

Michigan Township Participating Risk Control Services and Midwest Claims
Introduces New Training Video – “You’ve Been Sued”
Rita J. Evans, Vice President MTPP Risk Control Services



Jim Youngblood, President, Midwest Claims Service



Bob Seibert, Seibert & Dloski; Gus Morris, Kupelian Ormond & Magy; Steve Galante, Midwest Claims Service

During the MTA 2007 Educational Conference the Michigan Township Participating Plan and Midwest Claims Service had the opportunity to introduce and to present to public officials their latest training awareness video. “You’ve Been Sued”. Although a municipality may exercise the best risk management procedures there is still the possibility the municipality, elected officials, boards or commissions, employees or volunteers under the direction of the municipality could be sued.

“You’ve Been Sued, is a re-enactment of an actual incident of a sidewalk claim that resulted in the death of a young child. The presentation highlighted the domino effect of how incorrect or not utilizing policies and procedures effectively, can position you for an ineffective defense posture. Additionally, the video walks you through trial preparation of summons and complaint, discovery proceedings, interrogatories, depositions and how to be an effective witness.

Our panel of professionals answered questions and discussed in open format how governmental immunity and the exceptions to governmental immunity, the freedom of information act, and the violations of the open meetings act all encompassed the event compromising the defense posture of the municipality and employees.

This video is the 5th in a series of training awareness videos that the Michigan Township Participating Plan has developed over the years. Our teaching videos provide education to municipalities on the risk management theory and techniques that will assist them in the identification of existing or potential liability exposures municipalities face on a daily basis and how they may control those exposures with the development and implementation of policies and procedures.

The Risk Control Department is available to present training seminars to Par-Plan members at not cost. Please contact the Par-Plan Risk Control Department @ 800-536-7425 to schedule your training on any of the following topics.

- Reducing The Risk**
- Township Planning and Zoning
 - Sexual Harassment
 - ADA & Discrimination in the Workplace
 - Know Your Liabilities
 - You’ve Been Sued

*****NOTICE OF BOARD MEETING*****

The Michigan Township Participating Plan’s quarterly Board of Directors meeting is schedule for Friday, April 20, 2007 at William Bamber, Zone 9 Director, will be hosting this quarterly meeting at the Oceola Township Hall. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m.

All members are invited to attend.



THE PAR-PLAN NEWS

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Left to Right Rob Behnke, Supervisor; Barbara Phillips, Treasurer; Kevin Decker, Risk Manager - MCM Insurance Group; Jim Youngblood, President - Midwest Claims Service, Inc.

James Youngblood, President of Midwest Claims Service and Kevin Decker, Risk Manager of MCM Group present a check to Pennfield Charter Township on behalf of the Michigan Township Participating Plan in the amount of \$323,821.05 to replace a fire truck that was a total loss from a single vehicle accident.

The fire truck (tanker) turned at a corner, the water shifted and the driver lost control of the truck.

(See related photos on page 2)

MTPP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term: July 1, 2006 through
June 30, 2007

ZONE 1

Paul Lehto
Calumet Township
(906) 337-2410

ZONE 2

Marvin Besteman, Jr.
Vice Chairman
Kinross Charter Township
(906) 485-5381

ZONE 3

Pat Mead
Secretary
Benzonia Township
(231) 882-4411

ZONE 4

Terry Wright
Grayling Township
(989) 348-4361

ZONE 5

Jim Beelen
Chairman
Allendale Charter Township
(616) 895-6295

ZONE 6

Jon Sherwood
Beaverton Township
(989) 465-9175

ZONE 7

John Jones
Ira Township
(586) 725-0263

ZONE 8

John Buckhout
Charter Township of Kalamazoo
(269) 381-8080

ZONE 9

William Bamber
Oceola Township
(517) 546-3259



The above photos show damage sustained to the Pennfield Charter fire department tanker involved in the roll-over accident.

It has been reported the older model of tankers may not have reinforcement stabilizers, which causes shifts in water weight. It is recommended that departments should inspect trucks for such hazards.

Congratulations

Kathleen S. Doorndos, Trustee, Charter Township of Kalamazoo and Arthur St.Clair, Supervisor, Charter Township of Windsor they were two winners of the Par-Plan TV door prizes.

Michigan Township Participating Plan Board of Directors Elections

During the next several months, member representatives will be electing Zone Representatives to serve on the Par-Plan Board of Directors. This year Zones 3, 6, & 9 are up for regular election with representatives serving three-year terms. Zones up for election consist of the following counties.

Zone 3: Manistee, Wexford, Missaukee, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet

Zone 6: Clinton, Shiawassee, Gratiot, Saginaw, Isabella, Midland, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Arenac

Zone 9: Hillsdale, Lenawee, Monroe, Jackson, Washtenaw, Wayne, Ingham, Livingston

Each member of the Par-Plan should designate a person to serve as the Member Representative. Only Member Representatives are eligible to serve on the Par-Plan Board of Directors. After nominations are confirmed the Member Representative will be required to provide a Resolution Affirming Membership in the Michigan Township Participating Plan as Member Representative.

According to the MTPP Bylaws: Member shall mean a local unit of government participating in the Michigan Township Participating Plan. And most important, Member Representative shall mean the Member representative to the Par-Plan. A member representative must be an elected official of the unit of government that is a member of the Par-Plan. If the unit of government does not have elected officials, a member of the Board of that unit of government may be its Member Representative to the Par-Plan.

Appointed officials such as City Managers, Township Superintendents or DPW Superintendents are not eligible. Units of government that would not have elected officials might be fire authorities, water authorities and library boards.

If you are uncertain of your eligibility to run for the Zone Representative or procedures to vote, please contact the Chairman of the Election Committee, Joe Kreusel at (810) 765-5523, or the Par-Plan office at (800) 783-1370. The election committee has set the following election timetables:

April 4th Nomination forms mailed to zone members

May 7th Nomination forms must be postmarked to receive consideration

June 1st Election ballots mailed to all zone members

June 20th Election ballots must be postmarked to receive consideration

June 27th Election ballots counted

July 15th Michigan Township Participating Plan Annual Business Meeting



The winner is selected based upon the highest number of votes received. Elected positions will be for a three-year terms and will require elected Directors to attend at least (4) four board meetings per year in addition to committee activities.

You will be receiving your nomination form in the mail the first week in April. If you wish your nominations form to receive consideration, please return the form before May 7th to the Michigan Township Participating Plan, 1700 Opdyke Court, Auburn Hills, Michigan 48326

Sincerely
PAR-PLAN ELECTION COMMITTEE