



County Connection

News from the Washington Counties Risk Pool

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Jill Lowe

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What's New at the Pool?

Dust Off the Lederhosen!!

It feels like the Fall Conference at the Alderbrook Resort was just yesterday. It's hard to believe, but the WCRP is already gearing up for the 2018 Spring Conference at the Enzian Inn in Leavenworth, WA, Tuesday, March 27th – Thursday, March 29th.

We would like to take the opportunity to remind you to call the Enzian Inn at: (800) 223 – 8511, to reserve a room during your stay. The rooming cutoff date is: **February 26th, 2018**, after which, rooms will be released to the public. We also ask that you visit the [WCRP Website](#) and sign up for the conference and the respective events you plan on attending.

Please see below for additional information related to the 2018 Spring Conference:

- Breakfast will be served in the main restaurant area, starting at 7:00 am and ending at 8:30 am.
- Those not lodging at the hotel are also welcome to enjoy the delightful breakfast and the Alpen Horn performance at 8:15 am every morning, which can be viewed from the main restaurant. Simply mention to the receptionist that you are with the Washington Counties Risk Pool.
- We also ask that you please note that dinner will be on your own on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Another great morning Roundtable is planned for Wednesday, March 28th, with the General Session starting at 8:30 am sharp! Breakout sessions will follow, along with lunch back upstairs and the Board of Directors' Meeting beginning at 2:00 pm. Remember, this is all taking place on Wednesday, with the Board Meeting concluding on Thursday morning.



Cort Campbell Accepted to Pool Leadership Program

In collaboration with 8 other risk pools in Washington, the WCRP is excited to be part of the *Risk Pool Leadership Development Program*. This fantastic program creates opportunities for staff members of the various participating risk pools to participate in educational pooling webinars, team projects, and hands-on learning and sharing with other pools, in order to prepare pool staff members for future excellence in pooling.

We are pleased to say that WCRP's own Cort Campbell had applied and was accepted to this year's Program! Cort takes his future in pooling very seriously and it shows in the work that he does and in his interest in participating in this exceptional program.

Congratulations, Cort, and good luck!!

WCRP Still Recruiting for Sr. Claims Analyst

The WCRP continues its efforts to find the perfect candidate for its Senior Claims Analyst vacancy. If you know any experienced claims professionals, please direct them to the [job postings](#) page of our website.

We will keep you updated on the recruitment process.



Claims and Risk Management News Impacting WCRP Members

New Sick Leave Law Revisited

In earlier editions of the County Connection, we mentioned that Labor & Industries' new paid sick leave law became effective on January 1. Attorney Elizabeth McIntyre of Law, Lyman, Daniel, Kamerrer & Bogdanovich has written a summary of the new requirement. Visit the WCRP Sample Library to read the [Summary](#) and to make sure your policy meets the intent of the new law.

Have a Drone? Have a Policy.

At the Summer Conference in Walla Walla, we addressed drones during the lunchtime session. We passed out our [Drone Flowchart](#) and promised to get a simple and easy to implement [Sample Drone Policy](#) made available to you.

Remember, it's technically called an Unmanned Ariel System (UAS), so be careful not to throw the word "drone" around when making things official, but for purposes of communicating with you, we still like to say drone.

The Standard Tort Claim Form...Don't Wait

A trip and fall occurred on county property about a month ago and the county just today received a Standard Tort Claim Form from the claimant, or their attorney. When the county sends it to the Pool we ask if there are any photos, diagrams, witnesses, or statements taken since the incident. The answer is no and when we ask why, we hear, "We hadn't gotten the Standard Tort Claim Form yet, so we couldn't do anything until we received it."

Remember, a claim is a claim is a claim and what happens immediately following, or in the weeks following, can have a major impact on the outcome of the claim. The Standard Tort Claim Form is a form a claimant, or better yet, a plaintiff, must complete and submit before they can file a lawsuit against the county. In fact, they have to wait 60 days after submitting the Tort Claim Form before they can file their lawsuit. If they don't, guess what happens? Their lawsuit is dismissed and they have to go through the correct procedure. But the claim will come back.

Of course, it's always good to ask a claimant to submit a Tort Claim Form for many reasons, not the least of which is to secure their initial version of what happened. However, the county and the Pool are certainly not bound by the Tort Claim Form when investigating, evaluating, and even settling a claim and should not let the form dictate next steps. That same trip and fall should have been dealt with swiftly, to include immediate scene photos, measurements, diagrams, and identification of witnesses. Every incident, should be treated as if the form is eventually coming, because what happens in those initial days or weeks can save thousands, even hundreds of thousands, down the road.

Jail Medical (Minimum!) Limits

We'll be talking about contracting quite a bit in future issues, but let's start with something basic. We're frequently asked the amount and type of coverage jail medical contractors should be providing. If the county contracts with a medical doctor or medical staff, the contractor should be required to provide the following minimum levels and types of coverage:

- \$1 M Medical Malpractice
- \$3 M Errors and Omissions
- \$1 M General Liability
- \$1 M Automobile

In addition to adequate coverage, counties should ensure that mutual indemnity language is included in all contracts. The WCRP feels strongly that counties should not be assuming the liability of another party, but that the risk should be contractually transferred. Indemnity language that holds the county harmless, names the county as an additional insured, and is primary and non-contributory, is important in protecting both the county and WCRP.

If you have any questions, please contact Jill Lowe at 360-292-4492 or jill@wcrp.wa.gov.

What's Coming Up?

Training:

Advanced Anti-Harassment Training for Managers

March 13 - Columbia County

Management & Supervisory 101

May 23 & 24 - Benton County

Management & Supervisory 201

May 30 & 31 - Spokane County

June 13 & 14 - Skamania County

Managing 365

April 18 - San Juan County

Verbal S.W.A.T

April 11 - Spokane County

May 10 - Yakima County

August 2 - Cowlitz County

Scholarship:

Public Risk Management Association (PRIMA) 2018 Annual Conference, Indianapolis, IN

June 3-6, 2018

Conferences:

WCRP 2018 Spring Conference/Board of Directors' Meeting - March 27 - 29, 2018
Leavenworth, WA - The Enzian Inn

WCRP 2018 Summer Conference/Board of Directors' Meeting - July 18 - 20, 2018
Yakima, WA - Yakima Convention Center

WCRP 2018 Fall Conference/Board of Directors' Meeting - November 28 - 30, 2018
Stevenson, WA - Skamania Lodge

WCRP 2019 Spring Conference/Board of Directors' Meeting - March 20 - 22, 2019
Kennewick, WA - Three Rivers Convention Center

Meetings:

Risk Management Committee Meeting February 16, 2018
WCRP Office, Tumwater, WA

Executive Committee Meeting March 16, 2018
Radisson Hotel Seattle Airport, SeaTac, WA

Finance Committee Meeting March 27, 2018 (2:00 pm - 5:00 pm)
The Enzian Inn, Leavenworth, WA

Board of Directors' Meeting March 28 - 29, 2018
The Enzian Inn, Leavenworth, WA

Investment Committee Meeting March 29, 2018 (7:30 am - 8:30 am)
The Enzian Inn, Leavenworth, WA



Washington Counties Risk Pool
Created by Counties for Counties

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