



County Connection

News from the Washington Counties Risk Pool

September/October 2014

POOL NEWS

WCRP Autumn Conference

The Washington Counties Risk Pool Autumn Conference and Board Meeting are scheduled for November 13-14, 2014 at The Hilton in Vancouver, WA. The agenda includes workshops for attendees on *Understanding Property Appraisal Reports* and the *Email, Risk, Liability and Retention* Course. (For more information on the Email course, see page 3 of this newsletter.)

Business meeting items that are expected to be addressed include the sharing of results from the recent Member Satisfaction Survey, a review of the WCRP Strategic Management Plan and a Scoping Worksession regarding the recruitment and selection of a new WCRP Executive Director, in addition to reports from the Pool's independent consultants, committees, leadership and management staff. We look forward to seeing many of you in Vancouver!

WCRP Directors Departing the Pool

Four WCRP Directors will be leaving the Pool as they chose not to seek re-election and will leave their respective offices at the end of the year. We thank Commissioners Dean Burton (Garfield County), F. Lee Grose (Lewis County), Herb Welch (Grays Harbor County) and Prosecuting Attorney James Hagarty (Yakima County) and for their work and dedication to the Pool. For information regarding any reception plans, please contact their respective offices.

WCRP Office Assistant

The Risk Pool is currently in the process of recruiting and hiring a new part-time Office Assistant. Debbie Larsen recently left the Pool for a full-time position in the banking industry. We wish her the best and thank Debbie for her service.



SAVE THE DATE!

Spring Conference and Board Meeting
March 25-27, 2015, Semiahmoo Resort (Blaine, WA)

Michael Bazzell Presents: Protecting Your Organization from Computer Crime
April 22, 2015 (Burien, WA)

**WCRP BOARD MEMBER
SPOTLIGHT**
Featuring David Alvarez



David Alvarez is the Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Jefferson County. He has worked for the county for 15 years. David is Jefferson County's WCRP Alternate Director.

What drew you to your current career? I have had a long time interest in politics and governance, since childhood. Working in the public sector with the opportunity to give advice and help in a small way steer the ship of state toward good decisions is what interests me.

Description of Family: Married almost 16 years; no kids.

Where did you grow up? In suburbia, about 15 miles northwest of New York City in Bergen County, New Jersey.

Where do you live? My entire land holdings are 1/5th of an acre in the City of Port Townsend upon which sits a very nice house.

What do you like to do when you aren't working for the county? Biking, baseball history, trips to Europe and maintaining my fatalistic devotion to the New York Mets.

Have you taken any major trips during the last five years? We went to London, UK twice in the span of about 13 months. You know you need to pick a new vacation destination when you spend an entire afternoon at the Florence Nightingale Museum.

Do you have pets or farm animals? Allergies force me to say "ixnay" to any pets.

What is unique about you? My mother-in-law introduced me to my wife through a nationwide singles group called Single Booklovers. She was sure my wife and I were meant for each other because as she told me in her initial letter to me, my wife and I are a) about the same age and b) about the same height and c) my prospective wife would be willing to move again. I was sold! As a topper, we communicated by postal mail and email for six months before meeting face-to-face; and here we are 16 years later.

Would you be willing to share an embarrassing moment? Ask me sometime how I earned the nickname "Flipper." Enough said.

**WCRP Officers/Executive
Committee**

Py 2015 President
Andrew Woods, Columbia County

Py 2015 Vice-President
Lisa Young, Kittitas County

Py 2015 Secretary/Treasurer
Keith Goehner, Chelan County

Other Members

Bryan Perry, Benton County
Clyde Carpenter, Cowlitz County
Thad Duvall, Douglas County
Robert E. Koch, Franklin County
David Alvarez, Jefferson County
Lisa Ayers, Pacific County
Steve Bartel, Spokane County
Tammy Devlin, Thurston County

Risk Pool Staff

Administration

Vyrle Hill, Executive Director
Sue Colbo, Accounting Officer
Stacey Spears, Administrative Asst.
Vacant, Office Assistant

Claims

Susan Looker, Manager
Mike Cook, Senior Analyst
Joe Campeau, Senior Analyst
Holly Fierro, Analyst
Lisa McMeekin, Representative
Jeri Woods, Assistant

Member Services

David Goldsmith, Specialty Services
Jill Lowe, Loss Control

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or if you have a story or photos to
share, contact us:
stacey@wcrp.wa.gov*

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COUNTIES
RISK POOL**

Created by Counties for Counties

www.wcrp.info



Jill Lowe, *Loss Control Coordinator*



TRAINING NEWS

I've started watching how many times I actually pick up my phone to call someone. I don't do it as often as I should. We're all busy and email is so easy. But is communicating via email really all that efficient and easy? Well, yes. BUT there are plenty of times when we just need to pick up the phone. And there are literally hundreds, maybe thousands of times per year when we should resist the urge to hit "send," "reply," oh and heck yes... "reply all."

The Pool is offering workshops in Spring 2015 titled ***Email Risk, Liability and Retention***. The workshops are being hosted in the following seven (7) locations/dates:

- Mason County Wednesday, March 4
- Lewis County Wednesday, March 11
- Spokane County Tuesday, March 17
- Chelan County Wednesday, March 18
- Benton County Tuesday, March 31
- Kittitas County Wednesday, April 1
- Skagit County Tuesday, April 7

When should you pick up the phone, what should you include in the subject line, could your email become part of a county lawsuit and how much have some public entities paid because someone like you or I simply hit "reply all?" Register at www.wcrp.info to find out the answers and much more.

Also coming in Spring 2015 are the Management & Supervisory workshops listed below. This 2-day class is always in demand! See the Pool's website for further information on this popular class.

- Jefferson County April 2-3
- Skagit County April 14-15
- Benton County April 28-29

Our classes and webinars do not have a registration fee for member county attendees! For more information or to register for a class, see the WCRP webpage at www.wcrp.info and click on the Training tab. Class descriptions can be found under the More Information link. Registration is quick and easy, just click on the registration link and fill out a short form.



COUNTY NEWS



The Garfield County Sheriff's Office hosted a taco bar for Sheriff Keller on October 16th in honor of Boss's Day.



Skamania County's Annual Pumpkin Patch Event.

Can You Text 9-1-1?

From the Cowlitz S.A.F.E. Newsletter, Volume 1, Issue 1

The short answer is "not yet"... On May 15th, phone carriers were required to be ready to allow their consumers to text 9-1-1 for emergencies.

But what is really important about this statement is the fact that even though the "carriers are ready," that is only half of the equation necessary to make the text-to-911 services fully ready.

Government-owned infrastructure **must also be prepared** to take SMS messages and be able to process them in a way that gives emergency communications centers the information necessary to act on the text message.

In Washington State, to date, there are no PSAP's with equipment installed and successfully tested to accept text to 9-1-1. If a cellular subscriber sends a text message to 9-1-1 they will get a bounce back message that says "For emergency only. CALL 9-1-1. Public Safety in this area does not support text service at this time."

King County is currently testing the functionality in coordination with the State 911 Office and phone vendors to determine the precise design that will function properly with the 9-1-1 phone network and PSAP phone equipment.

As soon as a solution is identified by the state and this service is functioning at the Cowlitz County 9-1-1 Center, they will notify the media and educate the public on the service. Currently, if you send a text to 9-1-1 in an area that is not capable, you will receive a bounce-back message from the carrier that will let you know that your text message was not received by a 9-1-1 Agency.

And while dispatchers appreciate the situations in which text would be useful (if the caller cannot use their voice), you will always hear them say that "Voice is the Choice" and most preferred method of sharing information. This is because they can confirm your location and gather information much more quickly from a voice caller. Consider for a minute what most of your text messages look like and how often there are seconds-long drag between your information-sharing with friends.

When "every second counts" in an emergency, dispatchers want to be sure that they can effectively and efficiently dispatch the emergency services that you need to respond to your call.