

COMPCONTROL

The Official KMIT Member Newsletter

Safety Glasses DO Matter...Please Use Them!!

A KMIT Case Study

By Lori Moore, City of Atchison

I don't know how many other KMIT Cities have reported foreign body eye injuries, but I assume it to be a fairly common occurrence for those charged with submitting the 'Employer's Report of Accident' to Victoria (our claims adjuster). Over the years, I have submitted numerous reports where an employee got something in their eye and, because of the frequency of this type of incident, the matter is usually dismissed as a minor accident. Of course, employees are counseled on their failure to wear appropriate personal protective equipment, but because, either: the safety glasses were 'uncomfortable', the job was just going to take a minute, the glasses were left in the truck, or for whatever excuse; in many instances, unfortunately, safety glasses were not worn.

The purpose of this message, however, is to relay just how catastrophic an apparent 'minor' eye injury can become. On October 2, 2005, a seven-year veteran of our street department was working with another employee to strip a wooden form from a concrete inlet. The employees were using a hammer to dislodge the form when the employee felt something hit his eye. At the time, he said it felt like it had hit the inside bridge of his nose next to his right eye. He indicated that he joked he didn't want to drive that day, because looking out of his eye reminded him of looking through a kaleidoscope, and he described seeing pretty colors. He reported the accident, and stated that if his eye bothered him the following day he would see a doctor. In the early morning hours of October 3rd, he started having severe pain, and went to the local hospital emergency room, where he was examined, and diagnosed with a perforation to his eye. He was immediately sent to KU Medical Center, where surgery was performed on his eye to remove the object.

Apparently a piece of metal, possibly from the hammer (a little bit larger than the size of a bb), went through the center of his eye, shattering the lens, then hit the inside bridge of his nose before it spun around, similar to a buzz saw, behind his eye. Additionally, a severe infection had already begun in the eye, complicating the matter—requiring further surgical procedures described to me as 'scraping' the eye, in order to prevent the infection from spreading to his left eye.

Unfortunately, the employee has lost all sight in his damaged eye, and is currently being fitted for a prosthetic eye. This employee has maintained his usual great outlook on life, and hasn't uttered one complaint to my knowledge. He's even offered to show me his eye (an offer I had to refuse). But, I can't help thinking that, if it had been me, I would have much rather reached for my safety glasses than the black patch he is currently wearing.

Keith DeHaven - President
Sedgwick

Cheryl Lanoue - Vice President
Concordia

Linda Jones - Treasurer
Osage City

David Alfaro
Immediate Past President
Augusta

Cheryl Beatty Carol Eddington
Eudora Oswego

Gary Hobbie Ty Lasher
Russell Cheney

Lana McPherson Bud Newberry
De Soto Ulysses

Howard Partington
Great Bend

Don Moler
LKM Executive Director
Ex Officio

Don Osenbaugh
Pool Administrator / Agent
Editor

Victoria Vanderhoof
Claims Manager
Insurance Management Associates

Paul Davis
Vice President, Risk Management
Insurance Management Associates

Mark Morris Wendy Flowers
Co-Editor Admin. Assistant

CompControl is a publication of the League of Kansas Municipalities and the Kansas Municipal Insurance Trust for the purpose of educating and informing cities about loss control methods and risk management. If you have any questions concerning KMIT workers' compensation or risk management that you would like to see answered in this newsletter, please direct those inquiries to:

Kansas Municipal Insurance Trust
300 SW 8th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66603
Phone: (785) 354-9565
Fax: (785) 354-4186
wflowers@lkm.org

Copyright 2005 by the League of Kansas Municipalities. Contents herein are not intended to provide specific legal or medical advice. Readers should seek advice on specific concerns from a qualified professional.

Letter from the Pool Administrator

Dear KMIT Members and Others,

Here's wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, as well as a great Holiday Season. My hope is that each of you takes some time off for family and in recognition of the wonderfulness of this special time of year.

By the time you read this, your city should have received its KMIT *premium quote for 2006*. The invoice is due and payable at time of receipt (net 30), but **MUST be paid on or before January 31**, in order insure continued coverage. For budgeting purposes, many cities pay this premium in the current year (before 12/31/05), while a number of others are budgeted to pay in the upcoming year...either is fine with KMIT, so long as KMIT receives the payment by the 1/31 date. If you have any questions concerning your quote, please contact me or Mark Morris.

Your KMIT Board of Trustees remains the same this year (see the listing in this publication); the new officers took over at the December meeting in De Soto—they are: **President Keith DeHaven** (Sedgwick), **Vice President Cheryl Lanoue** (Concordia), **Treasurer Linda Jones** (Osage City), and **Immediate Past President Dave Alfaro** (Augusta).

The lead story in this issue is a very personal one, in that it is a case study of a recent accident within our KMIT family—in Atchison. Human Resource Director **Lori Moore** writes of an accident which, tragically, resulted in the loss of an eye by KMIT-covered employee. Hopefully, the message is crystal clear: wear those safety glasses!

Our 'new' KMIT payroll auditor is **The Audit Store**. **Carma Drehle-Neth** and her team of auditors will continue to provide the great service to which we have become accustomed.

Please mark your calendars now...the annual **KMIT Supervisor Training Seminar** series returns to a city near (or somewhat near) yours in February. Please plan to send as many supervisors as possible. Though this series will seek to impart many of the same risk control and work comp management concepts of past years, it will also feature some new areas of emphasis for KMIT. And, last, but not least...welcome back, **Marcia Payne**.



Pool Administrator

Safety Videos

IMA has added 29 new training/safety video's to their Video Library. KMIT member cities can borrow up to 5 video's at one time at no cost to the city. The new titles are:

- Hard Hat Safety Series/Boomlifts in Construction
- Skid Steer Operating Techniques
- Trenching & Shoring
- Fire Safety
- Driving Techniques
- Forklift Operation and Safety
- Forklift Safety for Construction
- Breath Alcohol Technician (BAT) Training
- Hazard Assessment
- Reasonable Suspicion for Supervisors
- The Electrical Standard: What You Need to Know
- Bloodborne Pathogens in Industry: What Employees Must Know
- Respiratory Protection
- Accident Investigation Employee Awareness
- Accident Investigation in the Workplace Supervisor Training
- Confined Spaces: A Training Program for Employees
- Fall Protection: A Training Program for Employees
- Hot Work Management
- I Chose to Look the Other Way
- Inplant Immediate Emergency Response
- Lockout/Tagout: Safety Training for Employees
- Lockout/Tagout: Safety Training for Employees (Spanish)
- Machine Guarding: A Management & Employee Safety Program
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Personal Protective Equipment Training
- Press Brake Safeguarding
- The Importance of Hand Protection
- The Machine Controls/Safeguard People
- Violence in the Workplace: Audits, Training, and Prevention

To obtain a complete list of video's and ordering information, go to www.kmit.net and click on IMA Safety Video Library on the left hand side of the website. KMIT encourages cities to take advantage of these training/safety videos to use as tools for training current employees along with new employees.

Safe Cities as of December 7, 2005

If you would like assistance returning an injured employee to work, or need ideas for modified duty, please contact Victoria Vanderhoof, 1-877-502-9897 or victoria.vanderhoof@imacorp.com.

Allen	Concordia	Grainfield	Lucas	Palco
Altamont	Conway Springs	Grandview Plaza	Marysville	Park City
Andale	Council Grove	Greeley	McFarland	Peabody
Andover	Cullison	Grenola	Meade	Princeton
Atlanta	Damar	Halstead	Medicine Lodge	Rose Hill
Basehor	De Soto	Hays	Melvorn	Russell
Baxter Springs	Douglass	Hiawatha	Minneapolis	Satanta
Bel Aire	Eastborough	Hoisington	Moline	Sedgwick
Belleville	Edgerton	Holcomb	Montezuma	Spearville
Beverly	Elkhart	Horton	Mound City	St. Francis
Bird City	Eureka	Hoxie	Neodesha	Stockton
Blue Rapids	Ford	Jetmore	Oberlin	Tescott
Brewster	Fowler	Johnson City	Ogden	Tipton
Caldwell	Frankfort	Kinsley	Olpe	Tonganoxie
Centralia	Galena	Lenora	Osage City	Treece
Chautauqua	Girard	Leoti	Oskaloosa	Wakefield
Cherryvale	Glasco	Lincoln Center	Oswego	Walton
Clay Center	Glen Elder	LKM	Ozawkie	Wellsville

Supervisor Training Seminars

The annual **KMIT Supervisor Training Seminar** series resumes in February 2006. This highly successful one-day training is intended for *all* ‘supervisors’—from lead persons, to division and department heads, to city clerks, police and fire chiefs, city superintendents, city managers, and any and all others who supervise employees.

The training is actually broken down into stand-alone, ½-day sessions, covering *risk control/management* (morning session) and *work comp management* (afternoon). KMIT’s professional partners at IMA are the primary presenters at both sessions, in conjunction with League staff.

The 2006 Seminars will be held at three sites: **Concordia** (Thursday, February 9), **Arkansas City** (Thursday, February 16) and **Parsons** (Thursday, March 2). Registration flyers and other reminders will be sent out early in 2006, but please mark your calendars now. These are excellent training sessions for supervisors, and are VERY affordable.

Please contact Pool Administrator Don Osenbaugh with any questions.



Welcome Back, Marcia Payne

Marcia Payne, who worked with our KMIT cities for a number of years, before ‘moving on’ in 2004, is back—working with two companies that interact with KMIT and IMA on various claims-related services.

The two companies are **Shorman Solutions** and **LogiComp**.

Shorman Solutions provides bill review and case management services for workers compensation, and pre-certification and case management for Group Health (along with services for auto/liability claims).

LogiComp is the PPO network which contracts with other networks and providers for work comp services. Most of the contracts are negotiated below the Kansas Fee Schedule.

Marcia promotes both companies, and develops the network of providers for drug screens, physicals, etc.

AND, last, but certainly not least, Marcia will be ‘rejoining’ the KMIT Supervisor Training Seminar team as it embarks on its 2006 Training Tour, beginning in Concordia on February 9.

Safety Olympics Replaced by New Program

At its meeting in De Soto on December 9, the KMIT Board of Trustees unanimously approved changes to the pool’s safety certification program, and gave the new program a new name: **Loss Prevention Certification Program**. The new name reflects the fact that the new program, while continuing to emphasize safety as the best way to prevent loss in the first place, adds a number of other criteria which significantly contribute to an excellent overall work comp loss prevention approach, as stressed by KMIT.

KMIT’s loss control partners at IMA will provide details of the new program in the mail soon. Look for a full story on the **Loss Prevention Certification Program** in the next issue of this publication (due out in February).

Claims

Top 5 Frequency and Cost Analysis
January 1, 2005 through November 30, 2005

<u>By Department</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Claims Cost</u>
Police	123	\$584,056
Maintenance	70	127,086
Street	56	184,441
Park	56	146,810
Water	56	146,606

<u>By Accident Type</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Claims Cost</u>
Strain or Injury	139	\$462,606
Fall or Slip	86	357,583
Occupational Hazard	70	128,484
Cut/Puncture/Scrape	55	35,378
Struck or Injured	45	245,536

<u>By Body Part</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Claims Cost</u>
Lower Back Area	68	\$207,598
Knee	52	228,917
Hand	42	148,070
Multiple Body Parts	41	31,275
Lower Arm	35	33,495

If you would like a similar breakdown for your city, please contact
Victoria Vanderhoof at (877) 502-9897

The Audit Store—New Payroll Audit Company

KMIT has contracted with a newly-formed company for its payroll auditing services. Though ***The Audit Store*** is just starting out as a business, it is by no means new to the business, nor are the people who operate it new to KMIT. The founder of ***The Audit Store***, Scott Miller, once worked for a previous KMIT auditor, and has been in this business for many years. KMIT's contact person and lead auditor, **Carma Drehle-Neth**, has served in that same position for KMIT for a number of years, including this past year. Further, most of the field people who have been working with our member cities will continue to do so. Hence, the changeover to ***The Audit Store*** is expected to be 'seamless' for most, if not all, KMIT cities.

For more information about ***The Audit Store***, go to www.theauditstore.com. Carma can be contacted at cdrehleneth@theauditstore.com, or by calling 316-721-1261.

KMIT audits, of 2005 actual payroll, will begin in mid-to-late January 2006. ***The Audit Store*** auditors will be contacting each KMIT city for appointment times.

KMIT Calendar

February

- 9 KMIT Supervisor
Training, *Concordia*
- 10 KMIT Board of
Trustees Meeting,
Concordia
- 16 KMIT Supervisor
Training, *Arkansas
City*

March

- 1 KMIT Supervisor
Training, *Parsons*

KMIT Revenues & Expenses October 1, 2005

Combined Assets

Cash In Bank	\$1,193,844
Premiums Outstanding	
Investments	<u>3,360,861</u>
Total Assets	\$4,554,705

Combined Liabilities & Equity

Claims and Accrued Expenses Outstanding	\$1,427,568
Reserved for Losses	2,105,934
Incurred But Not Reported (IBNR)	<u>(724,214)</u>
Total Liabilities	2,809,288
KMIT Statutory Fund Balance	<u>1,745,417</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$4,554,705

Kansas Municipal Insurance Trust

300 SW 8th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66603

