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Advancing Georgia's Counties.



GEORGIA
MUNICIPAL
ASSOCIATION

August 2016

Local Government Risk Management Services, Inc.

Safety Theme

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

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

Monthly Theme Poster

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

Safety Theme Article

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

Participant Sign-In Sheet

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

Suggested Agenda for the Monthly Safety Meeting

- Assemble the 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.

Training Calendar

Local Government Safety Coordinator 1 & 2

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

Local Government Safety Coordinator 3

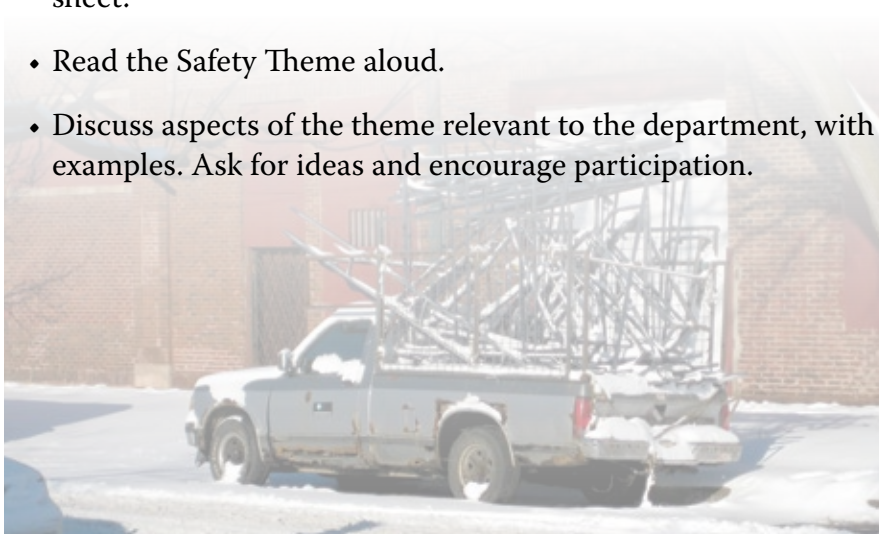
September 1	Savannah, Chatham County
September 9	Cornelia, Habersham County
September 22	Tifton, Tift County
October 5	Macon, Bibb County

Advanced Workers' Compensation

September 13	Cartersville, Bartow County
September 15	Gainesville, Hall County
October 6	Macon, Bibb County
October 13	Tifton, Tift County

Health Promotion Champion

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





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Safety Bulletin

Winter Weather



***Don't Forget
to Plan!***

Winter and Other Emergencies: Don't Forget to Plan

September is National Preparedness Month. We need to remember the impact of the last several years of severe winter weather and the resulting weather-related issues that can affect thousands caught on the roads or in their homes without power and heat. If you have ever had family members stranded on the road or frantically worried about the safety of your children or a loved one, you know what I mean.

It's hard to think of this when we are still facing 90-plus degree heat in August, but now is the time to start planning. Regardless of the best plans, it is imperative that individuals take responsibility and prepare for emergencies in partnership with their local governments. The FEMA website has more detail on all aspects of emergency management and planning. Many local emergency management agencies also have significant resources for emergency planning. For more information, visit www.fema.gov.

A recent report rated Georgia as unprepared for emergencies, particularly where children are concerned. Being prepared is not just a federal, state, or local government function; it is a whole community function. The whole community includes individuals and families, businesses, faith-based and community organizations, nonprofits, schools, media, and all levels of government. For example, schools cannot make proper emergency plans for your children if you as parents don't give them up-to-date contact information. Involving the whole community means letting our citizens become involved in local and national preparedness objectives. It also means that roles and responsibilities are clearly articulated and then communicated to all. Here are a few considerations for both local governments and individuals.

Emergency Planning Considerations

Have a Communications Plan

This plan must include both employee and family contact information. How do we communicate when the cell towers are down or overwhelmed?

Evaluate Critical Needs

Who absolutely needs to be on the job? How do they get to the job? How do you sustain them? Which local government vehicles are road capable for the emergency? Are your operators trained in driving in adverse conditions? What infrastructure or technology needs to be active? What can you do without; what are the priorities?



Coordinate with the Community

Include community partners – hospitals, elder care locations, schools, and non-governmental organizations that also respond. Coordinate with adjacent local governments.

Build Disaster Supply Kits

You need disaster supply kits for vehicles, offices, and facilities. They must provide basic food and water, as well as providing supplies such as flashlights and blankets.

Have a Business Continuity Plan

Be prepared for emergencies and post-emergency situations. If you already have a plan, review and update it now. If you do not have a plan, now is the time to create one.

- What training can you do now that could help? This is an ideal time for cold injury prevention and awareness training, as well as preparing for winter driving considerations.
- Test and evaluate your plans. Will the plans do what we think they will do?

Emergency planning is a continuous process. We tend to become complacent when no emergency exists. The longer between events, the more we lose our edge, and our earlier well-thought-out plans lapse.

A few winters ago, we were taken by surprise and caught unprepared. Let's keep our guard up.



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Winter Weather Preparedness

Safety Theme