

KWORDS *from* KWORCC

New KWORCC Members!



Two counties joined KWORCC in May. Pratt county joined the pool on May 1st.



Kingman county joined the pool on May 22nd. Both counties are members of the South Central district.

Jes Pfannenstiel, KWORCC's Newest Loss Prevention Specialist

You may already know KWORCC's newest Loss Prevention Specialist. Jes Pfannenstiel joined the KWORCC Loss Prevention team on July 1, 2019. He will also be acting as the marketing director. Jes is a native to Kansas and has over 20 years experience in the insurance industry. He attended Fort Hays State University and G.A.B. Robins Professional Development Center. He is a Licensed Kansas Agent and a certified defensive driving instructor.

Jes has attended numerous yearly and bi-yearly conferences which specialize in providing education and information regarding public entities.

These conferences include PRIMA, AGRIP, and County Reinsurance Limited. Jes has also served in various elected official positions including President of the Kansas Clams North East Chapter and as President of the Kansas Claims Association.

We would like to welcome Jes to our team!



Focus on Claims:

On Time, Every Time

By Amanda Chamberland, TRISTAR Claims

After an accident occurs, the clock begins ticking to turn the reported injury in to the State of Kansas. Luckily, once the completed claim is received by Tristar we will report the claim for you to the State via the required electronic database interface. Do you know what to do in order to get the information needed timely to Tristar? KWORCC claims are to be reported on-line via the Tristar reporting link, tristarrisk.com. It is important that each claim is submitted online to Tristar immediately after an accident occurs.

Reporting to Tristar within three days post event will allow us to complete the necessary information to get the claim to the State on time and help avoid late reporting fines. In addition, timely and immediate reporting allows the adjuster to begin working with the insured and claimant to help better direct their medical care and ease the claims handling process.

It can be difficult to remember the claims reporting processes, especially in a time of urgency, so please feel free to call the lead adjuster, Amanda Chamberland, at any time for a refresher or an in person training at 1-844-702-2353 ext 4713. Working together we can make sure claims are turned in on time, every time.

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

CLAIMS REPORTING

To submit a claim online, go to www.tristarrisk.com and select "report a claim". To call in a claim: 1-855-495-1554. Questions on claims should be directed to Amanda Chamberland: 1-844-702-2353x4713 Amanda.Chamberland@tristargroup.net

TRUSTEES

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wayne Wilt
Cowley County Commissioner
311 E 9th
Winfield, Kansas 67156
(620) 221-3706

Mental or Cognitive Distracted Driving

Cognitive distraction occurs when a driver diverts his or her attention to another mentally demanding task. Talking on a hands-free cell phone and using a voice-activated electronic system are two activities that produce almost purely cognitive distraction. Many other distractions, such as texting, adjusting in-vehicle controls, and eating, have a physical as well as cognitive component.

Cognitively distracting activities may seem less risky than tasks that take a driver's eyes off the road or hands off the wheel. However, research from the National Safety Council indicates that drivers who are cognitively distracted are at risk for various performance issues.

To reach this conclusion, the NSC reviewed over 30 studies of drivers who were cognitively distracted. Although these studies focused on people who were using hand-held or hands-free cell phones, it is likely that the findings are applicable to drivers who are engaging in other mentally distracting tasks. The NSC found that these drivers exhibited the following serious impairments:

- Slow reaction times. In one study, legally drunk drivers even out-performed cognitively distracted drivers in terms of response times.
- Blindness to their surroundings. Researchers estimate that up to half of the information in a cognitively distracted driver's immediate environment – which might include other vehicles or traffic control devices – goes unnoticed.
- Reduced activity in parts of the brain that are normally active during driving. As an example, the parts of the brain that oversee navigation, visual information processing, and spatial processing, show less activity when drivers are listening to language.

These adverse effects also may last longer than drivers realize. According to The Washington Post, a study published in late 2015 found that participating drivers remained mentally distracted for 15 to 27 seconds after using hands-free devices. Alarming, a driver traveling at 25 miles per hour can cover the length of three football fields in 27 seconds. At higher speeds, this gap between completing a mentally demanding task and refocusing on driving could greatly raise the risk of distracted driving accidents.

MENTAL DISTRACTION RATING SYSTEM

Even with your eyes on the road and your hands on the wheel, mental distractions dangerously affect drivers behind the wheel.



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 John D'Angelo at John.D'Angelo@praetoriandigital.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.

Local GovU

There are hundreds of courses available on Local GovU. Here is more information on some of them.

Bloodborne Pathogens for Public Entities: This one-hour course will discuss what you need to know about bloodborne pathogens in order to keep yourself and those around you safe.

Dealing with Heat Stress: Summer bring allergies, a variety of pests, and extreme heat. Although you can't predict the weather, heat exposure must be addressed head on to avoid serious harm and injury. This course will help individuals recognize the health risks associated with heat stress, identify methods for minimizing its effects, and recognize the symptoms of heat stroke and

exhaustion. (1 hour)

Lockout/Tagout 101: This one-hour course will provide an introduction to what employees are required to know about OSHA's standard on Lockout/Tagout. It defines the requirements for workers performing service or maintenance on machinery and equipment may be exposed to injuries from the unexpected startup of the machinery or equipment or the release of stored energy in the equipment.

Stress and Your Health: This one-hour course explains the importance of understanding and effectively reducing stress in daily life. Stress and Your Health will provide practical applications of stress management.

Selected Video Learning

Most of the safety videos are available only on VHS. However, most videos with a number of G-106 and higher are available on DVD. If you have a particular topic you would like to see us carry on DVD, please email Nicole at nicole@kworcc.com.

A complete list of available videos can be found on the KWORCC website at <http://kworcc.com/LossPrevention.htm>.

Suggested video library selections:

- G-124 Transport Trailer safety
- G-130 Heat Stress
- G-142 Hearing conservation



Powered Industrial Truck Training

By Brandon Mann, Loss Prevention Specialist

Powered Industrial Trucks (PIT), also known as forklifts, have special training requirements for any employee who operates these pieces of equipment. Failing to provide such training can result in worker injuries, liability for the employer, damaged equipment, and legal action by the Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL).

You may not think that your employees need this training because your county does not have what we traditionally think of as a forklift. However, the definition of forklift is very broad as it relates to the OSHA regulations that are enforced by the KDOL. Any piece of equipment in which

forks are attached will be considered a forklift at that point, such as fork attachments to a skid-steer loader or wheel loader.

OSHA clearly defines the content that is required in a training program for PITs. One of the benefits of being a KWORCC member is that we provide this training on-site. While the training is free to members, we do charge a nominal fee to help cover the cost of training materials of \$5.20/student. Our instructors are certified to provide this training through the National Safety Council, and the certification is valid for three years.

Secure Your Load!

Have you ever had a rock hit your windshield? Then you know how quickly this can happen. Now imagine that object is a ladder, wheelbarrow, hammer, cordwood or a piece of furniture and the car behind that load is your family. Driving with an unsecured load is both against the law (KSA 8-1906) and extremely dangerous. A load must be securely fastened and is only considered secure when nothing can slide, fall or shift onto the roadway or become airborne.

Did you know:

- A 20 pound object at 55 miles per hour has the force of 1,000 pounds on impact
- Unsecured loads are responsible for up to 40% of the litter on our roads costing us billions of dollars each year.
- The National GAO report states unsecured loads cause 440 deaths, 10,000 injuries and 51,000 incidents each year.



"Secure Your Load as if everyone you love is driving in the car behind you"

TO SECURE THE LOAD IN YOUR VEHICLE OR TRAILER:

- Tie it down with rope, netting, or straps.
- Tie large objects directly to your vehicle or trailer.
- Consider covering the entire load with a sturdy tarp or netting.
- Don't overload your vehicle or trailer.
- Always double-check your load to make sure it's secure.
- Don't forget that animals should also be properly secured.

BEFORE YOU DRIVE, ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS:

- Is there any chance of debris or cargo falling or blowing out of my vehicle?
- Is my load secured at the back, sides and top?
- What would happen to my load if I had to brake suddenly, I hit a bump, or another vehicle hit me?
- Would I want my loaded vehicle driving through my neighborhood?
- Would I feel safe if I were driving behind my vehicle?
- Is "Secure Your Load" on my company's safety checklist?

2019 Board Meeting Dates

X	January 24th
X	February 28th
X	March 28th
X	April 25th
X	May 30th
X	June 27th
	July 25th
	August 29th
	September 26th
	October 24th
	November 12th – Annual Meeting
	December 19th