Montana State Fund

Cities & Towns of Montana Safety Roundtable

Newsletter

April 2026

Together We Can Move Mountains

Collaboration With a Purpose

Hosted by: Kellie Trudgeon & Tawni Jo Aguirre

This initiative aims to provide a consistent platform for safety leaders across Montana to network, engage in educational opportunities focused on important safety priorities, and facilitate the exchange of knowledge regarding best practices in safety and risk management relevant to our cities and towns.

This roundtable is open to all safety contacts in cities and towns across Montana, regardless of whether they are insured with Montana State Fund. We encourage you to share this invitation with your internal and external City & Town safety contacts, and your city's safety team!

In case you missed it!

Bozeman Firefighter Academy:
Injury Reduction Program

Presented by:

- James Short - Deputy Chief of Operations
  City of Bozeman Fire Department

Replay the featured presentation recording by clicking **HERE.**

"Together we can enhance our safety programs to ensure that every worker goes home safe and whole at the end of the day."

Claim Examiner Corner

How to Pull Loss Runs in Customer Connect

To access loss runs, you must have full online access to the policy.

- Log in to your Customer Connect account.
- From the **Account Summary** homepage, click **View** under Loss Run Report.
- The MSF Online Data Access Application will open in a new browser tab.
- Click the **Please Select a Policy** drop-down menu.
- Select the policy you want to review (only policies you have access to will appear).
- Click **Submit**.
- Choose from the available loss run report options to generate your report.
- To view indemnity claim information, select **Detailed Loss Runs** under Employer, MSF, or Authorized Agent Use Only.

Email: stfclaim@mt.gov | Fax: 406-495-5020

Email Questions & Responses

The following questions and responses where sent to stfcatcolab@mt.gov

Questions	Responses
Please share your feedback on the following questions: What are the footwear requirements for your lifeguards and others working on your pool decks? Do you allow barefoot, do you allow flipflops or slides?	• They are permitted to wear slides or Chacos/Tevas. Their typical process is they wear their shoes to the guard stand and climb up the stand barefoot. The slides/sandals are to prevent their feet burning on the hot deck from guard stand to guard stand. We feel this is a happy medium. Slides rather than flip flops can be easier to kick off if responding to an emergency if they are in motion on the deck. *Cari Rubin, Human Resources Director, City of Livingston* • They are required to wear deck shoes that they can either demonstrate they can swim in, or fall off easily when they jump in the water. This is based on industry best practices although some pools are getting away from allowing flip flops. Most of our guards wear Crocs or something similar. Deck shoes such as slides, Crocs, water shoes, flip flops, sandals designed to get wet. Something with some support is recommended. No sneakers, boots etc. *Beth Wurm, Human Resources Director* *The City-County of Butte-Silver Bow* • We allow sandals or flip flops at the swimming pool but they must be easily removed for entry into pool. *Denise Michel, HR Director, City of Kalispell* • Flip flops and sandals are the only footwear allowed. Footwear must easily fall off the foot upon entry into the pool. Shoes that cover the whole foot or strap to the foot are not permitted while on shift. Being barefoot is also permitted. *Jamie Norby, Senior HR Generalist – City of Bozeman* • Lifeguards can be barefoot or wear shoes they can quickly slip off or swim in. Shoes may not delay water rescue. *Angela Simonson, Chief Human Resources Officer* *City of Missoula*
Does anyone have a written Fire Department Safety Program that they would be willing to share?	• I suggest Washington State's Labor & Industries WAC 296-305 as the framework. Obviously, it is tied directly to Washington rules, but it is extensive. • Kalispell shared a facility safety inspection checklist. Document is located on the resource section of the Cities & Towns Safety page **HERE.**

These questions and responses provide an opportunity for Montana cities and towns to talk directly with each other about important issues. Montana State Fund does not evaluate or endorse the responses. MSF encourages cities and towns to follow their normal decision-making processes, including speaking with your attorneys, as appropriate.

MSF Webinar | Supporting A Seamless Transition

Montana State Fund is hosting two upcoming webinars to support cities and towns who are considering transitioning to a new workers' compensation carrier. "Supporting a Seamless Transition" webinars will be held on May 20 and June 9, both from 9-10 AM These webinars will provide an overview of MSF resources, coverages, payroll reporting and claim filing. If you have a new employee or know an employee from another city or town that is looking to transition to a new workers' compensation carrier, please feel free to share this with them. It's a great opportunity to learn more about workers' compensation and have your questions answered. Click **here** to register.

Safety Resources

- Hearing conservation resources are available on **SafeMT.com.**

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your MSF Safety Management Consultants for assistance.

- Montana State Fund is hosting free quarterly workshops on employee health and wellbeing. A preventative, systems-based approach to wellbeing can help reduce long-term healthcare costs, lost productivity and workers' compensation costs.

For more information and to register click **HERE.**

Keep an Eye Out

- **Deep Dive Conversation by Departments:** Similar to what we did with the "Making Them Whole Statute" discussion, we will send a voting JotForm to rank departments and prioritize discussions.
- **Survey:** We will be sending out an anonymous survey in June 2026 to get your honest feedback on what's going well with this group and how we can make it better. Your responses and input shape our future going forward.

Mark Your Calendar!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

Future Meeting Dates:

- May 5, 2026 – Make Them Whole Discussion 11:00 AM to noon
- July 7, 2026 - 11:00 AM to noon (Zoom link will be sent out)
  Topic: Stay-at-Work/ Return-to-Work
- October 6, 2026 – Safety Resources

All meetings start with music at 10:50 AM | Discussion starts at 11:00 AM.

Meeting & Newsletter Archive

To view previous meetings and newsletters please click the link below.

Video & Newsletter Archive

Following our online meeting, we invite you to join us for an informal discussion space where you can continue exploring the topics we covered. We'll host this session for approximately 30 minutes after the meeting, recognizing that many of you may want more time to engage with each other on these subjects. Feel free to grab a coffee and join your peers for an open dialogue—it's a great opportunity to share insights and ideas in a relaxed atmosphere.
We look forward to seeing you there!