

# MPR MESSENGER



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## Introducing Lexipol

MPR is pleased to announce the introduction of the Lexipol service for our law enforcement agencies in 2011. If you were at our 2010 Fall Conference, you were likely exposed to Gordon Graham as one of our keynote speakers addressing risk management for law enforcement. If you were not there, you missed a very insightful, practical and entertaining message.

In recent years, Mr. Graham and Lexipol, a risk management resource organization for law enforcement, have joined forces to provide an effective approach to aid law enforcement agencies in reducing, if not eliminating, many of their liability exposures. The cornerstones to preventing liability losses are effective policies, training and practices.

The program for MPR Members has been approved by the Board of Directors and is currently under development. It should be ready for implementation by this Fall. When complete, the program will include policy development of more than 140 policies by Lexipol attorneys for Missouri agencies.

Before final approval, a Missouri Peer Review Group comprised of representatives of police and sheriff departments will endorse each policy.

Lexipol program features also include:

- \* **Staying Current:** Lexipol's team will monitor legislative and court activity in Missouri and update policies and training bulletins as warranted.
- \* **Training:** The final component of this program is the daily training bulletins. Each officer will receive a daily training bulletin related to a policy which includes a short quiz, all of which will be taken online. By taking and passing the quiz, the officer demonstrates his/her competency of the subject matter every day, and it is electronically recorded. Effective policies plus documented on-point training results in practices that should greatly reduce our participating departments' liability exposure. As Mr. Graham likes to say, "Predictable is Preventable".

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## New Law

### MO Public Entities **DO NOT** Have to Bid Insurance

Senate Bill 57 which was originally drafted by our pool, has been agreed to and finally passed. This bill specifies that units of local government who self-insure through public entity pools (like Midwest Public Risk) are not required to solicit competitive bids when procuring insurance coverage. Restated, this new law removes all the ambiguity as to whether or not pool members have to bid. Though members can always bid their coverage if they desire, Senate Bill 57 clarifies that they are no longer required to do so.

This initiative was three years in the making and marks the second time in five years MPR has proposed and secured legislation which helps units of local government. This bill now awaits the Governor's signature.



For More Information, visit [www.mprisk.org](http://www.mprisk.org)

# MPR Campus Training Calendar

The following training events are scheduled at the new MPR Campus Training Center. Details, including registration information, can be found on our website at [www.mprisk.org](http://www.mprisk.org) as well as on our [facebook](#) page. Please look us up there!

**Wellness/Fitness Hours of Operation: M-W-F 7 am to 8 pm, T-Th 7 am to 6 pm, Saturday 8 am to 2 pm**

June 2nd: Harassment Prevention for Employees  
(10:00 am - 11:00 am)

June 2nd: How to Reduce Risk, Theft, Fraud & Vandalism Utilizing WeTip  
(1:00 pm - 2:30 pm)

June 8th: Professional Development Academy  
(9:00 am - 10:00 am)

June 22nd: MPR Board of Directors Meeting  
(10:00 am - 2:00 pm)

July 7th: Finance Advisory Committee (FAC)  
(10:00 am - 12:30 pm)

July 13th: Professional Development Academy  
(9:00 am - 10:00 am)

July 13th: Membership Services Advisory Committee  
(11:00 am - 1:00 pm)

July 14th: Trenching & Shoring Competent Person Training  
(8:00 am - 12:00 pm)

July 20th: Gordon Graham: Managing Risk in the Fire Service Profession  
(9:00 am - 3:00 pm)

July 21st: Gordon Graham: Managing Risk in the Law Enforcement Profession  
(9:00 am - 3:00 pm)

July 27th: Professional Development Academy  
(9:00 am - 4:30 pm)

Aug. 10th: Professional Development Academy  
(9:00 am - 10:30 am)

Training sessions are also available on MPR's webcast if you are unable to attend in person. To view, go to <http://www.livestream.com/mpriskorg>. If you don't already have a password, please contact Kelly Wright at [kellyw@mprisk.org](mailto:kellyw@mprisk.org) or (816) 292-7542

## Introducing Lexipol (continued)

The natural question many agencies are likely asking at this point is how much it will cost. If a Member's law enforcement agency is willing to make a two-year commitment to the Lexipol program, the MPR Board of Directors has authorized 100% of the funding for that two-year period. After two years, funding levels for the program will be evaluated. Another source of good news is that many agencies are currently looking at pursuing the new departmental accreditation through the Missouri Police Chiefs Association. That process will include the adoption of policies approved by the association, which would include Lexipol developed policies. That translates into MPR Members having the ability to waive that fee – a nice savings that can be allocated to other important expenditures.

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## Meet Gordon Graham



MPR will be offering a premier training event for our public safety personnel this summer. Gordon Graham will be presenting two training events in July at the MPR Campus. July 20<sup>th</sup> will feature topics for fire service professionals starting at 9:00 am and ending at 3:00 pm. July 21<sup>st</sup> will focus on topics of interest to law enforcement professionals, also starting at 9:00 am and ending at 3:00 pm. Details, including registration information, will be forwarded very soon. Please note these sessions will not be webcast, so you must attend in person.

Mr. Graham is a 33 year veteran of California Law Enforcement. He is a practicing attorney and a former Risk Manager for the California State Highway Patrol. He is recognized as a highly sought after professional speaker in both private and public sector organizations. He was a keynote presenter at the MPR 2010 Fall Conference, where he received rave reviews.

For More Information, visit [www.mprisk.org](http://www.mprisk.org)



## Messenger Profile: Ryan Hunt

In this edition of MPR Messenger, Ryan Hunt, who is the Director of Public Works for the City of Grain Valley, is being profiled.

Ryan has been involved with MPR for several years. First, Ryan served on the Safety Committee while working for the City of Blue Springs. Next, while employed by the City of Greenwood, Ryan pushed the city to come on board with MPR. Ryan's current involvement with MPR is through his employment with the City of Grain Valley.

Raised in Oak Grove, MO, Ryan is the youngest of three children born to Carl and Alicia Hunt. His father works as the Chaplain for Oak Grove and Blue Springs police departments. His mother is retired.

After graduating from high school, Ryan worked as a diesel mechanic, and had a history as a "farm kid" from Oak Grove. In 2000, Mr. Hunt starting working for his local government in public works. Later, in 2002, the City of Blue Springs went through a police officer recruitment process in which Ryan was hired. While employed as an officer for the City of Blue Springs, Ryan also was an Accident Reconstructionist, a Field Training Officer and a member of the KC Metro Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). In 2006, due to an injury that resulted in reconstruction of his ankle, Ryan was medically retired as an officer. At this point, he decided to move forward with his love of public works and went to work as the Building Official, Director of Public Works, and later, City Administrator for the City of Greenwood. In 2009, Mr. Hunt went to work for the City of Grain Valley, where in 2010 he was appointed Director of Public Works.

What Ryan likes most about his career in Public Works is seeing the positive impact from his efforts. Ryan says there is nothing better than solving a problem, saving a project, or just helping people in his community. Mr. Hunt likes that his job allows him to do things for others that they cannot do themselves, and he thinks it is easy to lose sight of the positive impact we have every day. Ryan stated that he tries to approach each problem as if his family would be directly impacted by the results of his decisions.

Ryan is married to Julie Hunt, and together they raise their six-year old daughter, Ava and their Boston Terrier, Oliver.

### Five Questions with Ryan Hunt

1. **What is your biggest pet peeve?** I am very easy going and there are few things that get under my skin. Number one on that list though is the sense of entitlement in the workplace. I firmly believe that everyone needs to approach the workday with a value added attitude. Being a part of a team in the workplace is a privilege and not an entitlement.
2. **What is your most important lesson learned?** Being pushed outside of your comfort zone will drive you to excel. When I retired from police work in 2006, I felt as though my professional career was over. Looking back now, I see that while the change was uncomfortable, it pushed me to work harder in my career than I ever had.
3. **Who is the person you are most interested in meeting?** I love songwriting and writing poetry. Because of that, most of the people that I admire are musical artists. If I had to narrow it down to just one, I would love to meet country recording artist Brad Paisley.
4. **Three greatest passions?**
  - 1.) Spending time and creating memories with my wife and daughter, Ava.
  - 2.) Finding the "sparkle" in someone's eyes and encouraging them to be all they can be. When I worked for the City of Blue Springs, Fred Siems used to always say, "Ryan, you are a perfect example of an employee that is driven to move up in an organization". I remember that encouragement being so important to me. I never saw myself like Fred saw me, but his encouragement was critical to my professional development and gave me the confidence to take charge of my career.
  - 3.) I am passionate about our Missouri Maverick's Hockey Team. My wife, daughter and I love going to see the Mavs play at the Independence Events Center.
5. **Favorite vacation spot?** Anywhere in the ocean on a cruise ship, preferably in the Caribbean.

### **Note from the Director: Financial Advisory Committee (FAC)**

The Financial Advisory Committee is seeking individuals to participate on this committee. If you have someone who would be interested and take an active role, please contact Kristie Van Pelt at [kristie@mprisk.org](mailto:kristie@mprisk.org).

## 2011-2012 Loss Control Program Review

### Reminders...



As many of you know, the year-end reviews for compliance with the MPR Loss Control Program will be taking place soon. There were a number of new requirements in this year's program, AND we want to remind you of them so you will have time to address them. The changes are:

- \* Administration of a Modified Duty Program
- \* Annual Public Officials Liability training for elected and appointed officials
- \* Pre-litigation employment practice attorney consultations are to be documented for serious actions, including dismissals and discipline
- \* Participation in sponsored contract and risk transfer analysis
- \* Fall Conference attendance is now classified as an Essential Activity in the Loss Control Recognition Program
- \* Sewer maintenance staff participation in annual backup response training
- \* Third party insurance requirements for certificates of insurance and risk transfer practices



## Eating Fresh

Eating quality, fresh food can be a challenge. For many of us, our fruits and vegetables come from half way around the world and take weeks just to reach our supermarket shelves. This is not only harmful to the environment, but it also compromises the quality of the fruits and vegetables we are eating.

Luckily, there are alternatives to supermarket produce and meats, and you don't necessarily have to have your own garden to get it.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a wonderful way to get local, seasonally grown produce from a nearby farmer. Here's how it works: a farmer offers a certain number of "shares" to the public. Typically the share consists of a box of vegetables, but other farm products may be included. Interested consumers purchase a share (aka a "membership" or a "subscription") and in return receive a box (bag, basket) of seasonal produce each week throughout the farming season. You will benefit by receiving ultra fresh produce that has plentiful vitamins and flavor; you will establish a relationship with the farmer who grows your food and learn more about how the food is grown; you have the opportunity to visit the farm; and you get exposed to new vegetables and cooking.

Farmers' Markets are a group of farmers that usually meet twice a week to sell meats, produce and other items. This is another great way to meet the farmer who grows your food and to get the most flavorful, seasonal produce in your area.

Eating local doesn't have to be hard; by going to [www.localharvest.org](http://www.localharvest.org), you can find real food grown by the farmers in your area. You can search for an online store, farms, CSA's, Farmers' Markets, restaurants, grocery/co-op, wholesale and meat processors in your area by entering your zip code.

## *Pool Joins Independence Chamber of Commerce...*

Midwest Public Risk joined the **Independence Chamber of Commerce** in an effort to partner with local businesses and professionals in the community. We will be hosting a **Business Before Hours** for chamber members on **Thursday, July 14th** from 8-9 a.m. We invite all MPR Members to join us in showcasing our organization to the Independence Chamber! Watch for more information later.

## **MPR Recognized by National Crime Reporting Organization**

WeTip, MPR's partner to help Member employees and the public anonymously report illegal acts, recently held their 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Ontario, California. Each year, WeTip presents awards to members and supporters in more than twenty different categories. This year, MPR was selected for the 2011 National Award for Insurance Excellence. Dan Mayfield, WeTip President, noted the recent growth of MPR and the utilization of WeTip during this expansion as an important program used by our Members to control losses. He also stressed the partnership between MPR and WeTip, noting their role in providing training for MPR Members. Please note WeTip staff will be conducting training for our Members at our Campus June 2nd and again at our Fall Conference in October.



## PPO Step Therapy Program

Midwest Public Risk encourages the use of generic medications over the higher cost brand name drugs. For the last four years, we have offered MedTrak's Generic Copay Waiver Program which allows a patient who switches from a brand name drug to a lower cost generic to receive six months of the generic medication free. In addition, MPR participates in ScriptChoice, a patient education program designed to identify those opportunities for cost savings to both the Member and the plan. MPR Members have been successful in getting the generic dispensing rate to 78%.

In 2009, MPR initiated Step Therapy Programs in seven different classifications to further increase usage of generics and lower costing brands. The program requires members to try a Step One drug prior to getting a Step Two drug. For each switch from a high cost brand name (Step Two) drug, the potential savings is estimated at \$1,000 per year. In 2009 MPR grandfathered all those members who had

filled a Step Two product within the last 120 days and implemented it only for new therapies. Therefore, while some savings were obtained from that change, it's now time to encourage those members still using higher costing brands to use generics in those therapeutic classes when available.

The average approved price for a 30 day supply of a brand name drug (Step Two) is \$126.00, while the average cost of a generic drug (Step One) is only \$19.22. Brand name drugs are dispensed 20% of the time but account for almost 80% of MPR's total prescription cost.

**Step Therapy Programs involve the following drug classifications:**

- \* Antidepressants
- \* Proton Pump Inhibitors
- \* Anti-Hypertensives
- \* Anti-Arthritics
- \* Lipid Lowering Agents
- \* Sedative Hypnotics
- \* Nasal Steroids
- \* Bisphosphonates

### Examples:

- \* Patient must try generic Ambien before Ambien CR.
- \* Patient must try a generic of Zocor, Pravachol or Mevacor before Lipitor.
- \* Patient must try generic Prilosec, PrilosecOTC, or generic Protonix before Nexium or Aciphex.

**Effective July 1, 2011, Step Therapy will apply to all of these drug classifications. PPO participants currently taking a Step Two medication were recently sent a letter giving them 60 days notice that Step Therapy now applies. Their doctor must provide sufficient documentation that they have tried and failed a Step One medication before they can continue on the Step Two drug or they will have to switch.**

## Loss Control/Wellness Credit Information

The Wellness and Loss Control programs are key components of success in the Employee Benefits, Property & Liability and Workers' Compensation programs. **These programs directly affect keeping costs and utilization down.** Our Members currently have the following balances available in these programs:

Wellness	\$228,162
Property & Liability	\$209,978
Workers' Compensation	\$690,121

The goal of these programs is to **reduce the number of accidents and illnesses for our members.** These funds can only help if they are used! Qualified Loss Control and Wellness expenses are listed on the forms on our website at:



### [Loss Control Credit Reimbursement](#) and [Wellness Credit Reimbursement Forms.](#)

Submission of expense reimbursements in a timely fashion greatly enhances the process – please submit expenses in the current fiscal year. Include completed forms with copies of paid receipts. We make every effort to turn these around weekly, and proper documentation helps with this process.

If you have questions about balances, please contact a member of the Risk Management staff or Dr. Rice.

## MPR Staff & BAC Representatives Attend SALGBA Conference



The State and Local Government Benefits Association (SALGBA) is the premier organization for public sector benefits professionals and has more than 150 local jurisdictions and over 375 members in 48 states. Total membership includes both jurisdictional and associate members who cover more than 5,000,000 employees and represent a gross health benefits expenditure of over \$14 billion per year. Among the active membership are some of the largest self funded health plans in the United States. SALGBA is the only association focused only on public sector benefits professionals. The organization distributes information on the latest resources, news, conferences, education and networking opportunities for municipal, county, school, and state government benefits administrators and health promotion professionals.

MPR sent two staff members and five Benefits Advisory Committee members to attend the 2011 SALGBA National conference. Jamma Markus of Miami County, Kansas found the sessions very informative and learned valuable insights into the different aspects of government benefits. In one session, Jamma learned

“the health care reform act places new requirements onto public sector health plans. Once the health insurance exchanges are implemented, they could offer competition to public employer health plans. In 2018, the 40% excise tax on health plans that cost above a certain threshold will be implemented. This could discourage employers from offering coverage worth more than the market “norm” and possibly trigger a longer term trend of trimming employer offered coverage to match taxes and exchanges.”

Jamma also attended the “Navigating the Pension Shoals” session since KPERs (Kansas Public Employees Retirement System) is looking at making changes to the pension program due to projected shortfalls in the future. Public employee benefits seems to be the first area many people think of as bankrupting the states but in reality, less than 4% of state budgets are spent on pension benefits. Many states are considering closing defined benefit plans and moving to a defined contribution plan as a way to save money.

Robin Littrell of Riverside, Missouri found the room full of vendors from all over the United States amazing. She learned there are many options for wellness, health, retirement, life, dental, vision, and hearing benefits. Robin gathered valuable information from the panel discussion on “Innovation: New and Current Practices in State and Local Government Employee Healthcare” in which a representative from

the State of Indiana gave details of incentives and programs they have implemented. She thinks wellness programs and the importance of educating employees and families, along with incentivizing such programs is where most health benefits are turning for cost savings in the future. Another breakout session Robin attended was “Cost Containment Tools for Tough times” where the most important topic discussed was how important it is to have a 100% Claims Review. Numbers show that 90% of errors are missed if a 100% review is not done. The presenter also pointed out that your benefits administrator contract should have a zero errors requirement, which holds them accountable for what they are supposed to be doing.

In addition to the national and regional conference offerings, the Board of Directors SALGBA created a professional development program that recognizes the achievement of being a highly trained and experienced benefits administrator in the public sector. The committee developed, and the Board approved, a set of Guidelines and Procedures to be used in administering the SALGBA Certified Government Benefits Administrator (CGBA) Program. The CGBA program serves as a benchmark in the pursuit of excellence in public sector benefits management, professional development and continuing education. You can visit their website at [www.salgba.com](http://www.salgba.com).

## MPR Garden Day 2011

On Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>, MPR hosted a raised bed garden class at the campus. Brooke Salvaggio, a local organic farmer and owner of BadSeed Market and Farm ([www.badseedkc.com](http://www.badseedkc.com)), taught a two hour class on the basics of planting, tending and harvesting your own garden in 8ft by 4ft raised beds. A wealth of knowledge was expressed by Brooke, and her true passion for her plants and food was felt by all.

Jason McMahon and Brooks Rice built three of the gardening beds in less than one hour. One bed cost approximately \$58 for the wood, brackets, and organic composted soil. Seeds and transplanted vegetables cost approximately \$25 more.

For less than \$85, you can have a well producing organic garden that is small enough not to overwhelm you but large enough to produce enough vegetables for the family for the whole summer.

It is the intention of the MPR staff to maintain the garden as part of the staff's wellness agenda. The produce will be distributed amongst staff and any unused produce will be offered to Members. The MPR staff hopes to bring awareness to the need for healthy food. Please follow the chronicles of the MPR Garden on the MPR facebook page throughout the summer.



## Why offer MPR Humana Group Medicare Employer PPO Plan to Retirees?



With medical costs rising and the American baby-boomer population aging rapidly, your employees who want to retire face a tough challenge. Many continue to work only to pay for their health insurance.

**The answer is in your hands.....**

### MPR's Humana Group Medicare Employer PPO "Advantage" plan is:

Simpler -- and often less costly

Secondary and pharmacy coverage is folded into a single plan. With a single plan, administration is less complex. Retirees deal with only one plan, doing away with duplicate Explanation of Benefits and the need to contact or understand two or three separate plans.

Includes extra value added services such as discounts for dental, vision and hearing aids, fitness programs and personalized health claims statements

Through consolidation of plans, Humana can better identify members for clinical programs designed to improve medical outcomes and keep them healthier

**Medicare is a complex subject and your Medicare eligible retirees may think Humana's plan is "too good to be true."** But understanding this product is worth their time, because it can deliver the simple, cost-effective solution their needs. You can help be the problem-solver. For example, in Missouri, the monthly cost is currently \$64.00. (Retirees continue to pay Part B premium also.)

*Here are just a few of the reasons your employees contemplating retirement and former retirees can benefit from Humana coverage:*

### Humana Experience & Services

Humana offered their first Medicare plan in 1985 so they have a longstanding relationship with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). They remained a major Medicare insurer after the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, when many other insurers backed away from Medicare Advantage plans.

Today, "Medicare Advantage" and Part D programs are among the most critical and rapidly growing parts of Humana's business, behind which lays a major corporate commitment to be and remain the best and most trusted provider of senior health insurance products.

Wellness services include Humana Active Outlook® – an exclusive life-enrichment program that focuses on body fitness, nutrition, exercise, motivation, care-giving, and an overall healthful lifestyle – as well as programs focused on fitness and tobacco cessation.

HumanaFirst® Nurse Advice Line provides toll-free, 24-hour assistance for members with general questions about their health.

User-friendly guidance like SmartSummary® – Humana's proprietary health finance and benefits statement – helps members use their benefits with confidence and success.

Humana offers local PPOs in 136 Markets and Puerto Rico (over 1,680 counties) and regional PPOs in 23 states

### What's in it for you?

A potential for appreciable annual savings and reduced FASB and GASB liability

You can help those long-term employees who committed so many years to your organization

If a packet is needed, please email Joan Wilson at [joan@mprisk.org](mailto:joan@mprisk.org). Just a note, MPR staff cannot quote benefits as we're not CMS certified. Complete information can be obtained by directing them to call 1-800-824-8242 and identifying themselves as a Medicare eligible (or future Medicare eligible) retiree. They will need to mention "Midwest Public Risk" when they call.

Check out this informative video at: [http://www.staysmartstayhealthy.com/medicare\\_advantage](http://www.staysmartstayhealthy.com/medicare_advantage)



## Messenger Profile: Nancy Weitzel-Burry



In this edition of the MPR Messenger, we are highlighting Nancy Weitzel-Burry, who is the Human Resources Director for Mid-America Regional Council. Nancy's involvement with Midwest Public Risk includes Employee Practices Advisory Committee's (EPAC) past Chair position, along with attendance to MPR board meetings.

Raised in Minnesota, Nancy was one of four children born to Josephine and Ralph Weitzel, who are still part-time residents of Minnesota. Nancy's siblings include Patricia, Beverly and Barbara.

Upon graduating from high school, Nancy attended the University of Minnesota - Saint Cloud State affiliate. She also attended Universidad de Valencia - Spain (University of Valencia). While attending college, Nancy was on the board of the International Students' Association.

After college, Nancy worked in patient accounts at a hospital in Columbus, OH, then took a job as a patient accounts manager for a hospital in Charleston, WV. From there, Nancy eventually moved to the Kansas City region where her Human Resource career began with Dixon Dively & Associates. After nine years of Human Resources experience, Nancy landed her position with Mid-America Regional Council, in which she has been employed for the past twelve years.

Nancy has been a part of multiple organizations that pertain to her college and work experience including: Society for Human Resources Management (1999 - present), International Public Management Assoc. (1999 - present), Employment Practices Advisory Committee with Midwest Public Risk (past Chairperson).

What Nancy likes most about her career is working with such amazing people and supporting work that makes a difference in the region we live.

When Nancy was asked any comments she would like to share about MPR, she stated, "The staff at MPR are second to none, and I am so appreciative of their support. All of the work they do, and the services provided by MPR, make my work much easier."

### Five Questions with Nancy Weitzel-Burry

1. **What is your most important lesson learned?** Follow your instincts; they are usually right .
2. **What is your biggest pet peeve?** Individuals who drive, talk on their cell phones, and put make-up on all at the same time.
3. **Who is the person you are most interested in meeting?** I've always been fascinated by Jimmy Carter and the work he's done since leaving office, advancing human rights and peace negotiations around the world. My runner-up would be Nelson Mandela - again for similar work related to advancing social and human rights issues.
4. **What are your three greatest passions?** My husband, pets (two dogs and two cats) and gardening.
5. **Where is your favorite vacation spot?** Napa Valley, CA

### MPR Advisory Committee Chairs

Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) - David Blackburn, Riverside, MO

Benefits Advisory Committee (BAC) - Brenda Reed, Miami County, KS

Law Enforcement Liability Advisory Committee (LELAC) - Steve Wright, Clay County Sheriff's Department, MO

Sewer Liability Advisory Committee (SLAC) - Joe Bobdilla, Oak Grove, MO

Recreation & Parks Advisory Committee (RPAC) - Randy Copper, City of Blue Springs, MO

Membership Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) - Rick Lunceford, Oak Grove, MO

Employee Practices Advisory Committee (EPAC) - Debbie Duncan, Raytown, MO

**NOTE: If you are interested in joining any of the above committees, please contact Kelly Wright at [kellyw@mprisk.org](mailto:kellyw@mprisk.org) or (816) 292-7542.**

## MPR Hosts Independence Fire Companies



The value of conducting evacuation (fire) drills cannot be overstated. A local fire department walkthrough of your facilities allows for emergency personnel to obtain an understanding of the building layout. Pre-knowledge of your building allows for a more effective response. MPR recently hosted all three shifts of the Independence Fire Companies who serve our area and the applicable EMS personnel to our campus for an onsite meet and greet including a tour of the facility. Approximately 25 public safety professionals participated with MPR staff in a full scale fire evacuation .

# *Risk Management/Loss Control*

## *News You Can Use...*

### Online Training with LocalGovU

MPR has expanded its online training program to provide training on loss prevention topics to all employees in public entities with MPR Liability and Workers' Compensation coverages. A sampling of the programs offered is listed below. To find a complete list, go to [www.mprisk.org](http://www.mprisk.org) and click on the link to MPR Online University (under Quick Links on the bottom of the page, right side).

- \* Communication Skills
- \* Dealing with the Media
- \* Defensive Driving Basics
- \* Escort of Inmates
- \* Ethical Behavior for Elected Officials
- \* Generational Differences
- \* Handling Difficult Customers
- \* Handling Domestic Abuse Calls
- \* Ladder Safety
- \* Off Duty Conduct and Powers of Arrest
- \* Preventing Slips, Trips and Falls (PPE)
- \* Sexual Harassment Training for Managers
- \* Snow & Ice Management
- \* Stress Management for Dispatchers
- \* Suicide Awareness for Law Enforcement
- \* Use of Force - Corrections
- \* Vehicular Pursuit

LocalGovU provides our membership with a variety of training coursework which can be accessed online by employees at their convenience. A representative background of courses taken by our Members in the past two years can be broken down as follows; 49% of courses taken were in General Safety, 23% in Law Enforcement/Corrections and 28% in Management, Productivity and Human Resources.

In the present year over 3,000 courses have been taken and passed. The most frequently accessed training module is "Back Injuries"; the second was "Preventing Slips, Trips and Falls", followed by "Sexual Harassment" and "Defensive Driving". Importantly, the Law Enforcement/Correction training modules are each post certified, which allows employees to meet their continuing educational requirements.

Direct employee training is a central component to keeping overall losses at a minimum. Using this online approach makes the training easy and convenient as well as providing for the contents to be both consistent and of high quality. We encourage Members to take advantage of this low cost and valuable resource. Representatives of LocalGovU have been invited to the Fall Conference in October to demonstrate this service as part of our breakout sessions.

**\*Call LocalGovU with any questions at 866-845-8887 (toll free)\***

### MPR Steps Up with New Technology

While [www.mprisk.org](http://www.mprisk.org) continues to be the hub of information about the pool, with almost 3,000 site visits in March and April, we do have other sites that are really heating up. In the last couple of months, 570 of you have viewed the MPR calendar, which is the best place to search for upcoming events at, or sponsored, by MPR. 430 visitors have checked the training & resources tab to find out more information about employee benefits and risk management. But the most hits, 633, came to the TrueShare site. If you are not familiar with our file sharing site, TrueShare is where you'll find property schedules "real-time" updating, committee information, claim filing instructions and forms, coverage documents, renewal data, risk advisories and wellness resources for easy access by members. If you need access or additional training on how to use the site, please contact [Kelly Wright](mailto:Kelly.Wright@mprisk.org) @ 816-292-7542.

The most exciting site is MPR's live streaming site for events hosted in our Members' Hall. You can access the site from our main page or at [www.livestream.com/mpriskorg](http://www.livestream.com/mpriskorg). The password for the site is risky1. Since going live with this site in early March, we have had 224 unique viewers watch 12,351 minutes of training and/or educational material. When you log into the site, if we are not broadcasting, you will see an MPR video playing as well as the schedule for upcoming events. You will also find a library of sessions that have already taken place which are categorized by discipline. In Wellness, we currently have Dr. Rice's heart health presentation and Diabetes part 1 & 2. If you are part of the MPR Professional Development Academy, several of your lessons are also available. Risk Management has two MO sunshine law trainings, land use issues, sewer backup response, job analysis and return to work. We have also loaded the MPR Renewal Report from April for your review.

We hope by utilizing all of these technologies, MPR can meet the various needs of you and your organization. If you have questions or comments about any of the sites, please share that information with your MPR contact so we can deliver quality service to help strengthen our Members.

## In Other News...



### Headquarter Building Receives Awards

Our headquarters' building received two notable awards. The building was recognized with the "Capstone Award" for office architecture by the Kansas City Business Journal on April 25, 2011. The Board of Directors and architect were recognized for providing a structure in which "every element of the building was made to make it easier to attract and maintain employees, and manage their health and wellness". This translated into a building design with lots of daylight and window views that allow people to see outside from their desks, as well as a wellness facility for employees and Members.

In addition, the Mid America Chapter of Design recognized the interior designers with their "Gold Award" for interior style and furnishings. The panel of judges for this award was made up of national and internationally recognized designers.



The City of Blue Springs has held two testing events for police officers and cadets here at the MPR Campus. Their Human Resources Department utilized the Members' Hall as the testing site on April 30th for 46 candidates and again on May 7th for 60 candidates.

They also held two dispatcher training events here in January and February with approximately 45 attendees on each day. The MPR Campus facility is open to all of our Members for testing, seminars, meetings and retreats. Please call Janice Chronister, Facility Manager, 816-292-7534 to obtain details on how to schedule an event here.

## MPR Welcomes our Newest Members

### Workers' Compensation

Effective April 1, 2011

\*City of Aurora

\*Christian County

Effective July 1, 2011

\*City of Wentzville



### Property & Liability

Effective July 1, 2011

\*City of Wentzville



The Greater Kansas City Chapter of the International Public Management Association for

Human Resources (IPMA-HR) held their annual conference at MPR's Campus on April 15, 2011. The conference included general and break-out sessions. Comprised of Human Resource professionals from across the metro area, including several MPR Members, IPMA-KC provides valuable monthly training and networking opportunities. MPR was happy to host these 75 HR professionals for their conference.

### CONGRATULATIONS!!!



MPR congratulates MPR Risk Management Advisor, Jason McMahon and family on the birth of their daughter, Maylee Grace McMahon.

### CONGRATULATIONS!!!

MPR congratulates Brianna Lawson, MPR's part-time receptionist, on her High School Graduation from Lee's Summit. We are proud of her and wish her the best in her future.

