

KWORDS *from* KWORCC

KWORCC Business

Welcome Kearny County!



How wonderful to have Kearny County back with KWORCC. Kearny was one of the founding members that helped our pool get started in 1992. This county is a particularly good fit for KWORCC because loss history over the past few years demonstrate that it is a safety-minded county.

With the addition of Kearny County, KWORCC membership includes 72 counties and 11 county instrumentalities. Importantly, of the 19 counties in district six, 14 are KWORCC members.

On March 28th, orientation and claims training has been scheduled in Kearny County. This will give the department heads an opportunity to meet our claims and loss prevention staff. Employees of counties in the surrounding areas are invited to attend. Please call Carl at 785-230-0234 for details.

Aging Workforce

Workers 55 and older are expected to comprise one-quarter of the US workforce within the next six years. These workers bring a wealth of knowledge and experience, but also are some of the most vulnerable to occupational injuries and deaths.

- Older workers experience fewer nonfatal injuries than other workers, but take a longer time to recover from their injuries.
- The incidence rate of slips, trips and falls for workers 65 and older is about double the rate of workers younger than 45.
- The number of deaths among workers older than 64 has been increasing for several years, and the fatality rate has recently spiked.
- Consider what accommodations can be made to ensure the safety of older workers. Safety improvements made to protect older workers typically benefit workers of all ages.

New Trustee Bonnie “Rob” Roberts!



At the KWORCC 2015 Annual Meeting in Wichita, Kansas on November 4, 2015, Bonnie “Rob” Roberts, Miami County Commissioner, was elected to represent the Southeast District on the KWORCC Board of Trustees. Rob has been a Miami County Commissioner since 2008 and has served on many local

boards over the years. He is currently the chief elected official for Southeast Kansas Works and is also a member of the Kansas Works State Board, Mid America Regional Council board of directors, a KAC board member and was a former chairman of the Kansas County Commissioner Association. Rob and his wife Marilyn have one daughter and three grandchildren.

Focus on Claims

by Amanda Chamberland

Employee Accident? On-line accident reporting is now available! CORnerstone Risk Solutions is pleased to announce our on-line accident reporting platform. No longer will you have a busy fax machine, missing papers or lost mail. You can elect to receive a copy for your file via email and will immediately receive the claim number assigned. This also aids in the employers responsibility of timely reporting required by the Kansas Department of Labor. Pursuant to Kansas law, accidents must be reported timely or may be subject to a \$250.00 fine for each late report.

Here are what a few KWORCC members have to say:
 “Have I told you that I absolutely LOVE the online accident reporting! It is really a slick process.”
 “I love that system too. It is awesome!!!”

The website is www.cornerstoneclaims.com. Please contact Amanda Chamberland or Tina Cox with any questions and / or your log-in and password.

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.

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

Legal Detail: Prevailing Factor

by Dortha Bird

Compensation under Kansas Workers Compensation Act, for injuries occurring after May 15, 2011 is contingent upon the injured worker proving that the injury was caused by a specific event occurring in the course and scope of his employment and that the specific event was the prevailing factor in causing the injury. A number of people have asked me the meaning of "prevailing factor." One of my law professors advised that before we think great thoughts, look at the law. "Prevailing factor" is defined as the primary factor in relation to any other factor. K.S.A. 44-508(g).

Importantly, the Kansas Workers Compensation Appeals Board has provided guidance in looking at specific instances that are not covered by the Kansas Workers Compensation Act. I have found these examples to be helpful: *Haase v. Shawnee County*, Docket Number 1,058,310 (June, 2012) - claimant had avascular necrosis that resulted in claimant's femoral head collapsing when he was forcefully pushing on and lifting a shovel load of asphalt at work. *Nelson v. Wichita Vending*, Docket Number 1,062,842 (July, 2013) - claimant had degenerative back condition that became symptomatic when she was lifting a 50-pound case of fruit at work. *Cortez v. General Motors, LLC*, Docket Number 1,065,092 (March 2015) - claimant had degenerative disk changes at C3-4 and bone spondylosis due to genetics, history of diabetes, life style and aging process. *Norman v. Deffenbaugh Industries*, Docket Number 1,065,361 (April 2015) - claimant knee injury and need for knee replacement were due to patellofemoral arthritis. *Banks v. Spirit Aerosystems, Inc.*, Docket Number 1,068,210 (April 2015) - claimant's shoulder injuries could not have developed during his work for respondent.

With this information from statutes and administrative rulings, I hope you have a better understanding of the "prevailing factor" requirement for an on-the-job injury to be compensable in Kansas.

Cold and Flu

It is estimated that one billion colds are caught annually in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 5 to 20 percent of the U.S. population catches the flu annually as well. The flu season in the U.S. typically ranges from November to April. While it is a myth that cold temperatures cause colds, it is true that cold weather keeps people indoors, making exposure more likely.

Here are some tips to help you avoid colds and the flu:

- Clean and wipe down shared surfaces such as countertops, keyboards and phones.
- Avoid touching your mouth, nose and eyes, and wash hands thoroughly and often.
- Get a flu shot if possible (it is most important for children and the elderly).
- Eat healthy foods to strengthen your immune system.
- Exercise moderately to maintain a healthy immune system.
- Ask your doctor about vitamin supplements to help support your immune system.
- Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.
- Get plenty of rest.
- Try to avoid people who are sick.

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 Tony Green at TGreen@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
- Emergency Preparations & Egress
- Global SDS and Hazardous Communications
- Lockout/Tagout
- Personal Protective Equipment 101
- Personal Protective Equipment 201
- Managing Your Healthcare
- Stress & Your Health
- Handling Angry Employees
- Disciplinary Action & Procedures
- Training for Small Communities
- Absorbents and Spills
- Back Injuries
- Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety
- Dealing with Cold Stress
- Distracted Driving for Local Government
- Equipment Safety
- HAZMAT First Responder Awareness - Level 1
- Power Tool Safety
- Respirator & Air Quality
- Snow and Ice Management
- Work Zone Safety for Local Governments
- Bloodborne Pathogens for First Responders
- Fire Control - Structural Fires
- 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. Here are some suggestions for winter from the KWORCC Video Library.

- G-5 driving environment
- G-12 minus 10
- G-25 snow plow
- G-95 winter driving conditions
- G-125 snow removal techniques

A complete list of available videos can be found on the KWORCC website.



On-Site Training Suggestion

Slips, Trips and Falls

By Carl Eyman

You may have noticed that slips, trips and falls is on the GovU training schedule almost every quarter. Why? Take a look at the loss figures. These are the most expensive accident types for KWORCC, and second only to motor vehicle crashes for cause of death.

It is absolutely necessary that we teach our county workers to be aware of and protect themselves against this risk – to be mindful of their surroundings, address repairs and clean-up as needed and mark or barricades hazardous areas. This is as simple as putting out warning signs when floors are wet or requiring appropriate footwear.

Slip, trip and fall training is not only available online. Your KWORCC Loss Prevention Specialists also conduct this on-

site training. Please call us to set up classes in your county. These classes normally run an hour, and we can do multiple classes for courthouse staff.

Year	Cost	# Claims
2010	\$1,511,746	196
2011	\$1,003,011	134
2012	\$ 786,879	119
2013	\$ 936,619	134
2014	\$1,330,598	141
2015	\$ 703,347	141
Total	\$6,281,847	874



Member Spotlight

Exceptional Loss Ratio Winners for 2014

Premium 0-\$50,000

County	Loss Ratio
1st ~ Wallace County	0.0%
2nd ~ Morton County	0.1%
3rd ~ Edwards County	0.4%

Premium \$51,000-\$125,000

County	Loss Ratio
1st ~ Rice County	0.0%
2nd ~ Gove County	0.1%
3rd ~ Neosho County	0.7%

Premium Greater than \$125,000

County	Loss Ratio
1st ~ Sumner County	3.0%
2nd ~ Reno County	7.1%
3rd ~ Ellis County	9.2%

2016

Board Meeting Dates

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