

COMPCONTROL[©]

The Official KMIT Member Resource

Seeing the Whole Picture: Refuse Trucks Getting High-Tech

By Wes Starnes, Director of Public Works
City of Augusta

The City of Augusta is well aware of the hazards associated with solid waste collection and disposal. We are currently revising our safety policy and procedures for the entire City. One area of concern for the solid waste department was rearward vision of the driver especially in alleys. Anyone who has driven a solid waste rear loader can appreciate the fact that it is very hard to see directly behind the truck, especially when there is overgrowth blocking what little view is available in the rearview mirrors. Unfortunately this is where the solid waste workers spend a majority of their time and therefore puts the workers on the back of the truck at risk.

To aid the driver, there are rearview vision CCTV (closed circuit) systems that are relatively affordable. For about the same cost as a 4 yd³ dumpster, a solid waste department could purchase and install such a system. This system consists of 1 or 2 cameras, 1 monitor, and about 60' of coaxial cable. Systems with 2 cameras usually include the second camera on the passenger side to provide an image similar to what you could see in a rearview mirror. The cameras are fairly small, about 4" w x 2" h x 4" l, and are easy to mount. The monitors come in different configurations from 7" CRT to 5" LCD. The CRT's are usually black and white while LCD's are usually color. The CRT types are similar to a miniature television set and the LCD types are comparable to a monitor on laptop computer. The advantage of CRT's is they are usually less expensive; the disadvantage is they are larger and harder to mount in a vehicle that goes through rough terrain. The advantage of LCD is the thinner dimensions and lighter weight therefore easier to keep in place; the disadvantage is that they are a little more expensive.

Some features that are available that may benefit particular organizations include audio capabilities. This feature seems to be fairly standard but may not be available on all brands. Some systems also have distance markers on the monitor to give the driver an idea of how far away an object or person is from the truck. Yet another somewhat standard feature is a day and night mode for the camera. During the day a filter reduces the amount of light getting to the camera and cuts down on glare. The vehicle operator will likely appreciate this feature.

(Story continued on page 3)

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Paul Davis
Assistant Risk Control Manager
Insurance Management Associates

Wendy Flowers Bret Glendening
Co-Editor Co-Editor/KMIT Agent

CompControl is a publication of the League of Kansas Municipalities and the Kansas Municipal Insurance Trust for the purposes 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@networksplus.net

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Letter from the Pool Administrator

Dear KMIT Members,

Summer is winding down, at last. I, for one, am ready for Fall. And, Fall means it's Annual Meeting time. You should get this before the League Conference and **KMIT Annual Meeting**. If you haven't yet decided to come to the KMIT breakfast on Monday morning (October 14, 7:30 AM), here's one more reminder that all you have to do is show up. Remember, **breakfast is FREE, but only to the first 125** who arrive at the door (since a specific and limited number of breakfasts must be advance-reserved through the conference hotel). All city delegates will be able to be seated, and will be able to participate fully, though it's possible that some may not be able to eat, depending upon how many people show up that morning. (The Kansas Ready Mix group is also providing a free breakfast, at that same time, to any city delegate attending the League Conference, so **there will be a breakfast option at the League Conference for everyone**, even if the KMIT meeting does fill up.)

Also remember that the **Seventh Annual KMIT Golf Classic** will take place on **Saturday, October 12** (as a prelude to the League Conference), just southeast of Wichita, at the **Hidden Lakes Golf Course**, located at Greenwich Road and 63rd Street South. Four-person teams will tee off at 8 AM, in a "Shotgun" start. As last year, the entry fee is \$60 per player. Send your entries to Denise Humphrey, or contact Denise with your team names at dhumphrey@networksplus.net or at the League phone, 785-354-9565.

As promised earlier in the year, we are embarking on a series of **Supervisor Training Seminars**, starting in early October (perhaps even before you receive this in the mail). These seminars are aimed specifically at supervisors, and are geared to educate and to emphasize to that group how vital their role is in controlling and minimizing work comp losses. KMIT agent Bret Glendening, IMA's Victoria Vanderhoof, and Precept/Corvel's Marcia Payne will join me as presenters in this series of three-hour workshops. Here are the October dates and sites: October 9, **Abilene**; October 10, **Augusta**; October 23, **Baldwin City**; October 24, **Baxter Springs**. Next February, we'll be in **Oberlin, Hays, Dodge City** and **Kingman**. Registration forms and details can be found on-line at www.kmit.net. Or, call or e-mail Wendy Flowers, wflowers@networksplus.net. I think this is one of the most important forms of training KMIT will ever do. Please try to send as many of your supervisors as possible. The more the merrier; the more the better for your city and for your KMIT pool.

KMIT will be mailing quotes for 2003 sometime in November. New enrollment forms went out in mid-September; please fill them out as accurately as possible, and **PLEASE** do your best when estimating your 2003 payroll. **Premium rates will be higher for next year**. At its August meeting, the KMIT Board of Trustees voted to submit a revised "loss-cost multiplier" rate to the Kansas Insurance Department for approval. **The new factor is 1.46**, up from 1.31, which means, that, all other variables (individual city loss history and payroll) being equal, the **annual premiums will go up by around 11.5%**. The change was made in recognition of the suddenly higher cost of doing business, and to increase a reserve level that needs to be some higher in order to insure the continued stability of the pool. **KMIT's premium rates will continue to be very competitive** in the work comp marketplace, and KMIT will, as always, strive to provide the very best in service to its clients: you, the cities of the League of Kansas Municipalities.

Look me up in Wichita if you get the chance, and stop by our **KMIT booth**, located very near the conference registration.

Don Osenbaugh
Pool Administrator

Camera systems are becoming much more practical not just for solid waste vehicles but any vehicle that does a lot of backing and has poor rearward visibility. Like most technology, quality is getting better and prices are falling. We may see systems that sell for \$250 in the future. Protecting your employees and your property from injury and/or damage is getting more affordable and is making sense for groups that want a comprehensive safety program.

CompControl would like to thank Wes Starnes for his contribution to this issue. If your Solid Waste Department is interested in obtaining more information on these CCTV systems, you may contact Wes at the City of Augusta at (316) 775-4510 or e-mail at starnes@southwind.net.

The following cities had not reported any claims in 2002 as of September 27, 2002.



Abilene	Glasco	Ogden
Allen	Glen Elder	Olpe
Altamont	Grainfield	Oskaloosa
Andale	Greeley	Ozawkie
Baldwin City	Grenola	Peabody
Bel Aire	Hoxie	Princeton
Beverly	Jetmore	Ransom
Bird City	Kingman	Satanta
Brewster	Leoti	Sedan
Centralia	Lincoln Center	Sedgwick
Chautauqua	LKM	Spearville
Cheney	Lucas	Spring Hill
Cullison	McFarland	Tipton
Esbon	Melvem	Treeca
Ford	Moline	Wakefield
Fowler	Montezuma	Walton
Frankfort	Mound City	

KMIT Supervisor Training Seminars Fall 2002

October 9, 2002
Abilene, Civic Center
201 NW 2nd, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

October 10, 2002
Augusta, Administration Bldg. School District 402
2345 Greyhound Dr., 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

October 23, 2002
Baldwin City, City Library
800 7th Street, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

October 24, 2002
Baxter Springs, City Hall
1445 Military, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Supervisor training will continue in late winter 2003 in:
Oberlin, Hays, Dodge City, and Kingman.

WORK COMP COST CONTROL BEGINS WITH YOU!

These training seminars are designed specifically for supervisors*. Their intent is to inform and educate on various work comp issues that are facing all Kansas municipalities, regardless of whether or not they are members of KMIT.

Our general program will strive to answer the question of "WHY is Work Comp Important to Supervisors?" Additional coverage will be dedicated to addressing precautions that should be taken during the pre-employment hiring process, and post-employment considerations. The seminar will also address issues of work comp fraud, claims management, and those rare occurrences that may lead to a work comp claim denial.

For more information, or a registration form, contact Wendy Flowers at (785) 354-9565 or wflowers@networksplus.net.

*Includes front line supervisors, department and division heads, and small city managers/administrators/clerks.

Claims

2002 Frequency and Cost Analysis - Top 5 1/1/02 through 9/27/02

<u>By Job Classification</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Cost Claims</u>
Police Officers & Drivers	100	\$ 88,114
Park	75	\$ 38,310
Municipal	63	\$ 71,361
Street/Road Const.	51	\$ 64,354
Firefighters & Drivers	48	\$ 435,157

<u>By Accident Type</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Cost Claims</u>
Strain or Injury by lifting, pushing, carrying, etc.	120	\$ 239,527
Fall or Slip Injury	86	\$ 195,259
Miscellaneous Cause	63	\$ 21,765
Struck or Injured by falling object, hand tool, etc.	57	\$ 22,422
Occupational Hazards	54	\$ 32,597

<u>By Body Part</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Cost Claims</u>
Low Back Area	61	\$ 141,526
Knee	51	\$ 208,705
Eye(s)	43	\$ 3,919
Finger(s)	37	\$ 25,626
Hand	36	\$ 39,286

Note - The above figures are based on claims as of September 27, 2002. Amounts listed for claim costs are amounts incurred to date.

Your Pool In Action

We encourage you to make copies of
this newsletter and distribute to all
city employees.

Member Notes



KMIT Calendar

- October 9** Supervisor Training Seminars, *Abilene*
- 10** Supervisor Training Seminars, *Augusta*
- 12** KMIT Annual Golf Classic, *Hidden Lakes Golf Course, Wichita*
- 14** KMIT Annual Meeting, *Wichita* (during LKM Annual Conference)
- 23** Supervisor Training Seminars, *Baldwin City*
- 24** Supervisor Training Seminars, *Baxter Springs*
- December 6** KMIT Trustees Meeting, *Mission*

Revenues & Expenses August 31, 2002

<u>Combined Assets</u>	
Cash In Bank	1,657,741
Premiums Outstanding	
Investments	<u>1,559,951</u>
Total Assets	3,217,693
<u>Combined Liabilities & Equity</u>	
Claims and Accrued Expenses Outstanding	(341,279)
Reserved for Losses	555,776
Incurred But Not Reported (IBNR)	<u>1,621,910</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>1,836,407</u>
KMIT Statutory Fund Balance	<u>1,381,285</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity	3,217,693

Kansas Municipal Insurance Trust

300 SW 8th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66603