

Manager/Supervisor Risk Management

#164–8/6/13

A twice weekly e-mail training for YCPARMIA members

TOPIC: SAFETY – YCPARMIA’S ROLE

While YCPARMIA provides safety consultation services and training at no additional cost, it is essential that our members remember that they are responsible for their own safety programs. We impose no requirements, and enforce no expectations; the efforts and resources that an individual member entity chooses to dedicate to workplace safety are their own decisions. Similarly, the entity’s safety policies and procedures are their own. YCPARMIA can provide suggestions, models, and input, but it is up to the member entity to modify and adopt them to fit their specific needs. It is not YCPARMIA’s specific policy, it is the member’s – their name is on top; the individual ultimately responsible is their employee.

YCPARMIA has twenty-eight members of varying size and needs. Depending on the time of year, those members can have over 4,000 employees and volunteers. YCPARMIA has a staff of seven, and only one position that is dedicated full-time to safety/loss prevention. There is no way that we can effectively function as our members’ “safety department.”

Another important concept to stress is that YCPARMIA is not a regulatory agency. We never tell a member what they have to do, nor do we ever prohibit them from doing something that they want to do. YCPARMIA is a joint powers authority; it is a risk sharing pool of members that have agreed to share the financial responsibility of their collective risk. The pool and its members benefit from the good safety practices of its members because effective loss prevention practices reduce the financial hits that the pool suffers. It should be a given that an investment in safety saves money.

YCPARMIA is a separate entity; we are the interested outsider in all things related to safety. We appreciate and encourage our members’ safety efforts; what is good for them, is good for us, and our other members. But, it is acknowledged that there are factors facing our individual members, including budget, staffing, management skill, and time, that necessarily impact or limit their safety activity. YCPARMIA’s interaction with our members has to be in this real world of limitations, not in the stylized world of the perfect safety culture.

In summary, it is our role to work with our members, not in place of our members. By offering expertise, consultation, and training, our goal is to enhance our members’ return on their investment of scarce resources in their own safety programs. The next few topics will explore the services that YCPARMIA provides towards giving our members the biggest bang for their safety bucks.

Next Topic: Safety – YCPARMIA’s Role - continued