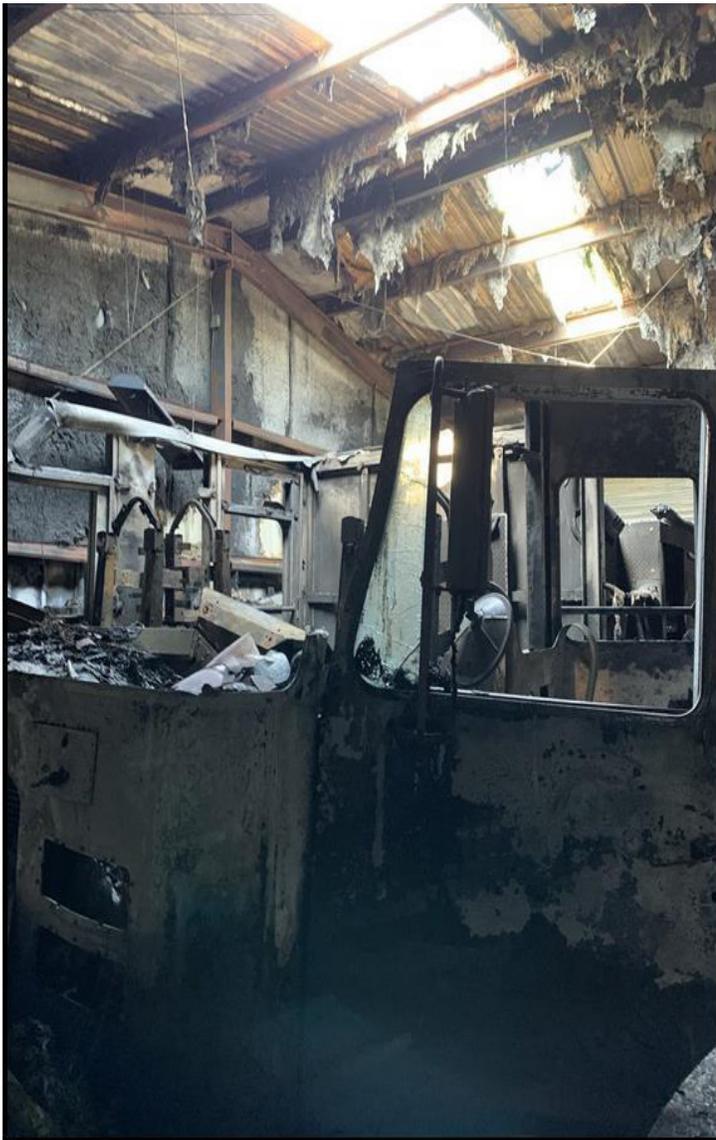
5

FIRE CAUSES LOSS TO BUILDING, BRUSH TRUCK, AND FIRE TRUCK

Replacement Cost: \$405,000

Cause: The State Fire Marshal has verbally indicated that the fire started in the external charging unit hooked to the fire truck. An independent expert has stated that the damage in the area of origin is so severe that it is not likely the actual cause can be determined.

Recommended Corrective Action: In this fire incident, firefighters were sleeping within the building. There were no fire or smoke alarms to warn the firefighters. Please ensure that all of your buildings are equipped with proper alarms to warn occupants of any fire incident.



General Self Inspection Program

Location, Area, or Department: _____ Date: _____

Surveyor: _____

General Evaluation

	Needs Action	Needs Improvement	Good	Very Good
A. Property/Liability				
a. Fire protection	_____	_____	_____	_____
b. Housekeeping	_____	_____	_____	_____
c. Slip/trip/fall	_____	_____	_____	_____
d. Public safety	_____	_____	_____	_____
B. Employee Safety				
a. Safety meetings	_____	_____	_____	_____
b. Safety rules	_____	_____	_____	_____
c. Work conditions	_____	_____	_____	_____
d. Auto/equipment	_____	_____	_____	_____

Property/Liability

	Yes	No
Fire protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emergency numbers posted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire extinguishers available/serviced	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire alarm panel showing system is operational; no warning lights.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Automatic sprinkler system control valve locked in open position.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Automatic sprinkler heads clear of storage within three feet.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flammable, combustible liquids stored in UL-listed containers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flammable, combustible liquid containers stored in proper cabinet or container.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Smoking, No Smoking areas designated/marked.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any cigarette butts noticed in No Smoking areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments: _____

Housekeeping

Stairwells clear of combustible items.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furnace, hot water heater, and electrical panel areas clear of combustible items.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Work and public areas are clear of extension cords, boxes, equipment, or other tripping hazards.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Floor surfaces kept clear of oils, other fluids, or water.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stored items are not leaning or improperly supported; heavy items are not up high.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments: _____

Slip/Trip/Fall

Stair treads are in good condition; not worn, damaged or loose.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Handrails for all stairs/steps.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guardrails for all elevated platforms.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stair handrails are in good condition; not loose or broken.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Floor surfaces are even, with non-slip wax if applicable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All rugs are held down or have non-slip backing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any holes, pits or depressions are marked with tape, barricades, or guardrails.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wet floor signs are available and used.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments: _____

General Self Inspection Program

Public Safety

	Yes	No
Public areas kept clear of storage and supplies.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emergency lighting for public assembly areas in buildings.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evacuation plans posted for public assembly areas in buildings.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public areas have necessary warning or directional signs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Construction work has barriers, covers, and markings.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Street and road signs noted in good condition, clear of obstructions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sidewalks smooth and even; no holes, no raised or broken areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: _____		

Employee Safety

Safety Meetings

Held in the department.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meetings held ___ monthly ___ quarterly ___ other _____; documented		
Different topic each time.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Covers department safety rules.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Safety Rules

Rules specific for this department.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rules are written, posted in the department.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reviewed with new employees.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Work Conditions

Employees exposed to: ___ Heat ___ Cold ___ Rain/sleet/snow ___ Use of chemicals		
___ Noise ___ Work in confined spaces ___ Work in trenches		
___ Traffic ___ Blood/body fluids ___ Other _____		
Proper personal protective equipment available		
Respirators, goggles, face shields, chemical gloves, traffic vests, appropriate clothing		
Trench boxes/shoring for trenching, ear plugs/muffs, body armor (law enforcement)		
Confined space equipment, harness, air testing equipment, ventilation equipment, tripod		
Fire department turn-out gear, blood-borne pathogens kits		
Personal protective equipment required to be worn.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employees trained on proper use.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Equipment properly maintained.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shop equipment has proper guards to protect from pinch or caught-between type injuries.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chemicals used in the department.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MSDS sheets available; employees trained on hazards, proper use, proper PPE to use.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: _____		

Auto and Equipment

Seat belts provided.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seat belts required to be used.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drivers noted wearing seat belts.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All lights working including strobe lights, turn signals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tires in good condition, tread, sidewalls.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass in good condition; not cracked, broken.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reflective tape, signs in good condition.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any periodic, documented, self-inspection of the vehicles/equipment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proper guards on mowers, other equipment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: _____		

Safety Meeting Attendance Sign Up Sheet

City/County: _____

Date: _____

Department: _____

Topic: _____

Attendees:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Next meeting scheduled for _____

Safety Coordinator _____



LGRMS CONTACTS 2022

LGRMS HOME OFFICE

Dan Beck

LGRMS Director
dbeck@lgrms.com
O: 678-686-6280
C: 404.558-1874

Tamara Chapman

Office Manager
tchapman@lgrms.com
O: 678-686-6283
C: 404.623-8055

Cortney Stepter

Administrative Coordinator
cstepter@lgrms.com
O: 678-686-6282

PUBLIC SAFETY RISK CONTROL

Dennis Watts

Training, Communication, and Public Safety
Risk Manager
dwatts@lgrms.com
404.821.3974

Mike Earl

Public Safety Risk Consultant
mearl@lgrms.com
404.558.8525

David Trotter

Senior Public Safety Risk Consultant
dtrotter@lgrms.com
404.295.4979

Griffin Attaberry

Public Safety Risk Consultant
gattaberry@lgrms.com
404.313.8853

Natalie Sellers

Law Enforcement Risk Consultant
nsellers@lgrms.com
404.904.0074

RISK CONTROL

Steve Shields

Loss Control Manager
sshields@lgrms.com
404.416.3920

Chris Ryan

Loss Control Representative W Region
cryan@lgrms.com
229.942.2241

Vincent Scott

Loss Control Representative E Region
vscott@lgrms.com
404.698.9614

Weston Cox

Loss Control Representative S Region
wcox@lgrms.com
404.520.6646

HEALTH PROMOTION SERVICES

Sherea Robinson

Health Promotion Services Manager
srobinson@lgrms.com
404.821.4741

Candace Amos

Health Promotion Representative
SW Central Region
camos@lgrms.com
404.416.3379

Paige Rinehart

Health Promotion Representative
NE Central Region
prinehart@lgrms.com
404.295.4979

SHARE

AUGUST 2022 - ISSUE 17.0

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RISK
MANAGEMENT SERVICES,
INC., - A Service Organization
of the ASSOCIATION COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OF GEORGIA
and the GEORGIA MUNICIPAL
ASSOCIATION

VISIT THE LGRMS WEBSITE

For more information.

www.lgrms.com

Has your organization undergone any changes in personnel? Are there other staff members that you would like to receive a copy of our publications? If so, please complete the form on p. fa9



Local Government
Risk Management Services
3500 Parkway Lane . Suite 110
Peachtree Corners, Georgia 30092