Help Educate the Public - Turn Around Don’t Drown®

I still remember spring 2006 like it was yesterday. It’s hard to believe that it’s been 10 years! It was one of those March days when the temperature was warmer than expected. My wife and I were attending our local Sons and Daughters of Erin St. Patrick’s Day event along with about 200 others. The dinner concluded and just after 8:00 pm we decided we’d better exit the Knights of Columbus Hall and get home. The temperature had dropped and a storm was blowing in. Little did we know that only a few minutes behind us were two F2 tornadoes. Fortunately no one was killed, but the events of that day were devastating to the Springfield community. The entire city was without power and numerous structures were damaged or destroyed.

Only a few weeks ago Illinois experienced significant flooding due to high amounts of rain in a short amount of time. Buildings were flooded and damaged, roadways became impassable throughout the state, and once the water did subside, significant work had to be performed to clean up debris so that roads were passable and drainage ways could function.

Spring weather in Illinois is just unpredictable, but being prepared is something we can all do for ourselves and our community. The National Weather Service (NWS) has some excellent resources available for local governments to use to educate the public on the dangers of flooding. The NWS “Turn Around Don’t Drown®” campaign offers everything from printed materials to public service announcement in the form of audio and video clips.

We encourage township officials to go to the NWS website and review the free resources available for your use: http://tadd.weather.gov. Whether it’s printing off brochures and making them available to the public and/or school children, using signage suggestions, or one of the many public service announcements, your help educating the public could indeed save lives. One suggestion I liked was for a township official to partner with their local radio station and playing one of the public service announcements (PSA) available from the NWS. The official could record an introduction to the piece (i.e. “This is XYZ Township Highway Commissioner John Doe reminding you to be mindful of spring flooding events and Turn Around Don’t Drown®.”)

The following resources are available at http://tadd.weather.gov:

- Turn Around Don’t Drown® PSA (Video)
- Flash Flood Safety in a Car (Video)
- Story About A Loss of Life (Video)
- Kyle Bush, NASCAR Champion (Audio)
- Low Water Crossings: The Hidden Danger (Streaming Video)
- Water’s Fury (Audio)
- Turn Around Don’t Drown® (Video)
- Turn Around Don’t Drown® (Audio Song)
- Brochures (see the tear-out brochure in this newsletter)
- Bumper Sticker
- Signs — Speak to your County Engineer

Jim Donelan
Executive Director

FLOODING AHEAD
TURN AROUND
DON’T DROWN

WHEN
FLOODED
TURN AROUND
DON’T
DROWN

FLOODING? BE SAFE!

Turn Around Don’t Drown

IN THIS ISSUE:
TOIRMA TOTAL MEMBERS  Page 5 & 6: Tear Out: Heavy Equipment/Vehicle Checklist and the Weekly Road and Sign Inspection Log
Page 7: TOIRMA TIDBITS: News  Page 8: Human Resources Help Line • TOIRMA Contacts Pullout: “Turn Around Don’t Drown®” Brochure
**CLAIMS:** Spring Reminders

By: Katie Musgrave, Claim Supervisor

Spring is the time of year that signifies the end of a long, cold winter and the warmer summer months that lie ahead. We experience the beauty that Mother Nature can bring with the blossom of flowers, the green on the trees, and the sunny days that this season brings. For our road and bridge departments, spring also is the time of year when the “to do” list grows and the road work begins.

We’d like to remind all of our members of some simple tips to help keep you, township employees, and others safe.

**ROAD INSPECTIONS**

Have a regular inspection system in place. Keep visibility clear on all roads and all intersections. Check your roads for overgrown brush that is or might cause visibility issues for motorists.

**SIGNS**

Use signs to warn while working on roads. Oftentimes claims can be prevented if signs were used to warn motorists of road work ahead. Signs also keep your employees safe, so taking the extra time is worth it.

**HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER’S DIARY**

Utilize your Highway Commissioner’s Diary to document all road work and inspection systems. This helps keep track of all inspection systems, road work, and projects within the township. Sometimes it isn’t until months later that our officials are made aware of an accident occurring on a township road. Referring to the entries in the Highway Commissioner’s Diary can protect you in certain claims.

**LOOK BEFORE BACKING**

Unfortunately, not all motorists know the saying, “If you can’t see my mirrors, I can’t see you.” We receive numerous claims each year where the township driver looked in the side mirrors and the car was so close behind the truck that the driver couldn’t see the car. What you can’t see is really what you have to watch out for, so be sure to back slowly.

If you need a Highway Commissioner’s Diary or any other stickers seen here, please call Debbie Prentice at 1-217-444-1204 or email her at dprentice@ccmsi.com.

To aid you in conducting your spring cleaning, enclosed in the newsletter you will find a tear out that includes the Heavy Equipment/Vehicle Checklist and the Weekly Road and Sign Inspection log. The Heavy Equipment/Vehicle Checklist is a new form that was added to the 2015 Highway Commissioner’s Diary (in the folder at the back of the Diary). There is a Weekly Road and Sign Inspection log in the Diary, but it is a little different than the log included in this newsletter; let us know which one you like better.
KOEW YOUR COVERAGES... TOIRMA TEST

1. What are some examples of information that should be kept in your personnel files?
   a. Equal Employment Opportunity Records and Health/Safety Records
   b. Benefits and Leave of Absence
   c. Job Description, Training Records, and Attendance Records
   d. Garnishment Orders, National Origin, and Religion Information

2. Which statement is true regarding what to do in the event of an auto accident?
   a. Leaving the scene without calling the police could result in a citation for leaving the scene if the other party makes a desk report later
   b. There has to be an injury for the police to be called
   c. Calling the police for minor damage is not necessary and wastes manpower and time
   d. If you stop to lend aid in an accident you were not involved in and discover the police were not called, it is not your place to call them

3. What does ‘prompt notice’ mean?
   a. ASAP
   b. Generally, 24-48 hours from the time of loss notice
   c. 1 week within receipt of loss
   d. 3-5 days

4. Which statement is true regarding Road Use Agreements?
   a. It is in the best interest of your road district and your residents to have adequate discussion before a project is started
   b. The Illinois Highway Code authorizes a highway authority, such as the road district, to impose reasonable rules, regulations, and specifications for the use of road district roads by public and private utilities
   c. When there is a need to utilize your right-of-way it is important to protect this asset and get the parameters in writing
   d. All of the above

5. Which of the following below are offered by TOIRMA to its members?
   a. First Aid/CPR/AED Training
   b. Railroad Protective Liability
   c. Towing Coverage
   d. B & C
   e. All of the Above

6. What does “PPE” stand for?
   a. Personnel Policies for Employment
   b. Political Policies Explained
   c. Personal Protective Equipment
   d. Public Priority Everyday

7. When is JULIE available?
   a. 24 hours a day, 365 days per year
   b. Every day except Christmas and Easter
   c. 12 hours a day, 365 days per year
   d. 24 hours a day, Monday - Friday

8. Which statement is true regarding snow shoveling safety?
   a. Lift the snow away with a large shovel
   b. Take it slow and stretch out before you begin
   c. Shovel snow after eating or smoking, when you feel most relaxed
   d. Lift with your back, not your legs

9. Which of the following statements is true in connection with the Workers’ Compensation Workplace notice?
   a. The Illinois Department of Labor can come in and do a safety inspection of your township at any time
   b. There is a copy of the notice in the last section of your TOIRMA Program Manual
   c. You need to add the date you joined TOIRMA, your agreement number and your Employer’s FEIN to complete the poster
   d. All of the above

10. What is the importance of “Dillon’s Rule”?
    a. It is an entertaining point of view but not meant to be taken literally
    b. Keeping “Dillon’s Rule” in mind can save a significant amount of time, headache, and potential liability
    c. It deals with the broadening of township powers, beyond what is written in the statutes
    d. The rule is old and has not withstood the test of time for practical matters

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**Answer Key:**

1. c
2. a
3. b
4. c
5. a
6. c
7. a
8. b
9. d
10. b
TOIRMA NEWS

TOIRMA MEMBER CALENDAR

Following are highlights of the upcoming TOIRMA calendar:

March ..................................... Renewal Packet due March 1
   Dividend Issued
April ...................................... Annual billing mailed to all members renewing June 1
   Dividend cashed?
June ..................................... Renewal contribution due June 1
   Declaration pages and payroll audit mailed

TOIRMA TOTAL MEMBERS  1/31/2016
Townships  *  1378
MTAD’s  *  313
Welcome New Member: Menard Road District #10/Menard County

SEEN & NOTED:

More Americans are under the influence of drugs while they drive, even as drunk driving rates decline.

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<th>DATE</th>
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<th>SIGNS</th>
<th>ROAD CONDITIONS</th>
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# Heavy Equipment/Vehicle Checklist

**Equipment/Vehicle**  __________________________  **Date**  ____________

**Checked By**  _____________________________________________

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<th>Checklist</th>
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<th>No</th>
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<td>Brakes</td>
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<td>Clutch</td>
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<td>Engine Gauges</td>
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<td>Engine Oil Pressure</td>
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<td>Engine Operating Temperature</td>
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<td>Engine Running Smoothly</td>
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<td>Engine Supports/Main Springs Good</td>
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<td>Fan and Belts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire Extinguisher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fuel System</td>
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<td>Glass/ Windshield And Wipers</td>
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<td>Hand Rail Mounted or Fastened Properly</td>
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<td>Hydraulic Fluid Levels</td>
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<td>Oil Level</td>
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<td>Seat Belts</td>
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<td>Skid Plate, Rock and Radiator Guards</td>
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<td>Transmission</td>
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TOI Booth-The Kids: Matt Knight, Sean Richardson, Simphi Lenover, Beth Eyrich, and Katie Musgrave took a ‘ride’ on the School Bus at the TOI 108th Annual Education Conference this past November in Springfield, IL.

GOOD LUCK TO LAURA JACOBSON

Laura is one of the Human Resources professionals that has been taking your calls on the Human Resources Help Line for the past year and a half. Laura will be moving to Northern Michigan with her husband and daughter. Her last day will be March 4. We wish them well as they embark on a new chapter in their lives.

Rhonda Grubb will continue to answer your calls to the Human Resources Help Line at 1-888-472-6785, Ext. 1172.

Paris Township Officials: Paris Township Officials in Edgar County gathered this past December for a Christmas Party. Pictured are Sean Richardson, TOIRMA Loss Control Representative; Robert Sprague, Trustee; Bill Ingrum, Supervisor; Marty Jones, Trustee; Chuck Wooten, Highway Commissioner; Eugene Joines, Assessor; Mark Anderson, Trustee; and seated in front, Jim Mathis, Clerk.

Pike County Luncheon: Sean Richardson, TOIRMA Loss Control Representative attended a Pike County Township Officials Christmas Luncheon. Pictured are Sean, Senator Sam McCann; Kirby Hobbs, Highway Commissioner of Pittsfield Township; Representative C.D. Davidsmeyer and his son Pax.
Human Resources Help Line  Don’t forget to call for help with employee issues. 1-888-472-6785 Ext. 1172

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Claim Supervisor
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Follow These Safety Rules

Monitor the NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards, or your favorite news source for vital weather related information.

If flooding occurs, get to higher ground. Get out of areas subject to flooding. These include dips, low spots, canyons, and normally dry washes.

Avoid roads already flooded.

Road may be washed out under flood waters. Turn Around Don’t Drown™ when you encounter a flooded road.

If heavy rain is forecast or occurring, move your camp site and vehicle away from streams and washes.

Be especially cautious when driving at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.

For more information:
Turn Around Don’t Drown™ online Toolbox - http://www.weather.gov/os/water/tadd/

Partners
American Association of Motor Vehicle Administration
Federal Alliance for Safe Homes

Turn Around Don’t Drown™ is a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration trademark.
**Turn Around Don’t Drown™**

In direct response to so many unnecessary vehicular-related flood deaths, the National Weather Service developed a national campaign called, “**Turn Around Don’t Drown™**”. The campaign aims to educate motorists of the dangers of driving across flooded roads.

**Dangerous Water**

“I urge all Texans to realize the dangers of crossing flooded roadways and respect the barricades put in place by officials to protect Texans’ lives. Remember these words: **Turn around don’t drown,**” (Governor Rick Perry, Press Release, July 7, 2010).

Words to live by for all motorists. On average, nearly 100 people drown every year in floods-more than half are caused by motorists trying to drive through flooded roads. Too often, motorists across the nation find themselves in trouble:

- **Indiana**--a pregnant woman and her 7-year-old daughter were rescued when their vehicle became stranded on a flooded road.
- **Georgia**--a 39-year-old woman drowned in her minivan when flash flooding trapped her in her vehicle.
- **Arizona**--a swift water team rescued a man from a car stranded in a wash after he drove past a “Flood Area” sign.

Many drivers over estimate their ability to navigate flooded roads, putting too much stock in their “heavy” vehicles. In reality, most motorists lose control of their vehicles, including SUVs, in just six inches of water, while 18-24 inches of moving water will force a vehicle off the road. The menace is buoyant force. When the buoyant force is greater than the vehicle’s weight, the vehicle will move with the moving water. Besides the buoyant force, erosion is another significant concern. Moving water is very powerful and can undermine the integrity of a road. A motorist will be unaware he is driving into a scoured out section of the road.

**Warning and Incident Road Signs**

The National Weather Service worked closely with the Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration to develop two officially sanctioned road signs. Local officials are encouraged to use **Turn Around Don’t Drown™** (TADD) signs to mitigate the loss of life and property.

**Warning Signs**

Warning signs are permanent signs alerting drivers to existing or potentially hazardous road conditions. The TADD warning signs are used in locations where the risk for flooding is high, flooding happens very quickly, and/or where flooding occurs in isolated locations when emergency officials don’t have time to post an incident sign.

**Incident Signs**

Incident signs are temporary signs posted on an as-needed basis. Incident signs should be deployed when a natural disaster (flood or flash flood) or other unplanned event impedes the normal flow of traffic.

The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control contains provisions for traffic control devices, including size of the sign, color, and shape. Standards for both incident and warning signs can be found at: http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov

Information for developing **Turn Around Don’t Drown™** signs can be found at the National Weather Service **Turn Around Don’t Drown™** Toolbox: http://www.weather.gov/os/water/tadd/