

SAFETY THEME

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

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

Monthly Poster Theme

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



Safety Theme Article

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

Training Calendar

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and statewide Shelter in Place order, all in-person LGRMS training is on hold through the end of May.

Please see our training calendar on the LGRMS website for most current information and check it regularly.

Training planned for the month of June is still a go at this point, but that may change based on the situation in coming weeks.

www.lgrms.com

Click on “Training Calendar”



In This Issue:

Participant Sign-In Sheets: Use the sign-in sheet to document your safety training.

Suggested Agenda for the Monthly Safety Meeting:

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



LGRMS
RISK CONTROL
ACCG | GMA

April 2020

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Home Safety



For Today and Every Day

Home Safety While Sheltering in Place

As many Georgians are continuing to Shelter in Place or require quarantine, we are spending much more time in our homes. Reducing risk inside and around the home needs more emphasis with more of us spending time at home instead of at work.

Visit the Georgia Emergency Management Agency for more tools and tips for all disasters. gema.georgia.gov/plan-prepare/ready-georgia

Have easy access to important phone numbers: the police, the fire department, poison control, and trusted family, friends, and neighbors, in case of an emergency.

Emergency Medical Care

Call 911 or your local number.

Poison Control Center (United States)

800-222-1222

Considerations in the Kitchen

- Keep a distance between flammable objects (such as papers, curtains, and plastics) and fire sources (oven, stove top, portable heater).
- Know what harmful products are in your house and how to use them safely. This includes items from cleaning solutions to lighters. Follow all instructions and keep them out of reach of children and pets.
- Never leave sharp objects (such as knives or skewers) or other such tools and utensils misplaced or unattended.
- Ensure electrical cords aren't draped across other appliances or the counter or stove top.
- Leave space around appliances for proper ventilation.

- Considerations In the bathroom,
- Keep electrical appliances wrapped and away from water.
- Use non-slip strips or floor mats.
- Always keep the room clean and as dry as possible.

In the Bedroom

- Never smoke.
- As always, ensure that everything else is a safe distance away from a source of fire or heat.
- Opt for mattresses with open flame-resistant protection.
- You're most vulnerable when you sleep. Even in bed, keep a phone and emergency light source within reach.

In the Garage

This is probably where you store most of your tools and equipment.

- Take precautions with flammable liquids, chemicals, and anything producing fumes. Good ventilation is a necessity.
- Keep poisonous substances (paint thinner, antifreeze, rat poison, etc.)



locked up and out of reach of children and pets.

- Keep your space clean and organized, especially as many tools are sharp, heavy, or otherwise dangerous.

In the Yard

- Know what chemicals are being used to treat your lawn. Follow all cautions when using.
- If you've got a pool, keep it locked down or fenced in when not in use.
- Be careful when working in bad weather. Use sand, salt, and good-traction footwear on ice and snow.
- Use proper personal protective equipment (just as at work) while doing home projects.

On the Stairs

- Keep steps clean and dry.
- Always install stable and sturdy railing on both sides of the stairs.
- Ensure that the distance between the rails is narrow enough to prevent a child or infant from falling through. Less than four inches is a good rule of thumb!
- Keep stairs well lit.

Guard Against Fire

- Install smoke detectors, check them regularly, and replace the batteries at least once a year.
- Avoid overloading outlets and extension cords.
- Keep fire extinguishers handy and know how to use them.
- Have a plan. Establish a safety exit and

ensure all family members know and understand it. Practice with drills and ensure it's never blocked.

- Never block heaters or heat-exuding appliances. Do not pile things on or near them. Give these a wide berth—they need plenty of “breathing room” to ensure they don't overheat.
- Ensure that all materials are fire-resistant if you're renovating or just fixing up something around the house.
- Never leave any type of fire or hot appliance unattended.
- Remove dry vegetation around your home, especially during the dry seasons.
- Cover the fireplace with a stable and large metal fire frame.

Households with Children

- Never leave children alone or unattended near water, fire, or electrical appliances.
- If a child is missing, always check bodies of water (pool or bathtub) first—you can prevent a drowning by mere seconds.
- Unload and lock away firearms and any other weapons.





- Keep medications and chemicals safely out of reach.
- Keep choking hazards (small items and small food) safely out of reach.
- Keep heavy or breakable objects safely out of reach.
- Use round-edged furniture. Avoid sharp objects and accessories.
- Secure household items. Prevent tipping by securing bookcases, shelves, and other objects or appliances that could disastrously fall.
- Immediately replace any damaged, frayed, or faulty materials or appliances that could pose a hazard to an unsuspecting child.
- Cover outlets, ground appliances, and coil extension cords when not in use. Although these rules should always be followed, they are especially important with children underfoot.
- Remove access to trunks, old refrigerators, car trunks, and any other such area where children could get locked in.
- Keep beds and cribs as bare as possible—infants in particular are susceptible to suffocation.
- Protect kids from plants. Plants are beautiful, infuse the air with oxygen, and decorate a room. But they can be toxic if consumed. Know what plants you have and opt for the safest ones.

General Tips for Households with Elders

- Keep rooms well lit. Elders often have trouble with vision (or other senses, in which case it's even more important for them to see).
- Use night lights or motion-sensor lights for easy navigation.
- Arrange furniture for easy navigation.
- Rearrange furniture and items to make often-used objects more accessible.
- Ensure easy access to phone numbers in case of an emergency or in order to contact family or a trusted neighbor.

Trustworthy COVID-19 Resources

We have established a COVID-19 resource section on our website, with sections for Law Enforcement, Human Resources, and General.

It will be updated regularly with current information, articles, and resources, as well as links to important state and federal websites. GMA and ACCG also have updated information on COVID-19 on their websites.

Useful Websites for More Information

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus>

<https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/counterterrorism-and-emerging-threats/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

<https://www.dhs.gov/coronavirus>

<https://www.coronavirus.gov>

<https://www.nih.gov/health-information/coronavirus>

<https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus>

**[https://www.lgrms.com/Resources/
COVID-19-Resource-Page.aspx](https://www.lgrms.com/Resources/COVID-19-Resource-Page.aspx)**



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This Issue:

Home Safety

COVID-19 Resources

