

Fire Extinguisher Inspections

Monthly fire extinguisher inspections are key for safety and required by Maine Department of Labor (MDOL). Finding missing documentation of a fire extinguisher visual inspection is one of the most frequent hazards MMA's Risk Management Services Loss Control Team finds when conducting properties surveys. The lack of documentation for monthly visual fire extinguisher inspections could result in a citation and even possibly a fine from the MDOL during a facility assessment. Such inspections are critical to ensure that fire



extinguishers are available, accessible, and functioning properly. OSHA standard 29 CFR 1910.157(a)(2) requires a monthly visual inspection of all fire extinguishers, to verify that the appropriate type of extinguisher is available for the workplace, and that they are accessible, and functioning. Monthly, visual fire extinguisher inspections are quick and easy for trained employees and is a simple check that may avoid fines, citations and potentially save lives and property in the event of a fire.



FRAUD ALERT

We have been receiving numerous reports of fraudulent activities related to bank account change requests. If you receive a request to edit or update banking information from anyone, including employees, vendors, or contractors, please stop and review your entity's policies before proceeding. As public-facing entities, much of our information is accessible to the public. This makes it easy for bad actors to identify who works for your entity and their positions. They can also see bid requests and awards, making it easy for them to send emails that appear to be from legitimate contractors. If you are not careful, you could fall into their trap. Therefore, it is crucial to have proper communication arrangements in place to verify any requests. Use a designated phone number to verify the request and do not reply directly to the email. Recently, several members have been spoofed. Spoofing involves using fake emails, display names, phone numbers, or web addresses to trick people into believing they are communicating with a trusted source. This has led to unauthorized changes in employee or vendor banking information. Therefore, it is critically important to verbally confirm the request or use multifactor authentication before making any changes.

Grant Deadline Sept 15th

Risk Management Services Property & Casualty Pool is now accepting submissions for the 2024 Risk Reduction Grant Program. The application can be found on our website at:

<https://www.memun.org/Risk-Management/Grants-Scholarships/Risk-Reduction-Grant>

We strongly encourage submission in electronic format. The deadline is approaching, all applications must be received no later than September 15th. If you have any questions, please contact Loss Control at:

safetygrants@memun.org

This issue:

- ❖ Fire Extinguisher Inspections
- ❖ Fraud Alert
- ❖ Grant for Property & Casualty Pool
- ❖ Trauma Training

Resiliency Training for First Responders

The Maine Municipal Association Workers' Compensation Fund (WC Fund) is holding an 8-hour interactive course designed to explore the physiological and psychological impacts of exposure to traumatic events and chronic stress among first responders. This dynamic training is offered at no charge to Members of the WC Fund and will be held on September 9, 2024, in Augusta at MMA 60 Community Drive. By addressing the stigma surrounding mental health issues and emphasizing the neurobiological basis of common psychological challenges, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the importance of mental health care and support services. Personal resilience will be explored through eight separate but interconnected areas of life.



Customized resiliency plans will be developed by each attendee to allow them to gain control of and strengthen each area. For more information on this training as well as upcoming events email: rmslosscontrol@memun.org

Program Highlights:

- 8-Hour Interactive Course
- Focus on First Responders
- Physiological and Psychological Impacts of Trauma
- Neurobiological Basis of Psychological Challenges
- Emphasis on Reducing Stigma
- Normalizing Mental Health Care
- Explore Eight Areas of Personal Resilience
- Build Customized Resiliency Plans
- Promote Better Health and Relationships
- Suicide Prevention
- Lived Experiences
- Relatable scenarios
- Group discussions

Continuing Education approved for 8 hours. .