



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 city and town safety contacts in 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!

Claims | The Examiner's Perspective

Presented by:

- Montana State Fund Claim Examiners James Casada and Kristy Wilson

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

Prescription Information

Injured Employees will receive a prescription card in the mail once their claim has been filed. However, you can provide them with the following information to have the pharmacy to fill a prescription:

- Claim #
- BIN #: 003858
- PCN #: WC
- GROUP #: K9HA

To view the First Prescription form, click [HERE](#).

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





City of Great Falls

"I'm so proud to share that the City of Great Falls Safety Coordinators graduated from the WorkSafe Champions Program this past May! Over nine months, this dedicated group showed up with heart, curiosity, and a shared commitment to making our workplace—and our community—safer. Their teamwork and passion made a real difference. A very special thank you goes out to our fearless leader, Sophie Magnuson. Sophie's energy, encouragement, and ability to make safety meaningful—and genuinely

fun—brought this program to life. We walked away with stronger safety plans, better communication, and a renewed commitment to protecting what matters most.

What made this journey even more powerful was seeing departments come together, share ideas, and collaborate across the organization. That spirit of unity is what makes Great Falls so special—working together not just for our employees, but for the safety and well-being of our entire community."

For more info on the MSF WorkSafe Champions Program, please click [HERE](#).

City of Billings

Multiple City of Billings departments relocated in the past year to a central location - the NEW City Hall at 316 N. 26th St. An Open House and Tours were held for the public/customers last week, 12/11.



Safety Resources

A claim examiner specializes in handling claims and managing the return-to-work process from their perspective. However, a Safety Management Consultant can assist you in several ways, including:

- Developing a Written Program: They can help create a structured return-to-work program tailored to your organization's needs.
- Identifying Transitional Modified Duties: They can help pinpoint suitable modified duties that accommodate employees returning to work, ensuring a smooth

This collaborative approach enhances the effectiveness of your return-to-work strategy by combining expertise from both fields.

Email Questions & Responses

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

Questions	Responses
<p>Please share your feedback on the following questions:</p> <p>Current Org Chart: What does your Safety Department organization chart currently look like?</p> <p>Division of Duties: Do you have a division of duties among your safety staff? If so, please elaborate on how responsibilities are divided (e.g., by functional area, specific programs, or location).</p> <p>Ideal Restructure: If you had the opportunity to reorganize your Safety Department today to better achieve your goals and success, what would that look like?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We don't have a designated safety department but do have a Safety Committee for our Public Works and Parks department. Fire and Police have their own safety program applicable to their profession. I am the Safety Coordinator for the City and oversee our safety program and procedures.• I believe we are too small of an entity at this time to have a safety department and although things could be better, we do work collaboratively as a City team to ensure our safety program is run efficiently with the employees' best interests at the forefront.• We do not currently have a dedicated safety department. My title is Risk & Safety Officer. I have attached my job description. As you will note, I am responsible for the City's overall safety program. The City also has a Safety/Facilities Officer in our Public Works Division. I have also attached the job description for that position. The Safety/Facilities Officer position is 90% safety-focused.
<p>We're noticing a higher number of injuries with our female officers experiencing shoulder injuries with the push/pull machine on the MPAT when they are doing the annual recertification. Has any other entity noticed this same trend?</p>	<p>Information received so far indicates no similar trends.</p>

Questions

Please share your feedback on the following questions:

I have a city that would like to know what cities use to vacuum leaves. If the vacuum is a trailer, how do they transport it?

Responses

- Our Streets Division provided the following: Most leaves are picked up with a baler during fall clean up. We picked up 300 bales estimating 600,000 lbs. of leaves. Not including rear load and leaf drop off on weekends. For a news link that describes our process in detail click [HERE](#).

- The size of truck would depend on the size of leaf vac trailer or leaf vac system. The city of Kalispell uses a trailer (Spartan Leaf Vac) and pulls it with a ton and half flatbed truck or single axle dump truck. The vac trailer we use has an operator station on the trailer to move the hose and vacuum the leaves. Other options are trailers that an operator manually move the hose to collect leaves or a small trailer with a vacuum that blows them into a truck. The city ordered a second leaf vac trailer this year. The operator station on the trailer allows us to cover more area without stopping and has worked for clearing storm inlets. The leaves are mulched as they go through the vacuum so we can get more volume on the trailer and cover more area. Because of the noise and sight obstruction between the operator and the driver we have headsets for them to communicate.
- My response is exactly the same as Kalispell's, although we have not ordered a second vacuum yet. We are considering a truck mounted vacuum that will only require one operator.

Mark Your Calendar!

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Future Meeting Dates:

- March 3, 2026 - Make Them Whole Statute 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Zoom link will be sent out)
- April 7, 2026 - Risk Assessment
- July 7, 2026 - 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!