

Police Chiefs Forum - A winning platform for risk management dialogue

By Patti Crane

In September 2016, WCIA introduced the Police Chiefs Forum providing a liability update, a review of WCIA services for police departments and an opportunity for three members to share how they utilized WCIA or launched innovative programs to reduce risk. The feedback was positive and encouraged the continuation of the forums. The second Police Chiefs Forum in March 2017, presented a panel of speakers regarding Crisis Communications in Law Enforcement. The WCIA training room hit capacity and the evaluations were overwhelmingly affirmative, with statements such as:

- *“Good discussion on Lessons Learned and planning for significant events. I enjoyed the open dialogue with the group.”*
- *“I would recommend providing this training to city managers and mayors. I believe an education on planning for crisis events and the demands would be beneficial.”*
- *“I found the lessons learned from the Pasco and Olympia incidents were very well done and informative.”*
- *“I like the small group setting with only Chiefs. The topic was very valuable.”*
- *“Great topic and very pertinent! This topic could possibly be done as a webinar too!”*

WCIA also conducted a small survey, soliciting future topics and timeframes. The results included the following topic suggestions:

- Risk Management Advice for Local Law Enforcement regarding U.S. Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) Retainers
- Drones - A Risk Management Overview of the Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in Police operations
- Police Department Response and Liability concerning Mental Health Issues in Jails
- Challenges and Solutions for Small Agencies, Risk Management Advice for Use of Body Cameras
- Use of Social Media and the Potential Liability

The Police Chiefs Forums are now a staple in our Training and Education programs. Based on our survey results, they will be conducted twice a year with new topics and speakers, and will always provide an opportunity for our Chiefs to network and to share ideas on policing concerns and successes! Our next Police Chiefs Forum topic will be Risk Management Advice for Local Law Enforcement regarding U.S. Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) Retainers on July 12. WCIA announcements and registration will be available in May.