WCIA members receive over $30,000 in services per year

By Ann Bennett, Patti Crane and Lisa Roberts

Are you one of the members receiving over $30,000 a year in program services?

WCIA prides itself on offering more than just coverage for claims and lawsuits brought against the membership. Our philosophy is to offer comprehensive risk management programs to systematically reduce exposures for our members. Three of our departments, Member Services, Risk Services and Claims, have developed stand-alone programs funded through the administrative budget to address risks to our members.

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Our Reimbursement Program provides support for member staff development through academic certifications and accreditation programs. Additional scholarships are also provided throughout the year for municipal organization trainings featuring risk management education.

Our Consultation Program provides legal reviews of personnel policies or practices, land use issues, and general liability questions to identify exposures and recommend controls. Many of the legal reviews and advice completed under this program are shared with the membership through our Risk Management Bulletins.

The Pre-Defense Review Program provides legal advice for members prior to taking action on specific personnel, land use or other matters that could lead to litigation. All three programs are voluntary and available to all members of WCIA.

We recently conducted a five year analysis regarding the membership’s usage of the three programs along with the monies expended. We are happy to report practically all of the membership is taking advantage of these programs. Furthermore, ten members have received over $20,000 per year in reimbursements and legal advice with three members receiving over $30,000 per year.

Under the Pre-Defense Review Program, WCIA spent an average of $2,800 per file opened and under the Consultation Program an average of $801 per review was spent. Members also received on average $745 per year under the Reimbursement Program.

Both the Consultation and Reimbursement Programs received significant budget increases this year due to demand, so we anticipate members receiving more benefits in 2013 and in the future. Our risk management representatives will be reviewing this data with the members individually during the Annual Review and continue the discussion of how these programs can further reduce loss exposures.

These are just three of the many value added services members of WCIA receive for their assessment dollars.
Hazard Communication and the Global Harmonization System (GHS)

By Chip McKenna

The Global Harmonization System (GHS) is an international system developed by the United Nations (UN) to classify hazardous chemicals and standardize hazard information on product labels and safety data sheets (SDS). Before the GHS, each country developed their own regulations on hazard classification. Although those systems may have been similar in content and approach, they resulted in multiple standards, classifications and labels for the same hazard in different countries. Given the extent of international trade in chemicals, and the potential impact on neighboring countries when controls are not implemented, it was determined that a worldwide approach was necessary. The GHS was designed to replace all the diverse classification systems and present one universal standard which all countries should follow; however, the GHS is not compulsory under UN law.

The Washington State Labor & Industries, Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) updated the Hazard Communication rule as of April 15, 2013 to align with the GHS. These changes will improve the quality and consistency of hazard information in the workplace, making it safer for employees to enhance employer and worker comprehension of the hazards, which will assist to ensure appropriate handling and safe use of workplace chemicals. The harmonized format of the SDSs will enable employers, workers, health professionals, and emergency responders to access the information more efficiently and effectively.

OSHA vs. DOSH:
The United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) revised its Hazard Communication Standard in March 2012. OSHA is calling the revised standard HazCom 2012. The OSHA standard is very similar to the DOSH standard, but has different timelines for implementation. Of note, most public sector employers (except for Tribal and federal governments) in Washington State will be subject to the DOSH standard (not the OSHA standard). DOSH requires employees to be trained on the new SDS format and label elements by June 1, 2014.

What is a Safety Data Sheet?
A Safety Data Sheet (SDS) is replacing the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) as the primary source for detailed hazard information about chemical products. SDSs follow a standardized format while MSDSs are permitted to take on a variety of formats. The consistent format of SDSs is expected to increase familiarity so employees can locate information more quickly, especially in emergency situations. Employers will need to keep old MSDSs until the current stock of chemicals are phased out, then replace them with each chemical’s new SDS, as they become available.

How will labels change?
The information on labels will become more standardized to increase employee comprehension of the potential hazards and precautions. New labels will feature:

- Hazard pictograms (framed by a red border)
- A Signal Word, such as DANGER
- A Product Identifier and a Supplier Identifier

Will the Hazard Communication Programs Need to Change?
Hazard Communication Programs will need to be updated to include the new labels and standardized SDS format. In addition, employees should be trained to understand and use the new labels and SDSs.

Additional Resources:
- Sample SDSs, pictograms and labels are available from OSHA:
- DOSH has a variety of resources to assist with complying with the GHS at [http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Topics/AtoZ/ghs](http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Topics/AtoZ/ghs)
In order to help our members comply with the new GHS rules, WCIA has teamed with Evergreen Safety Council to provide the following courses free of charge:

**HAZCOM – The Basics**
This four-hour class is the prerequisite to the Train the Trainer class. It provides the student with an understanding of the OSHA Hazard Communication rule and the Washington State DOSH new HazCom rule, WAC 296-901, including the requirements of the newly adopted Globally Harmonized System (GHS). Employees who handle hazardous chemicals and/or materials in their workplace are required to receive hazard communication (HAZCOM) training. These materials can include, but are not limited to: solvents, cleaners, caustics, flammables, and toxic materials.

**HAZCOM – Train the Trainer**
This class is intended for those who already have knowledge of the current Hazard Communications rule and are familiar with such things are IDLH, PEL, flash point and UEL and LEL or have taken the “HazCom-The Basics” class. This four-hour class comes with a complete Train-the-Trainer kit, so you can train your employees to understand the new GHS label elements, identify the new GHS pictograms as well as read and interpret the new GHS Safety Data Sheets.

Evergreen Safety Council will invoice WCIA. To register, fill out the form via the link: [http://www.esc.org/wcia-training/](http://www.esc.org/wcia-training/).
Membership
News In Brief

Saying farewell to Lew Leigh
WCIA members will have an opportunity to say farewell to retiring Executive Director Lew Leigh at an open house event on July 12.

The festivities will be at the WCIA office in Tukwila, and begin at 1 p.m. following the Executive Committee meeting.

Lew has served WCIA for the last 29 years, guiding the organization through challenges and triumphs. He leaves behind an organization in a strong position as a completely independent risk pool.

Join the WCIA staff and Executive Committee in honoring Lew and his outstanding career.

Welcome Pete and Congratulations John!
Executive Committee member Joan Durgin retired from the City of Camas on May 31, vacating her recently elected position. President Brenda Heineman has therefore appointed Pete Rose, the City Administrator of Lake Forest Park, to serve on the committee for the remaining two and a half years. Rose previously served on the Executive Committee from 2000 - 2005 when he worked for the City of Woodinville.

Additionally, John Caulfield will be leaving the City of Mountlake Terrace to take the City Manager position at Lakewood. Since the City of Lakewood is also a member of WCIA, he will retain his position on the committee.

WCIA website login: There can be only one
Many members are unknowingly creating additional user profiles on the WCIA website either due to errors in their email address, using multiple email addresses or using someone else’s login information.

To ensure members reap all the benefits our website, it is imperative to only have one login tied to an email address. The system can track every training attended for an individual, but if you have more than one login those trainings will be listed in more than one location.

Training Coordinators who register multiple people cannot use the same email address for everyone. If the same email is used for all registrants, the system will only recognize one registration.

If you receive a message that your email is already in use on the website, contact WCIA and we can find a solution without creating an additional profile. Additionally, if you have forgotten your password, click the Create/Reset Password link below the ‘Password’ box in the login area. Do not create a ‘New User Profile.’

If your entity has changed their email domain, or if your department or job title have changed, you can use the “Update My Profile” link found below the greeting that appears after you login.

If you are unsure, or have any questions regarding access to the website just contact WCIA staff.

Calendar of Events

July 12, 2013
Executive Committee Meeting
Retirement Open House,
1:00-3:30 PM
WCIA Offices, Tukwila

August 9, 2013 (Tentative)
Executive Committee Meeting
WCIA Offices, Tukwila

September 11-13, 2013
Executive Retreat
Alderbrook Resort

October 11, 2013
Executive Committee Meeting
WCIA Offices, Tukwila

November 8, 2013
Training Session - 9:00 AM;
Full Board Meeting - 10:15 AM
Embassy Suites, Tukwila

Visit our website at www.wciapool.org for training schedules and online registration.