

## DRIVER'S ED

*Conyers Police Dept. improves safety and shrinks costs with driver training. - p. 11*

## HYPERTENSION

How high blood pressure claims stack up. - p. 7

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Power up with these safety tips for home and work. - p. 14

# CONTENTS

- 3 A Note from the Editor**  
Welcome to May SHARE!
- 4 Director's Corner**  
Crisis Coordinator Training
- 5 Notes from the Road**  
Working in Inclement Weather
- 7 Risk Connection**  
Hypertension Claims, Networking
- 10 Law Enforcement Matters**  
Risk Management, Driver Training
- 13 Coffee Break**  
Puzzles and Games
- 14 Safety Theme**  
Electrical Safety Month
- 19 Forms**  
Self-Inspection, Safety Meeting
- 20 Staff Contacts**  
How to Reach Us

Cover photo courtesy of Conyers Police Department.

CORRECTION: The April 2025 SHARE article on National Work Zone Awareness Week article was written by Vincent Scott, not Kate Wasner.

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



201 Pryor St. SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303

lgrms.com  



## UPCOMING WEBINARS AND TRAINING

### **The Role of the CPO in Municipality Operated Swimming Pools and Splash Pads**

May 22 | 2:00-3:00PM

Virtual. Register here: [🔗](#)

### **Safety Coordinator IV**

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

May 21 - Cartersville, GA [🔗](#)

June 17 - Macon, GA [🔗](#)

### **Public Works Program**

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

June 10 - Tifton, GA [🔗](#)

June 11 - Statesboro, GA [🔗](#)

July 8 - Gainesville, GA [🔗](#)

July 10 - Cartersville, GA [🔗](#)

### **Safety Coordinator I & II**

FULL DAY | 8:30AM-3:30PM

Aug. 5 - Tifton, GA [🔗](#)

Aug. 12 - Statesboro, GA [🔗](#)

Aug. 19 - Macon, GA [🔗](#)

Sep. 9 - Cartersville, GA [🔗](#)

Sep. 17 - Gainesville, GA [🔗](#)

### **Safety Coordinator III & IV**

FULL DAY | 8:30AM-3:30PM

Aug. 6 - Tifton, GA [🔗](#)

Aug. 13 - Statesboro, GA [🔗](#)

Aug. 20 - Macon, GA [🔗](#)

Sep. 10 - Cartersville, GA [🔗](#)

Sep. 18 - Gainesville, GA [🔗](#)

### **Workers Comp Program**

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

July 15 - Macon, GA [🔗](#)

Aug. 26 - Cartersville, GA [🔗](#)

Sep. 16 - Gainesville, GA [🔗](#)



Events subject to change.  
Check website for updates.

[lgrms.com/training-event-calendar.aspx](https://lgrms.com/training-event-calendar.aspx)



## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



By Dennis Watts  
Training and Communications Manager

Welcome to the May edition of SHARE, the monthly publication of Local Government Risk Management Services (LGRMS). SHARE is sent to all GIRMA/IRMA, and WC, members 10 times per year around the 20th of the month. SHARE has two sections: (1) a general safety, risk, section, and (2) a worker safety-focused section. We cover topics and issues most relevant to local governments in Georgia. We look forward to your feedback. 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](http://www.lgrms.com)).

### In this issue

This month's Safety Theme is electrical safety practice for home and workplace, including preventative measures that can save lives and prevent property damage.

Natalie Sellers kicks off a series about law enforcement risk management. Agencies can reduce liability exposure by adopting principles that identify thresholds and establish boundaries for high-risk activities.

Kate Wasner examines the comorbidities and workers compensation claims associated with hypertension. High blood pressure significantly complicates workers' comp claims, particularly for law enforcement.

Capt. Jay Archer with the Conyers Police Department talked with SHARE writer Nikki Perry about the city's comprehensive driver training, a model program that results in fewer accidents and reduced costs.

Vincent Scott discusses the value of professional associations, such as the 2025 Southeast Loss Control Conference where participants gained insights on topics ranging from AI to law enforcement wellness programs.

Dan Beck recommends that all local governments enhance their emergency preparedness through an online Crisis Coordinator Certification Program that fulfills multiple training requirements.

And I'll provide you with tips about staying safe in Georgia's unpredictable weather, including proper equipment, vehicle operation protocols, and roadway work precautions to prevent injuries and accidents.

The next SHARE is a combined issue for June and July, and will be published in July. For questions about LGRMS training and services, contact Director Dan Beck at [dbeck@lgrms.com](mailto:dbeck@lgrms.com), or me, Dennis Watts, at [dwatts@lgrms.com](mailto:dwatts@lgrms.com). For questions on SHARE, contact Kayla Frazier at [kfrazier@lgrms.com](mailto:kfrazier@lgrms.com).

Be safe. *Dennis*

**Contact:** Dennis Watts, [dwatts@lgrms.com](mailto:dwatts@lgrms.com)



# CRISIS COORDINATOR CERTIFICATION

*Essential Training for Local Governments*



## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Dan Beck, LGRMS Director

LGRMS highly encourages each ACCG member to have at least two employees trained as Crisis Coordinators: one within the law enforcement agency and one to coordinate the organization.

GMA, ACCG and LGRMS collaborated with CrisisRisk to develop the Crisis Coordinator Certification Program™. This e-learning training prepares local government employees to alert and support leadership before, during and after a crisis. Given the events facing our governments locally and nationally, it is more critical than ever to recognize, identify, and alert leadership before circumstances escalate into a crisis.

**Did you know that having one of your employees complete the 3.5-hour online Crisis Coordinator Program will meet the regional training requirement for ACCG's and GMA's Discount/Grant Programs?** Yes, it does meet the regional training requirement for both GMA's and ACCG's Safety Discount and Grant programs.

**Did you know that this course has been pre-approved for POST Credit?** The numbers given to people in POST are as follows: Crisis Coordinator – OGM35G, Re-Certification training – NLM37G.

**Did you know that this training is online, interactive, and can be completed at the student's own pace?**

### CRISIS COORDINATOR CERTIFICATION

#### Program Benefits:

- Fulfills training requirements for both GMA's and ACCG's Safety Discount and Grant programs
- Earns POST credit
- Offers flexible online completion
- Allows unlimited registration

**How to Register:** Visit the link and click SIGNUP.  
<http://crisiscoordinator.talentlms.com>

Yes, this program is online and interactive. You can start it today and finish it at your own pace. Students can spend 15 minutes a day on the training and complete it over a couple of weeks or sit down and complete it in a little over 3 hours.

**Did you know that multiple employees from your organization can register and attend this training?**

There is no limit to the number of employees from your organization that can attend this training. Ideally, members would have multiple Crisis Coordinators, with at least one within your organization's Law Enforcement Agency/Office. There are already over 200 certified crisis coordinators registered for this program.

# NOTES *from the* ROAD

## BEST PRACTICES FOR SAFE TRAVELS



## *Weather Alert:*

### *Protecting Workers When Nature Strikes*

By Dennis Watts  
LGRMS Training & Communications Manager

Georgia's weather can shift dramatically from clear skies to thunderstorms, heavy winds or extreme temperatures with little warning. These sudden changes create significant hazards for outdoor workers and require constant vigilance. Work crews must monitor local forecasts regularly and follow safety protocols that allow operations to pause or adjust when conditions become dangerous.

### **Preparing for Unpredictable Conditions**

Proper personal protective equipment is essential when facing severe weather. Workers need gear appropriate for specific conditions, including:

- Waterproof outerwear during rain events
- Slip-resistant footwear on wet surfaces
- Insulated gloves in cold conditions
- Breathable, moisture-wicking fabrics during hot weather

During hot spells, ensure access to shaded areas, hydration stations and frequent breaks to prevent heat-related illnesses. In cold weather, provide warm, dry shelter and warming stations to prevent cold stress. Supervisors should train crews to recognize symptoms

of weather-related health issues like hypothermia and heat exhaustion, and respond appropriately.

### **Vehicle Operation Safety**

Driving during inclement weather presents heightened risks due to poor visibility, slick roads and unexpected storms. Safety measures should include the following:





- Inspecting vehicles before use — checking brakes, lights, wipers and tires
- Carrying emergency kits with essentials like blankets, flares and traction devices
- Reducing speed and increasing following distance
- Maintaining clear communication with other drivers and work crews

Training in defensive driving techniques and emergency response protocols can prove lifesaving during unpredictable weather events.

## Roadway Work Zone Precautions

Performing tasks near active roadways during bad weather creates additional dangers, as reduced visibility and slippery surfaces increase the likelihood of vehicle incidents. Essential precautions include:

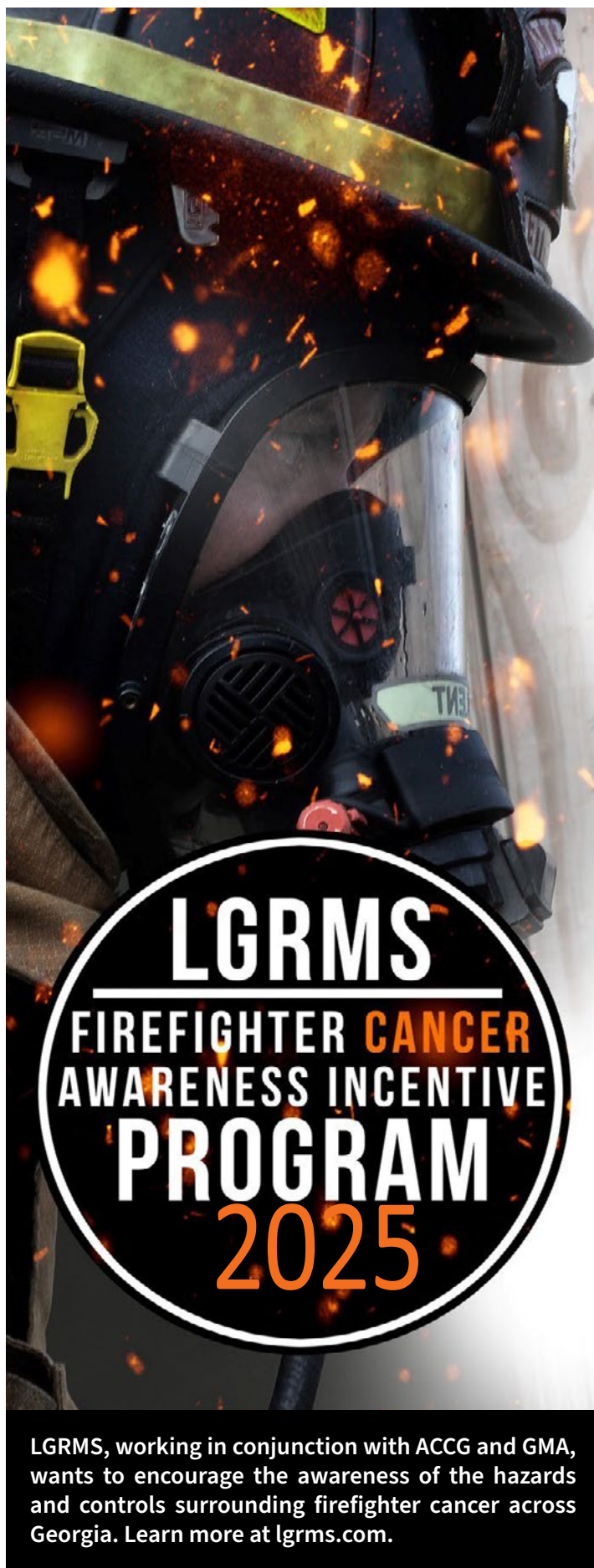
- Wearing high-visibility, reflective gear
- Properly deploying and maintaining traffic control devices (cones, signs and barriers)
- Ensuring adequate lighting for work areas
- Maintaining clear communication among crew members

When possible, schedule road work during lower-traffic periods and postpone operations during severe weather conditions. These precautions protect both workers and motorists.

## Action Steps for Employers

- Develop clear weather safety policies with specific action thresholds
- Provide appropriate PPE for all seasonal conditions
- Train supervisors to recognize dangerous weather developments
- Create communication protocols for weather emergencies
- Conduct regular emergency response drills
- Document all weather-related incidents and near-misses

By prioritizing weather awareness and implementing comprehensive safety measures, organizations can significantly reduce risks and maintain a safer work environment regardless of conditions. For more information on weather safety protocols, contact your LGRMS representative.



**LGRMS**  
**FIREFIGHTER CANCER**  
**AWARENESS INCENTIVE**  
**PROGRAM**  
**2025**

LGRMS, working in conjunction with ACCG and GMA, wants to encourage the awareness of the hazards and controls surrounding firefighter cancer across Georgia. Learn more at [lgrms.com](http://lgrms.com).

# RISK CONNECTION

REDUCING RISK FOR YOU AND YOUR EMPLOYER

## UNDER PRESSURE

### *Hypertension Impacts Employers, Employees*

By Kate Wasner  
LGRMS Public Safety Risk Consultant



Workers' compensation claims continue to rise nationwide, with studies showing that employees with even one comorbidity face increased claim risk and potentially higher costs for employers. Hypertension — high blood pressure — presents a particular concern for law enforcement officers due to their stressful work environment.

Research indicates hypertension occurs more frequently among officers than in the general population. The profession involves high-pressure situations, long hours and exposure to traumatic events — all contributing to chronic stress and elevated blood pressure. Combined with physical demands and sometimes unhealthy lifestyle choices, these factors heighten cardiovascular risks.

### Understanding Comorbidities

Comorbidities exist when a patient has two or more concurrent medical conditions. When an employee with a preexisting condition suffers a workplace injury, complications often follow. Common comorbidities include diabetes, obesity, tobacco use, alcohol consumption, mental health issues and hypertension.

Hypertension refers to consistently elevated blood pressure, typically 130/80 mmHg or higher. Blood pressure measurements include systolic pressure (when the heart beats) and diastolic pressure (when the heart rests), with readings below 120/80 mmHg considered normal.

### Why Hypertension Matters

Hypertension ranks as the most common comorbidity diagnosis in the United States and can significantly complicate recovery from workplace injuries. Beyond the well-known increased risks of stroke and heart attack, uncontrolled hypertension can

- Complicate surgical procedures by decreasing cardiovascular stability.
- Increase the risk of hypertensive emergencies during treatment.
- Create medication management challenges when treating work injuries.
- Lead to potentially dangerous drug interactions when an employee takes multiple medications from different providers.

Whether the comorbidity predates the work injury or develops afterward, its presence substantially complicates the claim.

### Promote a Healthy Work Environment

The correlation between comorbidities and higher-cost, longer-duration workers' compensation claims is clear. Addressing hypertension benefits both employers and, more importantly, employees. Organizations that promote healthy work environments and lifestyle choices can potentially reduce claim frequency and costs.



# *Strength in Numbers:*

## *The Value of Professional Peer Networks*

By Vincent Scott  
LGRMS Risk Control Consultant

Professional peer groups provide critical opportunities for career development and organizational improvement that extend far beyond simple networking. These collaborative environments allow professionals to share knowledge, experiences and insights that benefit individuals and their organizations alike.

LGRMS actively supports member participation in professional associations such as:

- Georgia Association of Public Risk Management Administrators (GAPRIMA)
- Georgia Local Government Personnel Association (GLGPA)
- American Public Works Association (APWA) Georgia Chapter
- Other industry-specific organizations

These connections help professionals stay current with industry trends, best practices and technological advancements while maintaining a competitive edge in their fields.

### **Learning from Peers**

In April, LGRMS Loss Control Consultants participated in the 2025 Southeast Loss Control Conference (SELC), an annual event dedicated to advancing risk management and safety practices among public entities across the southeastern United States.

The conference featured updates from the National League of Cities Risk Information Sharing Consortium and presentations from Member Pools throughout the Southeast. Session topics included:

- Electric and hybrid vehicle safety considerations
- Artificial intelligence applications in government
- Common hiring pitfalls and solutions
- Managing high-profile incidents
- Law enforcement wellness program implementation



Southeast Loss Control Conference 2025 attendees

- Chemical liability issues
- Organizational effectiveness strategies

Roundtable discussions allowed participants to collaborate on shared challenges and successful solutions from their respective organizations.

### **Beyond Professional Development**

Many professionals face discouraging challenges in their roles, but a supportive peer network offers both moral support and practical advice. Professional peer groups provide:

- Sounding boards for testing new ideas
- Mentorship opportunities with experienced colleagues
- Exposure to diverse perspectives and approaches
- Resources for problem-solving complex issues
- Validation of common challenges across organizations

These collaborative relationships foster both personal growth and organizational success. Consider which professional associations might benefit your career and organization and make participation a priority in your professional development plan.



# LAW ENFORCEMENT MATTERS

REDUCING RISK FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES

## *A Journey in Law Enforcement Risk Management* PART ONE

By Natalie Sellers  
LGRMS Sr. Law Enforcement Risk Consultant

Law enforcement leaders constantly seek to improve operational performance, but what truly measures success? Officers routinely face high-risk scenarios — from rapidly evolving threats to emergency driving situations, pursuits and foot chases. These situations can result in liability claims, vehicle accidents, serious injuries or even death. This article begins a focused series on how agencies can use risk management tools to limit exposures in the ever-evolving field of law enforcement.

### **Risk in High-Stakes Environments**

What can be done amid relentless uncertainty? Aviation provides a valuable model. In flying, proactive action is essential because reacting when something goes wrong is often too late. The aviation industry deals with inherently high risks through structured risk management practices that are systematic, proactive and ongoing. This approach is embedded throughout the industry to enhance safety, reduce incidents and manage complex interactions between humans, machines and the environment.



*“If you do not know where you are going,  
any plan will do.” — Peter Drucker*

Law enforcement faces similar challenges. Like aviation, it involves inherently high risks where catastrophic failure is always possible. By implementing regular, proactive risk management within operations, agencies can increase safety, reduce liability exposure and improve effectiveness.

### **Understanding Risk Attitudes**

Individual attitudes toward risk vary considerably. The spectrum ranges from

- Risk-averse: uneasy with uncertainties
- Risk-tolerant: no specific reaction to uncertainty
- Risk-seeker: accepts uncertainty as part of the job

Risk-seeking isn't inherently problematic, but it becomes dangerous when it creates a false sense of security. For example, an officer who successfully navigates a sharp curve at high speed might develop overconfidence in their driving abilities, believing the outcome will always be positive.

## Key Risk Concepts

Several concepts help organizations make informed, consistent decisions about safety and operations.

**Risk appetite** is the amount and type of risk an organization will accept to pursue its objectives. For example, an agency might initially adopt a policy to pursue all suspects regardless of circumstances.

**Risk threshold** represents the specific point at which a risk becomes unacceptable and requires action. The same agency might revise its pursuit policy after a tragic collision kills innocent bystanders, demonstrating that the costs exceeded the threshold.

**Risk boundaries** are formal or informal limits set around operational behaviors to ensure activities remain within defined risk appetites and thresholds. These boundaries help establish a safety culture and provide warning systems to prevent drifting into unsafe territory. For instance, assigning a Safety Officer during defensive tactics training can establish boundaries to prevent injuries.

This is just the beginning of our risk management journey. In the next article, we'll examine how Key Performance Indicators and Key Risk Indicators can assist leadership in driving departmental culture and officer safety — bringing together the larger picture of organizational risk management and its benefits to leadership and agency success.

# LAW ENFORCEMENT RISK SPECIALIST CONFERENCE 2025

Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2025

Great Wolf Lodge 150 Tom Hall Pkwy, LaGrange, GA  
Schedule and Registration Information: [lgrms.com](http://lgrms.com)

LGRMS, GMA and ACCG proudly present the first Law Enforcement Risk Specialist Conference. Join us at the Great Wolf Lodge in La Grange for this two-day event where speakers Terry E. Williams, John “Jack” Ryan and Steve Campbell discuss insurance defense, motor vehicle and civil liability, jail operations and emerging trends regarding recent Supreme Court rulings.

**REGISTER NOW**



# DRIVING DOWN RISK

## *Conyers PD's Training Program Sets the Standard*

By Nikki Perry  
for LGRMS

In Georgia, over 1,600 people lose their lives on roadways each year, according to the state Department of Transportation. For law enforcement officers, who spend roughly 10 hours of a 12-hour shift behind the wheel, proper driver training isn't just a good idea — it's essential for public safety and risk management.

Despite the critical nature of this skill, most officers receive minimal driver training after graduating from the police academy. The Conyers Police Department is changing that paradigm with a comprehensive driver training program that reduces accidents, minimizes vehicle damage, and creates safer roads for everyone.

"We do a lot of driving classes for the simple fact that it's one of the things we get very little training on after we graduate the basic police academy," said Capt. Jay Archer, captain of the Support Services Division and lead training instructor for Conyers PD. "We're trying to make sure our officers are safe and get the training they need annually, so that they can prevail out here in the streets."

### **Proven Results**

In 2018, Conyers PD was identified by its insurance carrier as one of only three agencies across their entire client base—and the only one in Georgia—conducting specialized driver training for officers. The program, which began before COVID and resumed fully in 2023, was optional until last year, when Chief Scott Freeman

made it mandatory for all department employees who might operate a vehicle.

The results speak for themselves.

"Last year, we started noticing a lot of different things. For example, officers understanding how to do the PIT maneuver... The last few PITs that officers have done have not damaged our vehicles," Capt. Archer said. A PIT maneuver, or Precision Immobilization Technique, is a law enforcement tactic used to stop a fleeing vehicle by forcing it to spin out and come to a stop.

"These officers with the experience and the training are actually seeing the results. Our finance officer is also seeing the results, because we're not having to pay for these pursuits that lead to a crash," Capt. Archer said.

The cost of motor vehicle collisions and related insurance continues to increase year over year, LGRMS Director Dan Beck said. These increases are due to various factors: increased vehicle replacement and repair costs, uninsured motorists, larger trial verdicts/settlements, and increased frequency.

"We estimate that about 63% of liability costs and 20% of workers' costs in the insurance pools we support are related to motor vehicle collisions," Beck said. "Organizations with a strong motor vehicle risk reduction program can significantly impact frequency and costs."



## Inside the Training Program

The department offers specialized training tracks: an urban pursuit class for officers, a certification program for ATV/UTV operators, and even a civilian driving class for non-sworn personnel. Each program combines classroom instruction with extensive practical exercises.

For officers, the training includes the following:

- Controlled braking exercises with ABS engagement
- High-speed pursuit techniques focusing on vehicle physics
- “Hitting the apexes” in turns to maintain control at higher speeds
- Radio communication practice during simulated pursuits
- “Due regard” training at intersections
- PIT maneuver instruction for qualified officers

The practical exercises are conducted in real patrol vehicles with active communication and recording equipment. Trainees will chase Capt. Archer in a blocked parking lot at speeds of up to 80 mph.

“We don’t use training cars on this for the simple fact that I want these officers to understand what the car will do at those times,” Capt. Archer said. “If you’re in a training car, that car is going to react differently and respond differently in a pursuit tactic situation than how a patrol car will respond.”

Much of the training focuses on the science of vehicle control. The training also emphasizes how quickly accidents can happen. At 55 mph, taking your eyes off the road for just two seconds means traveling 120 feet essentially blind.

“When you put statistics out there and you put some of these equations out there, it actually helps people understand when you take your eyes off the road for that little bit of time, things can happen,” says Archer. “You have to be watching to be able to react.”

## Starting Your Own Program

Despite the clear benefits, establishing such a program isn’t without challenges. Chief among them is the scarcity of certified instructors.

“If you’re doing a class in Georgia, you’ve got to have

a POST-certified instructor to teach that class or you cannot give POST credit,” Capt. Archer said. The driving instructor certification has an 80% failure rate, making qualified instructors hard to find.

Training is only one tool to address driving risks. LGRMS works with member organizations and agencies to develop an overall strategy to reduce driving risks, Beck said. Strategies include:

1. Senior Management Commitment and Employee Involvement
2. Written Policies and Procedures
3. Driver Agreements
4. Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) Checks
5. Crash Reporting and Investigation
6. Vehicle Selection, Maintenance, and Inspection
7. Disciplinary Action System
8. Reward/Incentive Program
9. Driver Training and Communication

For agencies looking to implement similar training, partnering with state training facilities can provide access to appropriate training grounds and equipment. Conyers PD maintains a relationship with the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC), which allows them access to training tracks when needed.

The most important first step is ensuring proper instructor certification and creating a curriculum that addresses both everyday driving skills and emergency response techniques.

## Risk Reduction Through Training

Beyond the obvious safety benefits, proper driver training represents significant risk reduction for local governments facing potential liability from officer-involved accidents.

“Organizational leadership must understand that driver risks can be controlled like any other issues by understanding loss trends, developing a plan, providing adequate resources, and measuring the effect of their plan against the results,” Beck said.

For more information about implementing a comprehensive driver training program, contact your LGRMS risk control representative.

*Take a moment to exercise your brain and relieve stress by solving these fun safety puzzles! Answers on page 18.*



## LETTER TILES

Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message.

Each tile is used only once. Use spacing, punctuation and common words to find adjacent tiles. Some words may be split into two lines.

n	r	d	e	r	N	e	c	o	n	t	g	.	s
p	i	r	n	s	v	e	e	a	s	i	n	n	e
w	e	x	r	t	e	u	s	m	a	i	o		


## WORD SEARCH

academy  
blood  
crisis  
extension

fire  
law  
peers  
PIT

pressure  
safety  
shock  
weather

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



# SAFETY THEME

KEEPING OUR MEMBERS SAFE ON THE JOB AND AT HOME

## DON'T BE SHOCKED!

*May is National Electrical Safety Month*

By Dennis Watts  
LGRMS Training and Communications Manager



For our LGRMS member local governments, we're always looking for valuable resources to enhance employee safety and well-being, both at work and at home.

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and Edison Electric Institute (EEI) and its member companies join the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) in reminding consumers and workers to stay safe around electric appliances, equipment and power lines. Taking simple precautions can help prevent electrical accidents and fires.

According to ESFI data compiled from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2011-2023), out of 70,692 total occupational fatalities from all causes, 1,940 resulted from contact with electricity.

Among workers fatally injured by electricity:

- 33% died at private residences
- 28% on industrial premises
- 11% on streets or highways
- 96% were employed in private industry

### Electrical Safety in the Home

Electricity has become such a necessary part of our lives that we often take it for granted, but using it safely

remains vital. Each year in the United States, electrical fires and accidents in homes cause thousands of critical injuries and electrocutions.

The National Fire Protection Association reports an average of 51,000 electrical home structure fires annually (2003-2007), resulting in nearly 500 deaths, more than 1,400 injuries and over \$1.3 billion in property damage. Additionally, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports nearly 400 electrocution fatalities each year.

### Extension Cord Safety Guidelines

- Never use extension cords as permanent wiring. Continuous use can cause deterioration, potentially resulting in dangerous electric shocks or fire hazards.
- Always plug space heaters directly into wall outlets, never into extension cords or power strips.
- Don't connect multiple extension cords together. This can overload circuits and damage cords, potentially causing fires or electric shocks. Instead, install additional outlets where needed.
- Never run cords through walls, doorways, ceilings or under rugs/carpet. Covered cords cannot dissipate heat properly, creating fire hazards.
- Use only properly rated extension cords or power



strips for devices being plugged in, and confirm they're marked for either indoor or outdoor use.

- Regularly inspect all electrical cords for damage or wear.

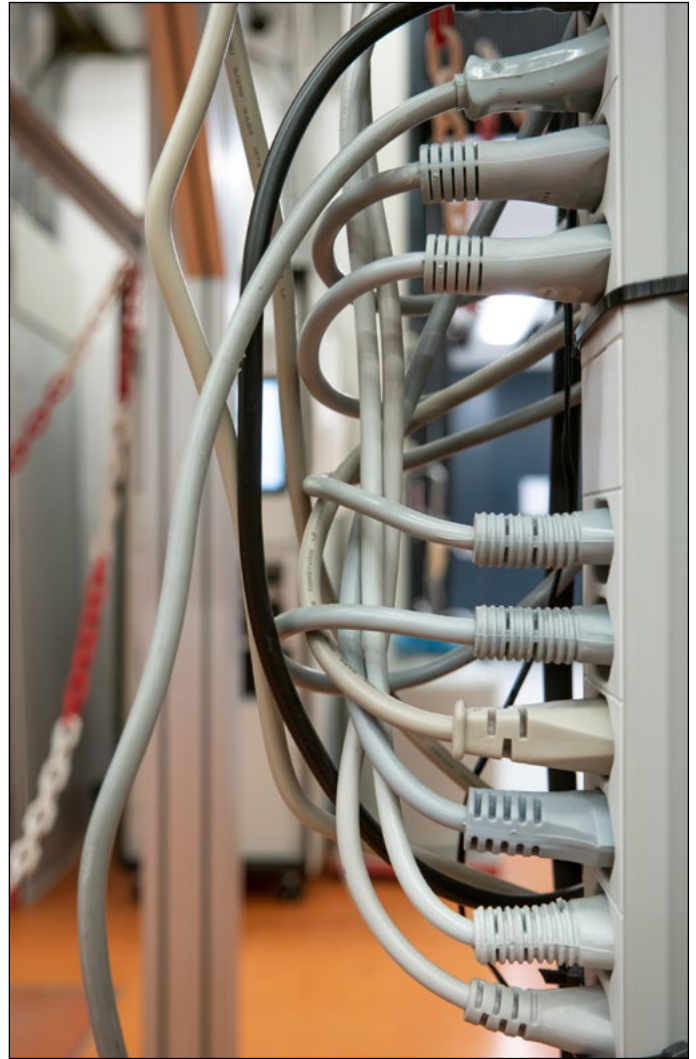
## Indoor Safety Checklist

- Reduce electrical load with energy-efficient appliances and lighting
- Unplug small appliances when not in use
- Use outlet covers or caps to protect children
- Install smoke alarms, test monthly, change batteries yearly and replace units every 10 years

### Outdoor Safety Precautions

- Call 811 before digging to have underground utility lines marked for free
- Never touch downed power lines
- Watch for overhead power lines when using ladders, working on roofs or trees, or carrying long tools
- Keep kites, model airplanes and metallic balloons away from power lines
- Prevent outdoor electrical/extension cords from running through water or snow

Visit the Electrical Safety Foundation International website at [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org) for additional resources.



# TEAMWORK

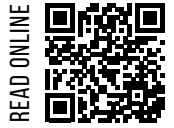
Is a word that we know well. A cooperative effort, Excellence in Policing is a certification program whose goal is to strengthen departments, teams, and policies. It also helps reduce law enforcement liability through Local Government Risk Management Service (LGRMS). Program benefits include:

- ★ **Operational Excellence**
- ★ **Risk Reduction & Cost Savings**
- ★ **Statewide Recognition**

**Learn More**

[gacities.com/excellence-in-policing](http://gacities.com/excellence-in-policing)





# REACHING TO SAFETY:

## Use Extension Cords Properly

Roughly **3,300 home fires** originate in extension cords each year, **killing 50 people and injuring 270 more**. Extension cords can overheat and cause fires when used improperly, so keep these important tips in mind to **protect your home and workplace**.

**DON'T** attempt to **plug extension cords into one another**.



Make sure extension cords are **properly rated** for their intended use, indoor or outdoor, and **meet or exceed the power needs** of the appliance or device being used.



Keep all **outdoor extension cords** clear of snow and standing water.



Do **NOT** overload extension cords.



A heavy reliance on **extension cords** is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have **additional outlets installed** where you need them.



Inspect cords for **DAMAGE** before use. Check for **cracked or frayed sockets**, loose or bare wires, and loose connections.



Do **NOT** **nail or staple electrical cords** to walls or baseboards.



Do **NOT** run through **walls, doorways, ceilings or floors**. If cord is covered, heat cannot escape, which may result in a **FIRE HAZARD**.



**NEVER** use **three-prong plugs** with outlets that only have two slots. **Never cut off the ground pin to force a fit**, which could lead to electric shock.



Buy only cords that have been **approved** by an **independent testing laboratory**.



Do **NOT** substitute **extension cords** for permanent wiring.



# WORKPLACE ELECTRICAL FATALITIES 2011 - 2023

electricalsafety  
FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL

In 2025, the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) compiled data from the **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics** (BLS) and the **Occupational Safety and Health Administration** (OSHA) to track **electrical safety trends in the workplace**. ESFI found that **certain demographics and occupations** are more prone to **electrical incidents in the workplace**.

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY IN THE WORKPLACE



**Contact with electricity** is one of the leading causes of **fatalities in the workplace**

**150**

...workplace **electrical fatalities** occur on average **every year** according to the BLS

**74%**

...of workplace electrical fatalities **occurred in non-electrical occupations** according to OSHA

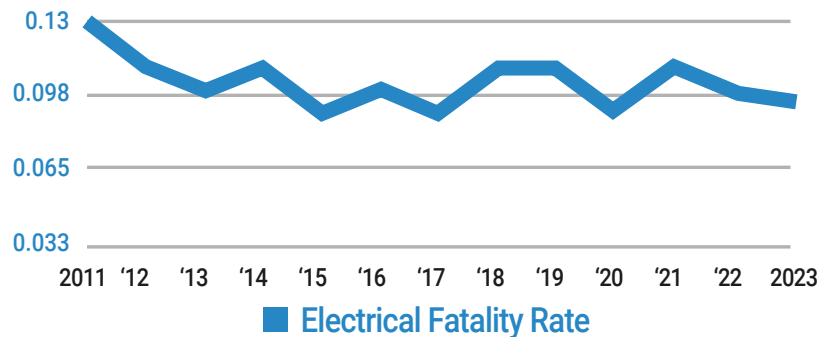
**5.6%**

...of all workplace fatalities were **caused by contact with electricity**

## ELECTRICAL FATALITY RATES

### Electrical Fatality Rate per 100,000 Workers

Bureau of Labor Statistics



Electrical fatality rates have **remained consistent year over year**. More needs to be done to **reduce the amount of electrical fatalities in the workplace**

Hispanic or Latino workers **have the highest rate of electrical fatalities** and experience a **disproportional amount of electrical fatalities**

Construction and extraction occupations; installation, maintenance, and repair occupations; and building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupation **have the highest rate of electrical fatalities**

## ELECTRICAL FATALITY BY OCCUPATION

**10**

...occupations accounted for **over 58% of workplace electrical fatalities**

1



Electricians

2



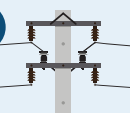
Laborers, except construction

3



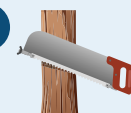
Construction laborers

4



Electrical power installers & repairers

5



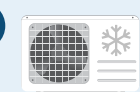
Tree trimming occupations

6



Electricians' apprentices

7



Heating, air conditioning, & refrigeration mechanics

8



Roofers

9



Heavy truck drivers

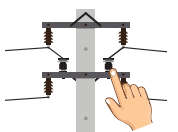
10



Painters in construction or maintenance

## ELECTRICAL FATALITY CAUSES

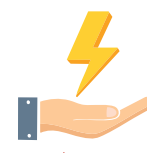
**91% of all of workplace fatalities** were caused by the following



Overhead power line contact **48.2%**



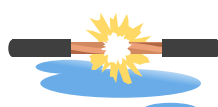
Unexpected contact with electricity **19.3%**



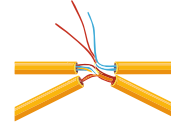
Nearby energized equipment contact **12.7%**



Working on energized parts **4.1%**



Ground-faults **4.0%**



Damaged wiring or equipment **3.1%**

ESFI.org



www.facebook.com/ESFI.org



www.twitter.com/ESFI.org



www.youtube.com/ESFI.org





# HOW TO USE THE MONTHLY SAFETY THEME

Here are some hints to help you get the safety message across to all employees each month.

## Theme Poster

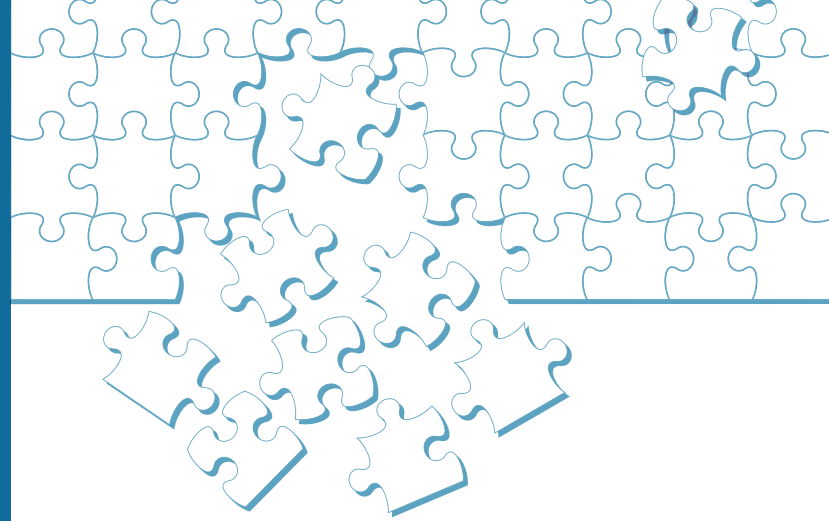
Make copies and post wherever you will get the most impact or email to your departments.

## Theme Page

Repeats the poster message with the safety theme topic of the month.

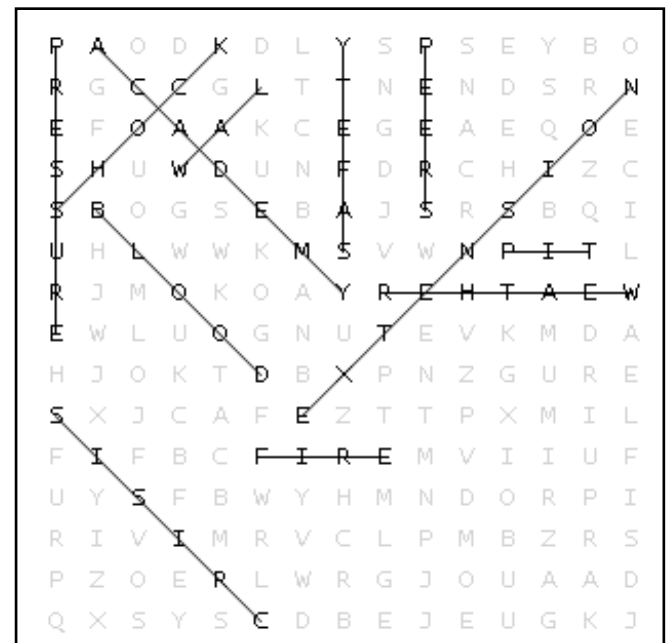
## Safety Meeting Agenda

- Assemble participants.
- Hand out copy of theme page.
- Pass around Participant Sign-in Sheet.
- Read theme out loud and discuss aspects of the theme in the department. Give examples. Ask for ideas, etc.
- Discuss accidents/incidents/near misses over the last month.
- Issue safety Self-inspection Checklists for each department inspection team.
- Discuss inspection items noted from last reports and the status of completion of reported items.



# PUZZLE ANSWERS

## WORD SEARCH ANSWER



## LETTER TILES

N	e	v	e	r		u	s	e		e	x	t	e	n	s
i	o	n		c	o	r	d	s		a	s		p	e	r
m	a	n	e	n	t		w	i	r	i	n	g	.		

## General Self Inspection Program

Location, Area, or Department: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Surveyor: \_\_\_\_\_

### General Evaluation

	Needs Action	Needs Improvement	Good	Very Good
<b>A. Property/Liability</b>				
a. Fire protection	_____	_____	_____	_____
b. Housekeeping	_____	_____	_____	_____
c. Slip/trip/fall	_____	_____	_____	_____
d. Public safety	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>B. Employee Safety</b>				
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 \_\_\_\_\_

# CONTACTS

LET US KNOW HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

## LGRMS HOME OFFICE

### Dan Beck

LGRMS Director  
dbeck@lgrms.com  
O: 678-686-6280  
C: 404-558-1874

### Dennis Watts

Training and  
Communications Manager  
dwatts@lgrms.com  
404-821-3974

### Megan Estes

Administrative  
Coordinator  
mestes\_teksys@lgrms.com  
678-536-4363

### Kayla Frazier

Administrative  
Coordinator  
kfrazier\_teksys@lgrms.com  
678-686-6348

## LAW ENFORCEMENT RISK CONSULTANTS

### Natalie Sellers

Sr. Law Enforcement Risk  
Consultant - Eastern  
nsellers@lgrms.com  
404-904-0074

### David Trotter

Law Enforcement Risk  
Consultant - Northern  
dtrotter@lgrms.com  
404-295-4979

### Griffin Attaberry

Public Safety Risk  
Consultant - Southern  
gattaberry@lgrms.com  
404-313-8853

### Kaitlyn Wasner

Public Safety Risk  
Consultant - Western  
kwasner@lgrms.com  
770-686-4782

## RISK CONTROL

### Steve Shields

Risk Control Manager -  
Northern  
sshields@lgrms.com  
404-416-3920

### Chris Ryan

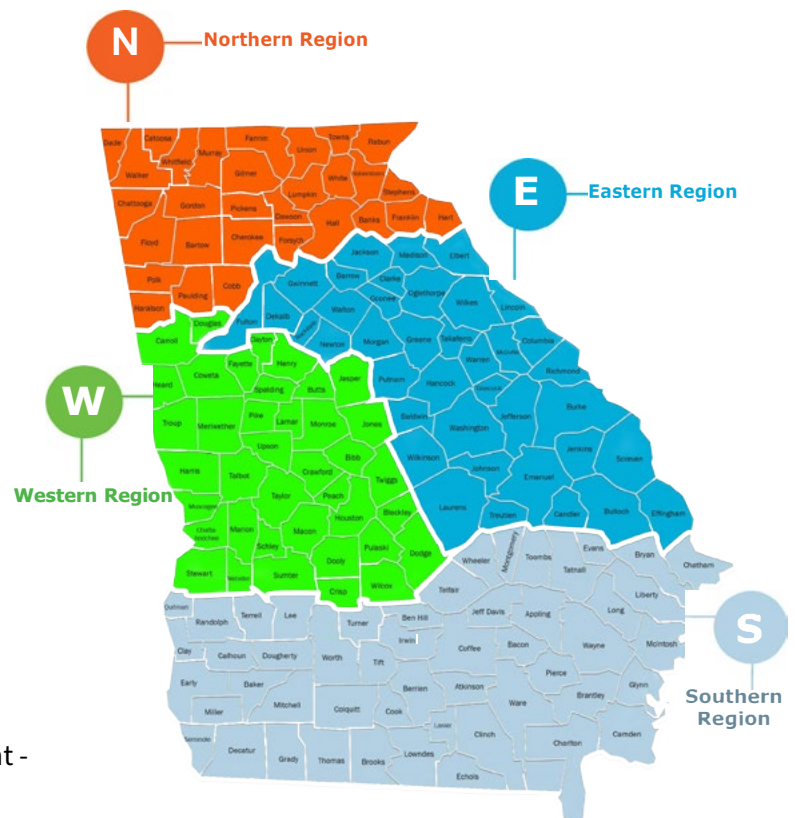
Sr. Risk Control  
Consultant - Western  
cryan@lgrms.com  
229-942-2241

### Vincent Scott

Risk Control Consultant -  
Eastern  
vscott@lgrms.com  
404-698-9614

### Weston Cox

Risk Control Consultant -  
Southern  
wcox@lgrms.com  
404-520-6646



### Local Government Risk Management Services

201 Pryor St. SW, Atlanta, GA 30303  
Ph: 678-563-4363 Toll Free: 800-650-3120  
Fax: 770-246-3149 lgrms.com