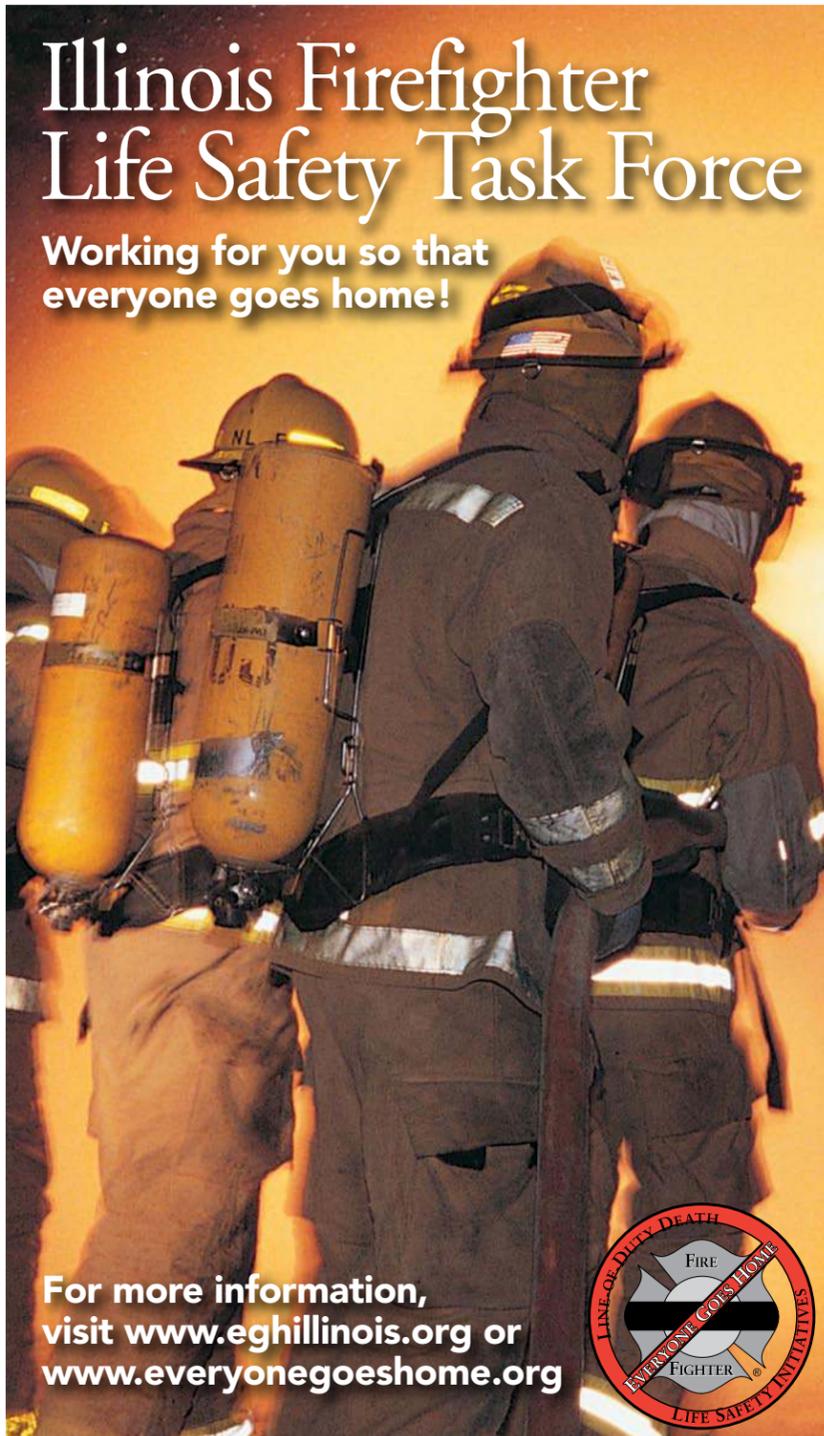


ILLINOIS PUBLIC RISK FUND ISSUES

Risk & Safety Tips from the ILLINOIS PUBLIC RISK FUND

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Illinois Firefighter Life Safety Task Force

Working for you so that everyone goes home!

For more information, visit www.eghillinois.org or www.everyonegoeshome.org



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In 2009, Illinois had two firefighter line of duty deaths, which was a decline from the annual average of five. However, at the time of this article, there had already been five LODDs in 2010, with more than three months left in the year. The IFLSTF is working to stop this trend, and eliminate LODDs... we want Illinois to have years where there are no line-of-duty deaths, and we need your help to do it.

The initial goal of the Task Force is to:

- Ensure that all firefighters are aware of the Everyone Goes Home program and the sixteen Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives (FLSI).
- Raise awareness about the initiatives, to spark discussion about how safely firefighters operate, which can lead to a change in behavior and culture.

The initial objectives include:

- Having presence at all state and regional fire service events, with a straightforward message... To stop the trend we have to be safe!
- Deliver Courage to Be Safe classes throughout the state.
- Encourage fire departments/fire districts to become 100% compliant with the International Seat Belt Pledge.
- Engage firefighters from throughout all parts of the state to help spread a message of safety.

What is the benefit to our department/district?

By implementing the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives every department and district can realize the following tangible results:

- Prevention and Reduction of Firefighter Injuries
- Prevention and Reduction of Firefighter Fatalities
- Minimize Municipal / District Liability

What steps can I take as a firefighter or fire department?

Embrace the following key concepts (taken from the 2008 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week)

- Wear Your Seat belt
- Stop at All Red Lights and Stop Signs
- Slow Down and Drive Defensively
- Provide Annual Medical Evaluations for All Members
- Make Time for Exercise
- Eat Nutritional Meals
- Train On and Wear All Your Personnel Protective Equipment

16 FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES

1. Define and advocate the need for a cultural change within the fire service relating to safety; incorporating leadership, management, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility.
2. Enhance the personal and organizational accountability for health and safety throughout the fire service.
3. Focus greater attention on the integration of risk management with incident management at all levels, including strategic, tactical, and planning responsibilities.
4. All firefighters must be empowered to stop unsafe practices.
5. Develop and implement national standards for training, qualifications, and certification (including regular recertification) that are equally applicable to all firefighters based on the duties they are expected to perform.
6. Develop and implement national medical and physical fitness standards that are equally applicable to all firefighters, based on the duties they are expected to perform.
7. Create a national research agenda and data collection system that relates to the initiatives.
8. Utilize available technology wherever it can produce higher levels of health and safety.
9. Thoroughly investigate all firefighter fatalities, injuries, and near misses.
10. Grant programs should support the implementation of safe practices and/or mandate safe practices as an eligibility requirement.
11. National standards for emergency response policies and procedures should be developed and championed.
12. National protocols for response to violent incidents should be developed and championed.
13. Firefighters and their families must have access to counseling and psychological support.
14. Public education must receive more resources and be championed as a critical fire and life safety program.
15. Advocacy must be strengthened for the enforcement of codes and the installation of home fire sprinklers.
16. Safety must be a primary consideration in the design of apparatus and equipment.

Inside this issue... **2** Working Outdoors
3 5th Annual Grant Program **4** Recall to Repair

5 MINUTE SAFETY TALKS

The Key to your Safety Program - Communication

After giving the professor a time-tested dissertation on a relevant and interesting topic, a prominent professor could not understand the audience's unreceptive response. It was only after learning that the professor had entered the wrong classroom and given the lecture to a group of non-English speaking, visiting foreign students, did the problem become apparent.

Knowledge is useless without the power to communicate it to others. This principle applies to everyone and is a basic requirement in a successful safety program. The most sincere management group cannot establish a safety program if they are unable to communicate the program through the ranks.

Management must be sincere in its approach to safety. Employees may be deceived initially, but they will eventually catch on to a program that is merely lip service. They will recognize the program as an obligation of management, to be given as little effort as possible.

The management representative leading a safety meeting must prove to his employees that they have the knowledge and skill required to head such a gathering. For example, an employee will most likely shut off someone "telling it like it is" about the safe operation of a leading jointer and doweler machine if this professed expert has never operated and, most probably, never seen one.

THE 3R'S

A well-known theory regarding the area of communication is the 3R principle. To effectively communicate a safety program, you must have REPETITION, REVIEW, and REINFORCEMENT. Seldom can we grasp an idea when it is presented only once.

An analogy of the implementation of this principle is the operation of a successful football team. The team practices a play, time after time, day after day, in order to use it possibly once during a game. The Monday after the game, this play is reviewed. Players successful in carrying out their assignments are recognized before the team. After this review and recognition, the team goes out and practices the play again, day after day, in order to possibly use it in next week's game.

A properly run safety program should be operated along similar lines. A safety rule or procedure should never be taken for granted. It must be continually reviewed. Recognition of those persons working safely should be done before the group by the safety director or department manager. Persons working unsafely should be notified privately.

Remember, it is only through the use of the 3R's that you can expect your employees to retain and practice the safety principles stressed in your safety meeting.

Safety's Appeal

We all have a natural tendency to want to be safe. Psychologists say that normal individuals possess certain desires through which safety becomes appealing. These desires include:

- *Desire to avoid personal injury.*
- *Desire for reward.*
- *Desire to excel.*
- *Desire to avoid making an unfavorable impression.*
- *Desire to avoid personal loss.*
- *Desire for leadership.*
- *Desire to prevent injuries to others.*
- *Desire to avoid punishment.*

It's easy to recognize that all of these do have safety appeal. Let's take a look at two of the more obvious ones, the desire to avoid personal injury and the desire to avoid personal loss.

Personal injury and loss are things we all want to avoid. Yet how much do we do to avoid accidents that cause injury and loss? What can we do better?

First, don't take safety for granted. Always keep your personal guard up. When you let it down, you are exposing yourself to accidents.

Second, take time to be safe. Don't take a chance that an accident won't happen this time. Taking shortcuts and not taking time to use a safety device are quick ways to get involved in an accident.

A third way is to avoid unsafe acts, and form good work habits. There is a safe way to do every job.

The awful truth is that accidents play no favorites. They can happen to anyone. Sometimes we need to take a few moments to look ahead.

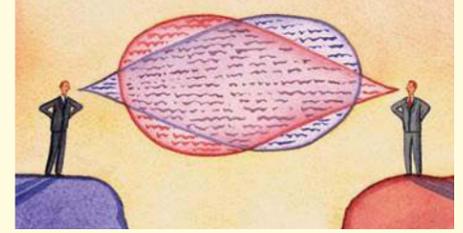
There are certain character traits that can be stimulated to make us safety conscious. These traits are selfishness, ambition, pride, compassion, sense of responsibility, loyalty, imagination, and patriotism.

We all have to be a little selfish, but not at others' expense. Pride and ambition are also commendable. Pride in our work and a desire to get ahead fit in well with being safe.

Our safety program depends on everyone, so hold up your end of the effort. Look for hazards in advance and report them. Safety fulfills your natural desire to avoid personal loss and injury.

THE 5 "P" PLAN

The technique presented by Frank E. Bird, Jr. in his book, entitled "Management Guide to Loss Control", may prove helpful to those people in your company given the responsibility of heading safety meetings. The 5 P's in this plan are Prepare, Pinpoint, Personalize, Picturize, and Prescribe.



Prepare - When preparing to give your safety talk, give yourself adequate time to learn about your subject. Read all the material available on the subject, think of examples you can use which will be effective to the group, and write things down. Don't leave it all to memory; the best public speakers use notes. When you have your notes organized, practice! Practice will improve your timing, delivery, and confidence.

Pinpoint - Since most safety talks last a maximum of 15 minutes, don't cover too broad an area. One aspect covered well is much more beneficial than a broad topic skimmed over.

Personalize - Speak at the level of your listeners. Your employees want to know what is going on; they want to feel they are trusted team members. This will not happen if you speak to them on a Ph.D. or a fourth grade level. You know your employees; you know their wants, drives, abilities, background, and interests. Use this knowledge to develop a common ground with your listeners.

Picture - Although posters or displays alone will not make a successful safety meeting or program, the use of these aids in a supporting role can be very beneficial. You want to create mental images for your listeners. You want your listeners to use as many of their senses during your talk as possible. Visual aids will help improve your listeners' attention and memory power. To help your presentation, use well thought out and well made posters, displays, movies, slides, booklets, charts, etc. Visual aids can be very helpful in a safety talk, but they cannot be used as a safety talk. They are supportive tools used to reinforce the messages you are trying to get across.

Prescribe - Don't leave your audience hanging in the air. After you have explained the problem, give a solution. Show how following the prescribed safety procedures will be beneficial to each member and the group as a whole.

Although safety topics must be repeated, this does not mean that safety meetings should be identical in scope and content.

Employees will soon lose interest in safety meetings that are the same month after month. Imagination must be used to ensure that, though the subjects may be similar, the format or presentation will differ enough to hold the group's interest and make a lasting impression.

LEADER NOTES

OBJECTIVE: To have employees realize that safety can have many positive benefits, such as avoiding personal injury and personal loss.

THE TALK - POINTS TO COVER

- We all have a natural tendency to want to be safe.
- Desire to avoid personal injury.
- Desire to avoid personal loss.
- Desire for reward.
- Desire for leadership.
- Desire to excel.
- Desire to prevent injuries to others.
- Desire to avoid making an unfavorable impression.
- Desire to avoid punishment.
- Personal injury and loss are things we all want to avoid.
- Don't take safety for granted. Always keep your personal guard up.
- Take time to be safe. Don't take a chance that an accident won't happen this time.
- Avoid unsafe acts and form good work habits.
- The awful truth is that accidents play no favorites. They can happen to anyone. Sometime we need to take a few moments and look ahead.
- Certain character traits that can be stimulated to make us safety conscious are selfishness, ambition, pride, compassion, sense of responsibility, loyalty, imagination, and patriotism.
- Our safety program depends on everyone, so hold up your end of the effort.
- Safety fulfills your natural desire to avoid personal loss and injury.
- Look for hazards in advance and report them.



5th Annual Grant Program from The Illinois Public Risk Fund



Since the inception of the Safety Grant Program, IPRF has allocated in excess of 10 million dollars to its members. We want you to get your share. If you are like most members of IPRE, the grant money that was provided in the past four years by IPRF has offered great relief to ease the burden of your safety related purchases. The grant has enabled members to utilize technology to produce higher levels of health and safety, along with safety equipment and safety education.

Once again, we are pleased that in 2010 we are able to offer our Safety and Educational Grant Program. Eligible members will receive an announcement and application by November 2010. Response deadline from members is March 15, 2011 and grant funds will be available by May 3, 2011.

Stretching Your IPRF Grant Dollars – Vendors Offer Discounts

Paying for your Safety Program has not only gotten easier, but now you can get more bank for your buck. For added value, IPRF has partnered with several vendors who are offering discounts up to 35% on their products.



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ILLINOIS FIRE STORE
DIAMONDIAMONDS
IMS ALLIANCE
A.E.C. FIRE & SAFETY
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UNITED RADIO
COMMUNICATIONS

ACS FIREHOUSE SOFTWARE
MATRX MEDICAL
AIR ONE EQUIPMENT
MASIMO
BANNER FIRE EQUIPMENT
INDESCO
CDS OFFICE TECHNOLOGIES
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CONTROL INC.
IL. MO. TIRE & STONE, INC
MES OF IL
FIRE APPARATUS
AND SUPPLY TEAM
TOWERS FIRE APPARATUS CO.

2010 Loss Control Courses

For a complete description of all the courses and sign up information, go to the IPRF Loss Control website. Or contact Krista Ryba at 847-726-4087 or Bonnie Rapp at 847-726-4095, bonnie.rapp@iprf-losscontrol.com.

Principles and Managing Courses

Carbondale/Fairview Heights
Managing Course – October 5

Webinars:

Leveraging Your Safety Culture – Oct. 1, Oct. 8
Safety Management for Result – Nov. 9
Preventing Slips/Trips/Falls – Nov. 30
Return to Work – Aug. 20, Nov. 17

Specialty Courses:

Fire Training
Training Coordinators – Oct. 7
OSHA 10 Hour Course – Oct. 19



Ironman Adventures

2010 has turned into an extraordinary competition year for Michael Rusin of Rusin Maciorowski & Friedman. After two years of multisport training, he converted from being a long distance runner to being a long distance Triathlete.

He started the year by traveling to Australia to compete in a Half Ironman (70.3 mile) competition near Melbourne, Australia, on February 7, 2010. His goal for the year was to qualify for the Half Ironman World Championship scheduled for November 13, 2010 in Clearwater, Florida. Despite training through the winter and then competing in the summer he secured a qualifying spot in the Championships.

However, he also had Ironman Lake Placid on his schedule for July 26, 2010. He had a gruelling 24-week training program that included 14 workouts a week, but the results were amazing. He won the Ironman Lake Placid Executive Challenge PR competition with a time of 12 hours 17 minutes.

Michael Rusin earned the right to compete at the Ironman World Championships in Kona, Hawaii on October 9, 2010, which is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

The Ironman Hawaii is on the Big Island and starts on the Kailua-Kona pier. After jumping into the Pacific Ocean, he will swim 2.4 mile in open ocean waters, then bike 112 miles through lava fields and battle 30 to 40-mile an hour trade winds. When he gets off the bike, it will be time for a 26.2 mile run again through lava fields during the hottest part of the day. He was told the road surface can be scorching. Athletes sometimes have to run on the white lines in order to not burn up their feet too bad. Most of you have probably seen TV accounts of the race with cyclists crashing and runners collapsing near the finish line. Fortunately, his whole family will be making the trip with him to offer their support and help him achieve his goal.

Meet Kathy Kuzmicki, Medical Only Representative

Kathy joined IPRF in March 2009. Since she has always worked in the insurance industry, her related experience has taken her through loss prevention, business sales, auto, liability, hiring, supervising and training administrative personnel. Kathy services medical only workers' compensation claims in are codes 815 and 309.



Kathy has lived in Lisle for the past 16 years and after joining IPRF now enjoys a 12 minute or less drive to the office. Lisle is known for its annual July 4th festival, Eyes to the Skies, held on the park district grounds. She loves living in Lisle and working with IPRE.

AVERAGE & MAXIMUM WEEKLY Disability Benefits

The maximum TTD benefit can be no more than 133-1/3% of the statewide average weekly wage on the date of the injury or last exposure.

	STATE AVERAGE WEEKLY	MAXIMUM TTD BENEFIT
Jan. 15, 2009 to July 14, 2009	\$923.56	\$1,231.41
July 15, 2009 to Jan. 14, 2010	\$932.25	\$1,243.00
Jan. 15, 2010 to July 14, 2010	\$932.25	\$1,243.00
July 15, 2010 to Jan. 14, 2011	\$932.25	\$1,243.00

Incredibly, for the second time in state history, there is no increase in rates because the State's Average Weekly Wage actually decreased, therefore the rates in effect from July 15, 2010 to January 14, 2011 will remain the same.



Robert M. Buhs
Executive Director,
Illinois Fire Chiefs
Association
25317 S. Tuscany Dr. East
Monee, IL. 60449
708-235-1354
Cell: 708-935-9979
rmbuhs@aol.com

Our Newest Trustee

Please join IPRF in welcoming our newest appointment Robert M. Buhs. He currently serves as the Executive Director of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association. Bob retired as the Chief/Administrator of the Orland Fire Protection District after 27 years of full time service and 13 of those years as a Chief Officer. Chief Buhs has been actively involved in the fire service for over 35 years. Bob began his full-time career with Orland in 1977 and worked his way through the ranks. During his tenure as a Chief Officer, Bob helped to guide the Orland Fire District through many successful projects and programs that have been recognized at both the state and national levels of government. Bob has obtained numerous State of Illinois certifications including Chief Fire Officer Designee, a Bachelor's Degree from Southern Illinois University in Fire Service Management and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Governors State University. Bob is active in numerous local and national organizations and associations. Bob is an adjunct instructor for Lewis University, Northwestern University and at workshops and seminars dealing with fire department management, incident management, and strategic planning. In the private sector, Bob has also worked as a consultant for numerous firms conducting service level assessments which include staffing, station location and deployment studies. Bob is also the author of published articles entitled, "Minimizing Instructor Liability", and "What Color Is Your Aerial Ladder".

Recall to Repair!

Stadium Light Poles Can Fall Over, Posing Risk of Serious Injury and Death



Close-up - crack near weld that joins the pole to its base plate



Fallen stadium light pole

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, today announced a recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should immediately stop using recalled products until they are inspected and repaired.

Name of product: Whitco Company LP poles 70 feet tall or higher

Units: More than 2,500

Manufacturer: Whitco Company LP, of Fort Worth, Texas (which is out of business)

Hazard: The poles can fracture or crack and fall over, posing a risk of serious injury or death to patrons and bystanders from being hit or crushed. The poles range from 1 to 4 tons increasing the risk of death if the pole falls toward a crowded stadium or onto a building.

Incidents/Injuries: As of June 2010, CPSC has confirmed eleven incidents in which Whitco Co. LP poles fell. In one incident, a pole fell through the roof of a school gymnasium causing significant property damage. In two other incidents, the poles fell onto outdoor bleachers causing significant property damage. The latest incident occurred at Integrity Park Inc. in Argyle, Texas. The majority of incidents occurred in Texas with others in several other states where Whitco Co. LP poles have been installed. To date, CPSC is not aware of any injuries. However, some incidents have been close calls, with people exiting the area just minutes before a pole fell. CPSC has also identified more than 50 Whitco Co. LP poles that have not yet fallen, but inspections revealed fractures and/or cracks next to the weld that joins the pole to its base plate. The fallen and cracked poles were located near or around school football stadiums and gymnasiums.

Description: This recall to inspect and repair involves Whitco Co. LP outdoor steel stadium light poles from about 70 to 135 feet and weigh from about 1 to 4 tons. The poles are constructed of steel with a galvanized coating and were manufactured between 2000-2005. The poles can be found at facilities such as recreational parks and fields, schools and outdoor stadiums. Attached is a listing (pdf) of locations that may have the affected poles.

Note: This release does not affect Whitco Pole products.

Sold by: Lighting contractors nationwide from 2000 through 2005.

Manufactured in: United States and Mexico

Remedy: To reduce the risk of injury, Whitco Co. LP light poles should be inspected by an engineer or a Level II non-destructive testing technician immediately to identify cracking at or near the weld connecting the pole to the base plate flange. A visual examination with the naked eye or with a magnifier will not determine the extent of any cracking. Non-destructive techniques such as magnetic particle inspection, dye penetrant, or ultrasonic inspection techniques are recommended. If any cracking or fracturing is found, immediately have the affected poles repaired or replaced by a qualified professional. A design analysis to assess the stresses placed on the pole is also recommended. CPSC recommends that all outdoor steel stadium light poles be routinely inspected by a professional. As the manufacturer has become bankrupt, individual owners of the poles must arrange for inspection.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, please contact CPSC's Hotline at (800) 638-2772 anytime or send an e-mail to info@cpsc.gov

CPSC is still interested in receiving incident or injury reports that are either directly related to this product recall or involve a different hazard with the same product. Please tell us about it by visiting <https://www.cpsc.gov/cgi-bin/incident.aspx>

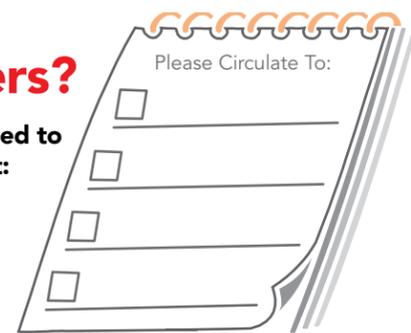
The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from thousands of types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. The CPSC is committed to protecting consumers and families from products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical, or mechanical hazard. The CPSC's work to ensure the safety of consumer products - such as toys, cribs, power tools, cigarette lighters, and household chemicals - contributed significantly to the decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products over the past 30 years.

To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call CPSC's Hotline at (800) 638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at (301) 595-7054. To join a CPSC e-mail subscription list, please go to <https://www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.aspx>. Consumers can obtain recall and general safety information by logging on to CPSC's Web site at www.cpsc.gov.

Need More Newsletters?

If you would like IPRF Issues newsletter mailed to additional department heads, please contact:

Paul H. Boecker, IPRF President
624 Columbine Avenue, Lisle, IL 60532
Phone (630) 271-0600 • Fax 630-271-0643
email pboecker@iprf.com



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CONTACTS	MEMBERS BY AREA CODE	
Anne Sullivan asullivan@ccmsi.com	Unit Claims Supervisor	P (630) 649-6072 F (217) 477-5929
Laurie Czizik Claims Specialist lczizik@ccmsi.com	217 J - R 618 A - L	P (630) 649-6062 F (217) 477-7281
Gabriela Bennett Claims Specialist gbennett@ccmsi.com	217 S - Z 618 V - Z	P (630) 649-6074 F (217) 477-5929
Mari Curless Medical Only Representative mcurless@ccmsi.com	217 / 618	P (630) 649-6060 F (217) 477-7284
Carol Biagi cbiagi@ccmsi.com	Unit Claims Clerk	P (630) 649-6065 F (217) 477-7288
Loretta Smith Claims Specialist lsmith@ccmsi.com	217 A - I 618 M - U	P (630) 649-6058 F (217) 477-5940
Glenn Macey gmacey@ccmsi.com	Unit Claims Supervisor	P (630) 649-6057 F (217) 477-5939
Nancy Radzienta Medical Only Representative nradzienta@ccmsi.com	630 / 708 / 847	P (630) 649-6068 F (217) 477-7285
Ryan Evers Claims Specialist revers@ccmsi.com	630 A-I 815 A-LI	P (630) 649-6076 F (217) 477-5922
Laura Reyes lreyes@ccmsi.com	Unit Claims Supervisor	P (630) 649-6039 F (217) 477-5909
Christine Dapper Claim Specialist cdapper@ccmsi.com	847 A-H 708 M-R	P (630) 649-6059 F (217) 477-7283
Thalia Nevels Claim Specialist tnevels@ccmsi.com	847 I-Z 708 A-L / S-Z	P (630) 649-6069 F (217) 477-7282
Kathy Kuzmicki Medical Only Representative kkuzmicki@ccmsi.com	815 / 309	P (630) 649-6063 F (217) 477-7286
May Soo Hoo msoohoo@ccmsi.com	Unit Claims Clerk	P (630) 649-6066 F (217) 477-7287
Caryn Maiorana Claims Specialist cmaiorana@ccmsi.com	630 J - Z 309 A - Z 815 LJ - Z	P (630) 649-6061 F (217) 477-5941
Kim DiPirro kdipirro@ccmsi.com	Claims Manager	P (630) 649-6071 F (217) 477-5937
Paul Boecker III pboecker@ccmsi.com	Assistant Claims Manager	P (630) 649-6053 F (217) 477-5912
Barbara Keller bkeller@ccmsi.com	Claim Specialist Subrogation	P (630) 649-6067 F (217) 477-7280
Elaine Serafino eserafino@ccmsi.com	Claims Representative	P (630) 649-6064 F (217) 477-7289

3333 Warrenville Road, Suite 550, Lisle, IL 60532

For Additional Information

about Illinois Public Risk Fund, letters of news or comments, please contact:

Paul H. Boecker, IPRF President
624 Columbine Avenue • Lisle, Illinois 60532
Phone 1-630-271-0600 • Fax 1-630-271-0643 • email pboecker@iprf.com

IPRF Issues

Pat Andrews, *Editor*
Peggy O'Brien, *Graphic Designer*

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