

RMS Safety Grant Program

We are very pleased to announce that in May we awarded 31 safety grants in the total amount of \$43,281 to members of the MMA Workers Compensation Fund who had applied by the April 30 deadline.

A total of 65 applications were received and reviewed by the committee that awards the grants. Each application is weighed against established criteria. Members who did not receive an award are encouraged to submit a new proposal for future consideration.

During the past two and one-half years we have awarded 149 safety grants totaling \$201,066. The safety grants are on a 2:1 basis, meaning \$2 grant amount to match \$1 expenditure by the member. In addition we have awarded 31 scholarships for safety training in the total amount of \$3,537.

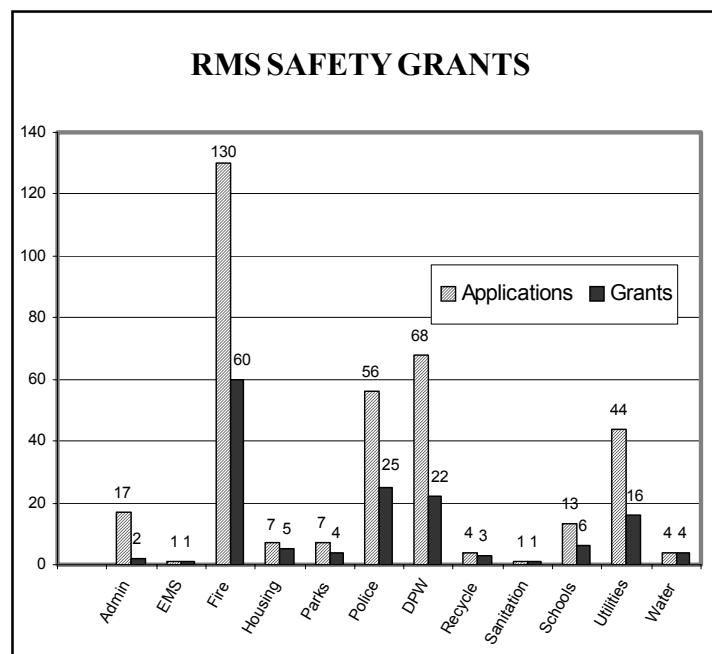
Applications have been received from nearly every municipal department and operation. It is our goal to have as many members and departments participate as possible. The bar chart below shows the number of grant

applications received (striped columns) and awards made (solid columns) by department and illustrates the wide range of responses since the inception of the program.

We hope to have the grant and scholarship applications reformatted and

posted on our website for your easy retrieval later this year. We will advise you when the form is ready.

As a reminder, grant applications for awards to be made in October must be received by September 1, 2001. Applications for safety scholarships may be submitted at any time.



NEW STATE OF MAINE CHILD LABOR LAWS

Changes to rules governing employment for minors in Maine became effective May 14, 2001. Commissioner of Labor Valerie Landry stated that, "Today's workplaces have new and different hazards, which these rules address. Young workers are especially vulnerable to injury. We want to be sure that employers along with young workers and their parents, are aware of the need for vigilance when it comes to safety." For a complete list of the new hazardous occupations prohibited for minors in Maine, visit the Bureau of Labor Standards website bls@state.me.us and for general information and training materials on Maine child labor laws and teen worker safety, see www.safeteen.org.

NEW CHILD LABOR LAWS AFFECT MUNICIPAL CONSTRUCTION, PUBLIC WORKS AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Child Labor Laws now include the following restrictions that may affect municipalities: (The lists below are not all inclusive. Please refer to Bureau of Labor Standards website bls@state.me.us for details.)

Minors 16 and 17 years of age may not be employed in the following occupations:

- Motor vehicle driving and outside helper (on public highways)
- Power-driven hoisting apparatus
- Power-driven circular saws
- Roofing operations
- In direct contact with pesticides
- Placement at the scene of a fire, explosion or other emergency situation except as provided under "Use of Junior Fire fighters"

Minors under the age of 16 may not be employed in the following occupations:

- All occupations expressly prohibited for 16 and 17 year olds
- Motor vehicle driving of any kind and outside helper
- Operation or tending of hoisting apparatus or of any power-driven machinery other than nonhazardous office machines or machines in retail
- Construction occupations involving maintenance and repair of public highways, roofing occupations and all trenching and excavation operations
- All work in boiler or engine rooms

- Outside window washing that involves working from window sills and all work involving the use of ladders, scaffolds or their substitutes
- Occupations involving the use of power-driven mowers or cutters, including the use of chain saws.
- Welding, brazing or soldering occupations
- Any placement at the scene of a fire, explosion or other emergency response situation

USE OF JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS

The new Labor Law provides clarification regarding permitted activities for Junior Firefighters. Worthy of particular mention is the fact that Junior Firefighters are prohibited from driving emergency response vehicles. The law now states that paid and volunteer Junior Firefighters who are 16 and 17 years of age may:

- ◆ Attend and take part in supervised training
- ◆ Participate in fire department functions within the rehabilitated area
- ◆ Pick up hose and clean up at the fire scene after the On Scene Commander has declared the scene safe
- ◆ Enter a structure that has been on fire when deemed safe by the On Scene Commander and accompanied by a fire fighter
- ◆ With proper training, fight grass fires not involving standing timber
- ◆ Perform search and rescue activities, other than structural fire fighting.

Paid and volunteer Junior Firefighters who are 16 and 17 years of age may not:

- ◆ Perform fire suppression involving structures, vehicles, or wild land fires, except grass fires not involving standing timber
- ◆ Operate a fire department vehicle
- ◆ Respond with red lights
- ◆ Perform fire fighting "overhaul" activities
- ◆ Respond to hazardous material events
- ◆ Perform any activity, except training, that involves the use of self-contained breathing equipment
- ◆ Respond to any accident involving fire or extraction activities (1055's)
- ◆ Respond to "ice rescue" activities, except within the rehabilitation area
- ◆ Perform traffic control activities

Paraphrased from the State of Maine, Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards press release dated May 31, 2001.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

From time to time, the various Risk Management departments send surveys to program participants to help us evaluate our service. In March I sent a survey to 514 key contacts in our Workers Compensation program and asked them to respond directly to me. I requested that they evaluate our responsiveness to their needs whether by telephone, by mail or in person visits. I also asked them to rate our service in comparison to other vendors with whom they do business. A total of 307 surveys (60%) were completed and returned to me.

I am very pleased to advise that 243 (78%) of the respondents rated our service as Better (144) or Much Better (99) than other vendors, 45 members (15%) rated our service the same, 18 (6%) left that line in the form blank, and 1 respondent rated our service as Worse than others. Unfortunately, that person neither signed the form, nor indicated the name of the entity so that I could make a follow-up contact.

A total of 17 (18%) offered suggestions to us, 66 (71%) paid us compliments for our service; 9 (10%) had complaints. Two of those who had complaints did not sign the form or indicate the name of their entity. The seven who had complaints were contacted promptly and I believe their issues have been resolved satisfactorily.

The following is a small sample of compliments received:

Very pleased with the customer-friendly atmosphere your representatives present to our staff whether in person or via telephone contact. Thank you for taking the time to ask!

You are motivated and focused and today that is a rarity.

I have found I think of MMA more as a department than an outside entity. Keep it up.

The data and advice given was in clear, plain language. Better service, more coverage, personal attention to the Town – less cost. Superb!

Many thanks to all our members who took the time to respond. It is our goal to always provide you with the best service. I encourage members to call the department managers or me at any time. We are here to serve you.

Joan Conner, CPCU, AIM
Director, Risk Management Services
1-800-590-5583, Ext. 234

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

Property & Casualty Pool

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Sherman | Parkman |
| Waldo | Corinna |
| Stacyville | Glenburn |
| NewLimerick | Dexter |
| Palermo | Yarmouth Water Distr |
| Woolwich | Columbia |
| Washington Cnty EMS Auth | Boothbay Harbor |
| Alfred Water District | Ellsworth |
| Carmel | Yarmouth |

Workers' Compensation Fund

Lubec
Brunswick Sewer Dist
Palermo
Columbia
Washington Cnty EMS Auth

Unemployment Comp Fund

Dedham