

NIRMA's

Loss Prevention and Safety Department
Monthly Newsletter

NIRMA's Safety Shorts

General Safety, Highway & Law Enforcement

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2022 MAR 1 AM 10:47
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DODGE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPT

March 2022 Volume 10, Number 3



March Is Workplace Eye Wellness Month

Each year an estimated 2.4 million eye injuries occur in the United States. Using protective eyewear can prevent 90% of all eye injuries.

Q: Who is most likely to be injured?

A: Nearly 35% of all eye injuries occur in people 18 to 45 years of age.

Q: Where do most eye injuries occur?

Accidents involving common household products cause 125,000 eye injuries each year.



GENERAL SAFETY

By Chad Engle, Loss Prevention and Safety Specialist

Money for Minutes Winners

I love February, we're getting closer to spring and it's the month I get to distribute the \$500.00 checks to the Money for Minutes winners. Usually when I'm meeting with a Safety Committee, I'm asking them to do something but when I present the checks, I get to reward them for their loss prevention efforts.

Please help me congratulate this year's Money for Minutes winners:

- Dodge County Roads
- Keith County
- Nuckolls County
- Rock County
- Sherman County Roads

This year is the first time a Road Department committee has won the award and I'm very pleased to say we had two! I'd like members to understand that if your county or agency has more than one committee, all of them are eligible to win if they meet the requirements. It hasn't happened yet, but there could be a member that wins multiple awards in one year.

It's very important to note that if you don't conduct a meeting, review incidents and injuries and submit the minutes for the first quarter of 2022, you have just shot yourself in the foot and will not be eligible to win an award this year. So please remember to get your first quarter meeting completed by the end of March. Be sure to review any incidents and injuries that occurred during the previous quarter and submit the minutes to NIRMA.

You can locate your quarterly incident report via the Interact portal. The process is simple. Your county contact person needs to speak with Tod Thieman and ask him to set up a login for the safety committee chairperson. Once they have their login setup that can download the quarterly incident report before each safety committee meeting.

2022 was the first year that NIRMA funded five Money for Minutes awards. The purpose is to inspire and motivate more of our members to hold quarterly safety committee meetings and to provide a reward to five of them that do. Once again, I'll be meeting with safety committees this summer to explain the loss prevention resources that NIRMA has to offer our members, providing training and direction to new safety committee chairpersons and just getting to know folks. If you would like me to

Loss Prevention
and
Safety

PO Box 85210

Lincoln, NE
68501-5210

chad@nirma.info

kcpawling@nirma.info

pat@nirma.info

Q: Where do most eye injuries occur?

More than 2,000 people injure their eyes at work each day. Of the total amount of work-related injuries, 10-20% will cause temporary or permanent vision loss.

Q: What are the most common eye injuries?

A: A foreign body in the eye is the most common type of injury, accounting for 35% of the total. Open wounds and contusions each account for about 25%, and the remaining injuries are burns.

According to:
American Academy
of Ophthalmology
<https://www.ao.org>

Money for Minutes Winners *continued*

Attend one of your safety committee's meetings, please contact me so that we can get it on the calendar. I can always be reached at 1.800.642.6671 and chad@nirma.info. Take care.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

By K. C. Pawling, Road Safety and Loss Prevention Specialist

Upcoming construction season, make it a safe one.

As I am writing this, I heard the weather forecast for this week. It is forecast to be in the 70's here in the central part of the State for a couple days this week. I would guess that it would be the same for many parts of the state. With weather like we have been experiencing, we naturally start to think about all the spring activities that go along with nice weather. So naturally road departments really start to focus on the first project that is going to be completed for this construction season.

I have a few things that we should make sure that we have finished up before heading out to the projects. One of our focuses should be on the equipment. Did we get all the inspections done on the equipment this year? With the completion of inspections, did we get all the necessary repairs done. A properly functioning piece of equipment not only reduces the amount of downtime but also leads to a construction crew working safely. If our machines are operating correctly, and in good repair, our crews are not trying to "get by" or "doing the best we can with what we got". In my experience those are words and attitudes that usually lead to cutting corners and unsafe work practices. This also leads to bad attitudes on the jobsite, all contributing factors to an unsafe work environment.

Second thing I think about is our employees. Do we have new employees that need to be trained on equipment before heading to the jobsite? Do we have ANY employees needing training or refresher training on any of the tasks we expect them to do this year? Are there any PPE needs that should be addressed? For example, does everyone have a safety vest or safety toed footwear if the footwear is required? This is a good time to meet with our individual work crews and go over these items before heading out. To circle back just a bit, do the crews understand the procedure and importance of daily equipment inspections? Again, this contributes to employee safety whether they realize it or not.

The third thing I am thinking about is properly closing roads. Are the employees trained to understand the correct way to properly close a road using three barricades? Do we have the advanced warning signs up that are necessary? We also need to make sure that we are making and documenting barricade inspections. Again, photos are a great way of documenting the installation and inspections of the barricades.

NIRMA has recently had a claim concerning a road closure. A county had a road that was damaged by excessive rain, and barricades were installed by the county. The county had not been able to complete the road repair as they had planned so, the road remained closed. The county never did inspections to verify the continual presence or the condition of the barricades. Also, when the barricades were put up, there was no advance

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We're on the Web

<https://nirma.info>

phone

402-742-9220

fax

402-742-9230

toll free

800-642-6671



Cyber Security
Seminars

Register Now!

April 13

Civic Center
Gering

April 14

Haythorn Ranch
Ogallala

April 15

Holiday Inn
Kearney

April 20

Champions Club
Lincoln

April 22

Divots Conference
Center, Norfolk

Upcoming construction season, make it a safe one. *continued*

warning sign installed to alert motorists of the closure.

The motorist who was pulling a trailer with a pickup noticed the condition of the road and was able to get stopped coming to rest in the road ditch before proceeding onto the "closed" portion of the road. The motorist provided information that the barricades and advance warning signs were not up, and the county could not produce documentation or any proof to dispute the claim. NIRMA ended up settling the claim because we could not prove the barricades were not up. Luckily there was only vehicle damage and not injury to the occupants of the vehicle. It could have ended up far worse than it did.

It would be a good idea to do a hands-on exercise to walk employees through the first closure of the season. This gives you an opportunity to learn firsthand if you have any sign needs or if any repairs need to be made to your barricades. This is also a good time to review the inspection process that needs to be done with every road closure. Let's make sure everyone makes it home every night. Be safe!

If you have any questions on any of the above information or want to request training, please contact me at 402-310-4417 or email kcpawling@nirma.info.

How Cyber Incidents Have Impacted Nebraska Counties

Attend NIRMA's Cyber Security Seminar and you'll come away with a place to start – or expand upon – efforts to protect against the kinds of cyber crime and breach incidents that have already begun to hit Nebraska Counties. **Registration is now open on our website – <https://nirma.info>. See available dates and choose one of five convenient regional locations at left.**

Ransomware cost the world **\$20 billion in 2021**. That number is expected to rise to **\$265 billion by 2031**.

Most Targeted Sectors Worldwide by Hackers in 2021

- Education/Research sector up by 75%
- Cyber attacks on Healthcare sector up by 71%
- ISP/MSP up by 67%
- Communications +51%
- Government / Military sector up by 47%



Statistics by Chuck Brooks
Global Thought Leader in Cybersecurity and Emerging Tech