



# TOIRMA Update

By Jim Donelan

TOIRMA Executive Director

## Risk Reminders

I AM WRITING THIS ARTICLE during the month of November and so far we've been fortunate enough to have experienced great weather this fall. As we move into December, winter, and the turning of the calendar to the new year, I hope we can continue to make this statement. I know some of you may like that white stuff that falls from the sky (snow, there I said it), but to me it causes headaches for highway commissioners and unfortunately an increase in claims. However optimistic the desire that the snow will stay away, it is most likely unavoidable, so we must be prepared. Whether it's planning for the snow season, or working in the shop or township office, township officials and employees need to be ready and involved in keeping the work environment safe.

In order to have an effective risk management program such as TOIRMA, an organization must have vibrant, proactive loss control efforts. I'm proud to say

that TOIRMA has just that in our loss control program. Matt Knight, Sean Richardson, and the rest of the TOIRMA Team take this on as a personal responsibility to our membership and the health of the TOIRMA Program.

Recently, TOIRMA began offering *Risk Reminders* to our membership. These single-page *Reminders* are designed to address safety in the workplace in an easy-to-read concise format. Each document focuses on a particular area of safety. For example, there is a *Risk Reminder* which provides a *Snow Plow Safety Checklist*. Other topics include: *Choosing and Using Work Shoes*, *Compressed Air Hazards*, *Dangers of Static Electricity*, *Eye Protection*, *Fire Safety*, *Reference Guide on Glove Type*, *Hearing Protection*, *Ladder Safety*, *Personal Protective Equipment*, and many others.

The *Reminders* may be found online on the TOIRMA website, [www.toirma.org](http://www.toirma.org), on our Loss Control Toolbox page. *Reminders* may also be printed and provided to employees or posted in township buildings. We presently have over 100 *Reminders* available and will continually be adding more.

We hope you will find the *Risk Reminders* a helpful tool in assisting you in keeping your workplace and employees safe.

Thank you for your assistance. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year!

As always, if you have questions, please feel free to contact me toll-free at (888) 562-7891 or by email at [jdonelan@toirma.org](mailto:jdonelan@toirma.org).





TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS RISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

## RISK REMINDER

PARTNERING WITH TOWNSHIPS

---

Snow Plow



Safety Checklist

With Winter here, the following checklist may be of help when your Township/Road District begins plowing streets and removing snow and ice. Inspect all trucks and plows, immediately before and after each use, and document the inspections. Be sure to include the following:

1. All lights and signals	8. Plow bolt
2. Tires	9. Cutting edges
3. Brakes	10. Back-up alarm
4. Windshield wipers	11. Horn
5. Fluid levels	12. Mirrors
6. 2-way radio	13. Heater/defroster
7. Spreader/spinner	14. First aid kit

Be familiar with the route: If possible, each driver should travel the planned snow route in good weather to become familiar with physical hazards or conditions which could cause an accident or property damage during actual snow and ice removal. Some of the conditions to look for include the following:

- Uneven road surfaces (manhole covers, construction, medians, curbs, brick streets)
- Mail boxes, fences, parked cars
- Limited visibility in intersections
- Adequate clearance (viaducts, narrow streets, low hanging limbs and wires), especially when running with the bed up.

Other Important Safety Factors to Remember

- Be Aware of areas on your route where there may be children playing in deep snow.
- Watch for pedestrians walking in or near the street.
- Never drive when drowsy, sick, or after consumption of alcohol. (Zero tolerance is the best policy).
- Remember defensive driving techniques, including proper following distance.
- Don't back up, unless absolutely necessary. Backing is the greatest cause of vehicle accidents.

For more information, contact your Loss Control Consultant at 800-252-5059, ext. 1387 or 1384.

### PIERCE PATCHER



- 1 MAN OPERATION
- LAYS DOWN GRAVEL & HOT OR COLD MIX
- LOWEST PRICE IN INDUSTRY
- BOLTS ON IN 10 MIN.
- BUILT BY A COMMISSIONER FOR COMMISSIONERS

SEE OUR VIDEO ON FACEBOOK - PIERCE PRODUCTS, LLC  
CONTACT : NORM PIERCE 815-222-7786  
[pierceprod@yahoo.com](mailto:pierceprod@yahoo.com)