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# NIRMA's Safety Shorts

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Dodge County Highway Dept

January 1, 2019

Happy New Year

Page 7 Number 1



January  
Is  
Be Kind to  
Safety  
Short  
editor's  
month.

If you have ideas for topics that you would like see covered in the safety shorts, send us an email with your suggestions.



## GENERAL SAFETY

By Chad Engle, Loss Prevention and Safety Specialist

### Money for Minutes

As of Thursday, December 27, 2018 I have received minutes from 35 safety committees documenting that they held at least four (quarterly) safety committee meetings during calendar year 2018. This is up from the 28 we had from calendar year 2017 and I am hopeful that there are many committees that will be submitting their minutes for 4th quarter soon.

As you may remember, to be eligible for the Money for Minutes drawing the safety committee had to complete the following:

- Hold at least four quarterly meetings and submit the minutes for review.
- Investigate and discuss every incident/claim/injury involving your entity and provide document of recommendations made to prevent reoccurrence. This can be outlined in your minutes.

To be considered the minutes must be received at the NIRMA office by close of business on January 31st, 2019. I will then review all the minutes to ensure the incident discussions and recommendations are documented. Those that meet the requirements will be entered in a drawing for one of two \$500 awards. I will announce the winners by Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

If you would like to confirm with me that I have received your minutes, please email me at [chad@nirma.info](mailto:chad@nirma.info) or call at 1.800.642.6671. I am excited to present the awards to two deserving committees.

Establishing workplace-safety committees is one-way management can encourage employees to participate in implementing and monitoring the company's safety program.

Typical responsibilities of workplace-safety committees include:

- Developing safe work practices.
- Leading safety training.
- Conducting workplace inspections and safety audits.
- Reviewing incidents, near misses, accident investigation reports, claim summaries and loss analyses to prevent reoccurrences of similar incidents.
- Proposing and creating safety checklists.
- Promoting employees' interests in health and safety issues.
- Providing a forum in which labor and management can discuss health and safety issues and collaborate on solutions.

Loss Prevention  
And Safety

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Workforce and  
Keep them Safe

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Safety is our  
Business



## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

**By Tim Baxter, Road Safety and Loss Prevention Specialist**

### **Certified Flagger/Construction Work Zone Signing**

In this day and age of lawsuits and its always someone else's fault, counties along with other governmental entities should be doing all they can to reduce accidents and liability.

It is critical that road department management provides the safest construction and maintenance work zones possible, not only to protect its employees, but also to protect the traveling public. Too many times, management sends inexperienced employees to perform tasks in which they have not been properly trained. One training topic that should be required of all road department employees is certified flagger training. Ensuring employees have the proper training improves their safety as well as their fellow employees and the motoring public.

Flagger certification is required every two years, if you choose to participate. There are a number of counties that need re-certification so now is a good time to have the training prior to the upcoming busy construction and maintenance season.

I never felt certified flagger training alone is enough, especially when the majority of road department employees are involved in more than just flagging construction and maintenance projects. Therefore, whenever certified flagger training is presented by NIRMA, a construction work zone signing class is provided as well. Some signing issues are covered in the certified flagger training but not nearly as many as road employees encounter every day.

Part 6, Temporary Traffic Control, in the most recent adopted edition of the MUTCD, explains the proper signing practices for county projects. This chapter is reviewed after the certified flagger training to better inform all road department employees of the proper temporary traffic control construction work zone signing requirements.

Failure to follow MUTCD signing requirements may result in accidents and liability to the county.

Those counties that have not had the certified flagger/construction work zone training or need re-certified can contact me at 402-310-4417 or email [tim@nirma.info](mailto:tim@nirma.info) so we can schedule training.

February, March and April training dates are filling up fast, so please contact me if you are interested in this important training. Be Safe.

Controlling traffic through work areas is one of the most important – and dangerous – operations in construction maintenance.

Loss Prevention  
and Safety

We're on the  
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Mark your  
calendars

The  
Employment  
Practices  
Regional Seminars



**The Seminar dates  
are:**

**April 4, 2019  
Gering**

**April 5, 2019  
Ogallala**

**April 10, 2019  
Norfolk**

**April 11, 2019  
Lincoln**

**April 18, 2019  
Kearney**

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CORRECTIONS**

**By Terry Baxter, Law Enforcement and Safety Specialist**

### **Line of Duty Deaths**

2018 saw a six percent (6%) increase from 2017 in line of duty deaths. According to Officer Down Memorial Page the leading cause of officer deaths was by gunfire. 2018 statistics showed an increase in three different categories that resulted in line of duty deaths; by gunfire (13% +), by auto accidents (49% +) and by heart attacks (6% +).

Thirty-three (33) officers of the (148) who died worked for county sheriff offices. The youngest officer to die in the line of duty was (23) and the oldest was (76). The shortest length of service was seven (7) days and the longest length of service was (41) years.

The month of May was the worse month on record for line of duty deaths as (18) officers perished. The lowest month for line of duty deaths occurred was August with five (5). Wednesday's and Thursday's were the deadliest days for officers in 2018 as (25) officers were killed throughout the year on both Wednesday and Thursday.

Law enforcement and corrections continues to be one of the most dangerous professions in America, so to influence the law enforcement culture, Below 100 was developed in 2010 to assist with trying to prevent line of duty deaths and injuries. The program focuses on wearing your belt, wearing your vest, watching your speed, WIN- What's Important Now.

When law enforcement fatalities occur, most of time, the death can be traced back to complacency. People who repeatedly are exposed to a dangerous or violent situation become less concerned and cautious. It is habit forming and complacency is a chronic illness that must be treated daily.

The last time law enforcement saw deaths below (100) was in 1943, when (97) officers were killed. It would be an amazing feat in 2019 to have less than 100 officers death. In a profession such as ours where their job is serve and protect, the reality of no line of duty deaths nationwide is simply unrealistic, but that does not mean it needs to happen in Nebraska, nor does that mean that the numbers can't get below (100).

Ensure that personnel are reminded to follow the five key tenets which can improve officer safety:

- Wear Your Belt;
- Wear Your Vest;
- Watch Your Speed;
- WIN- What's Important Now?
- Complacency Kills!

**STAY SAFE!**

**BE PROACTIVE!**