



TOIRMA Update

By Jim Donelan

TOIRMA Executive Director

Risk Management and Drug and Alcohol Testing

IN TOIRMA, there are many different types of exposures. There are over 66,000 road miles within our members' jurisdictions. Townships own and maintain a significant number of buildings, equipment, and vehicles. There are a lot of moving parts in the TOIRMA Program. In our 2018-2019 Program Year TOIRMA had a total of 1,149 claims. A significant number of claims last year and historically are specifically related to vehicles, equipment, and drivers. Unfortunately, due to the law of numbers, a portion of these claims are related to the impairment of drivers. Recently, the TOIRMA Program has had claims that involve drivers under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Not only are these claims unfortunate, but most would have been avoidable. Injuries to workers, members of the public, and property could have been circumvented.

Vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) or gross combination weight rating (GCWR) over 26,001 pounds require the driver to have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). If a CDL is required of the driver, the driver must be enrolled and participate in a random drug and alcohol testing program. Our sister association, the Township Officials of Illinois (TOI) administers such a program. More information regarding TOI's program can be obtained by contacting Pam Butler at (866) 897-4688, pam@toi.org, or visiting TOI's website, toi.org.

It is the responsibility of highway commissioners and foremen/management to be on the lookout for impairment or reasonable suspicion. In fact, highway commissioners and managers/foremen who oversee drivers who drive trucks that weigh 26,001 pounds or more (CDL requirement), must participate in a reasonable suspicion supervisor (manager) training program. This requirement can be met by watching TOI's recent webinar "DOT-mandated Training Course for Reasonable Suspicion Testing of CDL drivers." This can be viewed by visiting the "TGEN Network (Education)" page on TOI's website.

Keep in-mind that there are other requirements for participants in the drug and alcohol testing program such as post-accident testing. This applies if one of the following occurs: (1) fatality, (2) driver is ticketed

and the vehicle has to be towed, or (3) driver is ticketed and someone is taken away in an ambulance. If your township participates in TOI's drug testing program, you should immediately call Midwest Truckers (217) 525-0310. This number is staffed 24 hours a day.

Risk management programs, such as TOIRMA, require a partnership amongst our staff and membership. The success of this two-way street is dependent upon the cooperation of all our members. Through risk management best practices, we can work together towards reducing injuries and property damage resulting from accidents that are preventable. This is everyone's responsibility and is impactful to our entire membership. Please do your part by making sure you are following the federal rules pertaining to drug and alcohol testing and be on the lookout for suspicious use by employees.

We hope you find this information helpful and thank you for your cooperation.

Please have a safe and healthy spring and summer.

As always, if you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me toll-free at (888) 562-7861 or by email at jdonelan@toirma.org.

Think Safe ... Drive Safe ... Work Safe



toirma.org



TOIRMA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Jim Donelan presenting the dividend check to Darrell Maxheimer, TOI Director and Highway Commissioner (Rochester Township, Sangamon County).

THE TOIRMA BOARD OF TRUSTEES voted again to issue a dividend to all eligible members. To be eligible, members must have been in the TOIRMA Program for the previous five consecutive years. This is the 29th consecutive year the Board of Trustees has declared a dividend to eligible members.

It pays to be a member of TOIRMA! TOIRMA is a self-funded intergovernmental pool established to provide coverages exclusively for Illinois townships that are members of the Township Officials of Illinois.

Public Act 89-150, approved July 14, 1995, provides that a dividend received from a Risk Management Program, such as TOIRMA, shall be used to reduce the costs of the future contributions, or if a substantial surplus exists, for the abatement of property taxes.

Officials across the state have been receiving their dividend checks. Member names will be published in the Township Perspective if the dividend check is not cashed by May 31, 2020.



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