

# KWORDS *from* KWORCC

## KWORCC Business

### Annual Meeting

KWORCC will hold its 2016 Annual Meeting at the Kansas Association of Counties conference in Overland Park, Kansas on November 15, 2016. Our meeting will start at 5:30 PM in Leatherwood 1-2 at the Overland Park Sheraton. It is important that each county member nominate a delegate and alternate to attend the meeting. In addition to reporting on the pool status, the county representatives will be asked to elect trustees to sit on the KWORCC Board from the members listed in the following districts:

**North East District:** Brown, Doniphan, Jackson, Jefferson, Lyon, Marshall, Osage & Pottawatomie ~ Linda Buttron, Jefferson County Clerk, Incumbent

**South West District:** Clark, Ford, Grant, Gray, Hamilton, Haskell, Hodgeman, Kearny, Lane, Meade, Morton, Ness,

Scott, Stanton & Stevens ~ Sandy Barton, Stanton County Clerk, Incumbent

**At Large** ~ Michelle Garrett, Morris County Clerk, Incumbent

Forms for delegate selection and Board of Trustee nominations have been mailed to the county members with the Notice of Annual Meeting. If you have questions regarding delegates or board nominations, contact KWORCC Staff Counsel, Dortha Bird: 1-877-357-1069; dorthabird@kworcc.com.

Also, KWORCC will be at booth #54 for Kansas Association of Counties 41st Annual Exhibition Vendor Showcase. Stop by our booth to visit about your Workers Compensation Insurance Pool and to pick up some give-away items. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Legal Detail: Unauthorized Medical

by Dortha Bird

*If a KWORCC member's employee suffers an injury in the course and scope of employment, KWORCC is responsible to pay for all medical treatment that may be needed to cure or relieve the effects of the injury. Under Kansas law, the employer has the right to choose the treating physician. If the injured worker seeks treatment from a doctor not authorized or agreed upon by the employer, KWORCC is only liable up to \$500 toward such medical bills. The injured worker does have the right to apply to the Director of Workers Compensation for a change of doctor. Here's the statute:*

*KSA 44-508. Definitions. As used in the workers compensation act:... (v) "Authorized treating physician" means a licensed physician or other health care provider authorized by the employer or insurance carrier or both, or appointed pursuant to court order to provide those medical services deemed necessary to diagnose and treat an injury arising out of and in the course of employment.*

*Failure to seek treatment as designated could result in the employee being personally responsible for some of the cost. For assistance with designation of medical providers, please contact CORnerstone Risk Solutions, toll-free 1-800-288-6732 and ask for Tina Cox or Amanda Chamberland, via e-mail: [tina.cox@corisksol.com](mailto:tina.cox@corisksol.com) and [Amanda.chamberland@corisksol.com](mailto:Amanda.chamberland@corisksol.com) or fax: 316-609-3892.*

# KWORCC

KANSAS  
WORKERS RISK COOPERATIVE  
for COUNTIES

700 SW Jackson • Suite 200  
Topeka, Kansas 66603  
Toll Free 1-877-357-1069  
www.kworcc.com

## CLAIMS REPORTING

For assistance with on-the-job injuries, contact CRS at 1-800-333-8913. Questions on claims should be directed to Tina Cox. All correspondence, bills or other documentation for your claims can be submitted online at:  
[www.cornerstoneclaims.com](http://www.cornerstoneclaims.com).

## TRUSTEES

**Gary Caspers, President**  
Cloud County Commissioner  
811 Washington  
Concordia, Kansas 66901  
(785) 243-8135

**Stan McEvoy, Vice-President**  
Decatur County Commissioner  
PO Box 28  
Oberlin, Kansas 67749  
(785) 475-8101

**Michelle Garrett, Secretary**  
Morris County Clerk  
501 W Main  
Council Grove, Kansas 66846  
(620) 767-5518

**Linda Buttron, Controller**  
Jefferson County Clerk  
300 Jefferson, PO Box 321  
Oskaloosa, Kansas 66066  
(785) 863-2272

**Sandy Barton,**  
Stanton County Clerk  
P.O. Box 190  
Johnson, Kansas 67855  
(620) 492-2140

**Dr. Steve Garten**  
Barber County Commissioner  
120 E Washington  
Medicine Lodge, Kansas 67104  
(620) 886-3961

**Bonnie "Rob" Roberts**  
Miami County Commissioner  
7 Sunset Lane  
Paola, KS 66071  
(913) 294-5844

## Distracted Driving

Distracted driving is any activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. All distractions endanger driver, passenger, and bystander safety. These types of distractions include:

- Texting
- Using a cell phone or smartphone
- Eating and drinking
- Talking to passengers
- Grooming
- Reading, including maps
- Using a navigation system
- Watching a video
- Adjusting a radio, CD player, or MP3 player

Because text messaging requires visual, manual, and cognitive attention from the driver, it is by far the most alarming distraction.

The best way to end distracted driving is education about the danger it poses. More information on distracted driving can be found on [Distraction.gov](http://Distraction.gov).

## Work Place Violence

### What is workplace violence?

Workplace violence is any act or threat of physical violence, harassment, intimidation, or other threatening disruptive behavior that occurs at the work site. It ranges from threats and verbal abuse to physical assaults and even homicide. It can affect and involve employees, clients, customers and visitors. Homicide is currently the fourth-leading cause of fatal occupational injuries in the United States. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), of the 4,679 fatal workplace injuries that occurred in the United States in 2014, 403 were workplace homicides. However it manifests itself, workplace violence is a major concern for employers and employees nationwide.

### How can workplace violence hazards be reduced?

In most workplaces where risk factors can be identified, the risk of assault can be prevented or minimized if employers take appropriate precautions. One of the best protections employers can offer their workers is to establish a zero-tolerance policy toward workplace violence. This policy should cover all workers, patients, clients, visitors, contractors, and anyone else who may come in contact with county personnel.

By assessing their worksites, employers can identify methods for reducing the likelihood of incidents occurring. OSHA believes that a well-written and implemented workplace violence prevention program, combined with engineering controls, administrative controls and training can reduce the incidence of workplace violence in both the private sector and government workplaces.

This can be a separate workplace violence prevention program or can be incorporated into an injury and illness prevention program, employee handbook, or manual of standard operating procedures. KWORCC Loss Prevention staff stand ready to train county personnel and assist with implementation of a workplace violence prevention program. Call KWORCC at 877-357-1069 to schedule a training or visit.

# KWORCC Learning Center

Safety awareness and safety training are a large part of keeping your employees safe. Regular safety meetings (KWORCC recommends once a month) can be used to show videos from the KWORCC Safety Video Library as well as to discuss housekeeping and timely safety topics. Additionally, individual employees can take online courses through Gov-U (contact Spencer Howard at [showard@localgovu.com](mailto:showard@localgovu.com) or 866.845.8887 to set up an account if you don't have one) and the KWORCC Loss Prevention Staff is available for on site, in person group training.

## Gov U Classes

- Sexual Harassment Awareness for Managers
- Sexual Harassment Awareness in the Workplace
- Bloodborne Pathogens (UPDATED)
- Emergency Preparation & Egress
- Global SDS and Hazardous Communication
- Lockout/Tagout (UPDATED)
- Personal Protective Equipment 101
- Personal Protective Equipment 201
- Fire Behavior - Types of Fire
- High Blood Pressure - Reducing Your Risks
- Smoking Cessation
- Basic First Aid
- Chemicals and MSDS
- Electrical and Fire Safety
- Ladder Safety 201 (UPDATED)
- Public Employee Safety in the Community
- Work Place Ergonomics
- Dump Truck Safety (NEW)
- Supervisor Skills 102
- A large selection of LEO/Corrections courses

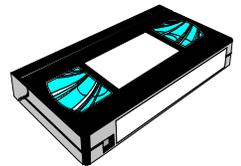
## Selected Video Learning

Most of the safety videos are available only on VHS. However, all videos with a number of G-106 and higher are available on DVD. The KWORCC staff is working to get popular topics on DVD. If you have a particular topic you would like to see us carry on DVD, please email Nicole at [nicole@kworcc.com](mailto:nicole@kworcc.com).

A complete list of available videos can be found on the KWORCC website. Here are some suggestions for Fall from the KWORCC Video Library.

Chain Saws and Common Sense	G-8
Chain Saw Safety (DVD)	G-139
Low Visibility and Driving	G-94
Safe Winter Driving	G-95

<b>New to the video library:</b>	
Confined Space Entry (DVD)	G-147
Front-End Loader Safety (DVD)	G-146
Winter Driving (DVD)	G-148



## On-Site Training Suggestion: Chain Saws

Chain saws are a commonly used tool with the potential to inflict severe injuries. A recent study shows that between 2009-2013 there were 115,895 emergency room visits for injuries related to the use of a chain saw. The main body sites injured were hands/fingers and knees. Most accidents occurred during the months of September through November.

First step to safely operating a chain saw is selecting a saw that fits your needs and is quiet, balanced and equipped with safety features. That requires getting familiar with the saw and reading the manual so you understand the operation and safety features.

Before you cut you must outfit yourself with proper clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) that will help reduce the possibility of a serious injury.

By Carl Eyman, Loss Prevention Manager  
OSHA Reg. 1910.266 requires any individual operating a chain saw, while at work, to wear the following items of PPE:

Head Protection, Hearing Protection, Face Protection, Eye Protection, Gloves, Protective Leg Device (chaps that are rated to ASTM standards) and Protective Boots (preferable with steel toes).

On site classes for the safe use and handling of chain saws are available through the KWORCC Loss Prevention staff. Classes normally last an hour to an hour and a half but class time can be adjusted for your needs. Call 877-357-1069 to schedule today.



Photo shows approved chaps with ASTM tag.

## Lightning

When thunder roars, go indoors! If you hear thunder, even a distant rumble, get to a safe place immediately. Thunderstorms always include lightning. Any thunder you hear is caused by lightning! NOAA advises that nowhere outside is safe when thunderstorms are in your area.

Lightning is a dangerous natural force. Annually in the United States, cloud-to-ground lightning occurs 20 to 25 million times and over 300 people are struck by lightning. During the past 30 years, about 50 people, on average, have been killed by lightning strikes every year, and many more suffer permanent disabilities. Precautions should be taken to prevent worker exposure to lightning. Counties should recognize lightning as an occupational hazard. Supervisors and workers at outdoor worksites should take lightning safety seriously.

OSHA and NOAA recommend that employers and supervisors follow these lightning safety best practices for workers whose jobs involve working outdoors:

- Check NOAA weather reports prior to beginning outdoor work
- Seek shelter in buildings or vehicles after hearing thunder or seeing lightning and for 30 minutes after the last instance.
- Counties should adequately train all workers on lightning safety.
- Counties should have a written Emergency Action Plan which includes a written lightning safety protocol for outdoor workers.

## 2016 Board Meeting Dates

X	January 21st
X	February 18th
X	March 17th
X	April 28th
X	May 19th
X	June 23rd
X	July 14th
X	August 25th
X	September 22nd
	October 20th
	November 15th – Annual Meeting
	December 15th