



P E R M A<sup>SM</sup>

# Workers' Comp

## News for Public Employers

PUBLISHED BY PERMA, PUBLIC EMPLOYER RISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

### WHAT'S INSIDE

#### Letter from the Executive Director

Page 2

#### Risk Management – Training and Service

Page 3

#### Safety is Everyone's Job

Page 4

#### Annual Conference Update

Page 5

#### Staying Informed

Page 6

#### Regional Meeting

Page 6

#### Regulatory Update

Page 7

#### PERMA Receives AGRiP Recognition

Page 7

#### Law Enforcement Reports Summary

Page 8

## PERMA'S ADMINISTRATOR ACQUIRED BY *York Risk Services Group*



Back in 2007, Brent Wilkes, president and owner of Northeast Association Management, Inc. (NEAMI), and president emeritus of PERMA, mentioned to the PERMA Board of Directors that it was time to think of a succession plan – Brent wanted to retire.

Well, it took ten years, but effective March 1, 2017, NEAMI, PERMA's administrator, was acquired by York Risk Services Group – and Brent did retire.

York is a global provider of claims administration and risk management services, and it operates a national business unit dedicated to public entity self-insurance pools – York Pooling. PERMA is now the twenty-fifth pool administered by York, and the largest.

Francis Fey, co-president of York Pooling, considers PERMA a jewel in the crown. "What York was most interested in, regardless of PERMA's size or finances, was the culture of the organization," Fey said. "Brent, Jeff Van Dyk and his staff, and PERMA's municipal members have built something extraordinary, and unlike anything else in the pooling marketplace."

York will be keeping PERMA's culture intact and thanks to York's provider relationships and broad knowledge base, PERMA will benefit from the transition.

York brings a great many advantages to the table. Both of York Pooling's co-presidents worked in state pools before the pools were acquired by York, so they, and the rest of the organization, exhibit a continuous commitment to pooling. And that commitment resonates through their investment in:

- **Technology.** York maintains an integrated claims system that promises to speed up PERMA's claim coordination, reserving, and benefit delivery. The system also has a member portal and analytics built right in.
- **Depth of staff.** PERMA has always benefited from a diverse staff – claims adjusters, underwriters, services and accounting representatives, nurses and risk specialists – all under one roof. And now, those same people will have the ability to reach out to their compatriots in pools across the country to bring fresh information to PERMA members.
- **Expansion of services.** Services that PERMA had to contract for before will now be available in-house through York's network of partners – actuaries, bill reviewers, and independent medical evaluation (IME) providers, to name a few. And this vertical integration will save PERMA, and its members, time and money.

*continued on page 4*



PERMA

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## Letter from the Executive Director

JEFF VAN DYK, AIC

PERMA has started out 2017 strong: rolling with change and solidifying programs. Our Board Chairman, Stephen Altieri, sent out notices at the end of February to all members that PERMA's new administrator would be York Risk Services Group, a global provider of claims and risk management services. Our risk management department added another specialist to the team: Ed Starowicz, the former deputy DPW superintendent of the Town of Pittsford. And PERMA's policies, program, and operations were once more affirmed by the Association of Governmental Risk Pools (AGRiP), the international educational group for public entity self-insured pools.

### A NEW CHAPTER IN MANAGEMENT

As executive director of PERMA, I was deeply involved in the process of determining NEAMI's sale to York. PERMA is NEAMI's largest client, and now the largest self-insured pool York administers. I have seen nothing but professionalism, accommodation, and a forward-thinking mindset from the York team. They are enthusiastic to usher PERMA into the future.

And the process has started in earnest. York's information technology team has been on site for a significant part of March, and a claims contingent will be coming in April. The new technology and systems being brought in will make processes easier for staff, and will be reflected in increased capabilities and quicker response times for members.

One of the co-presidents of York Pooling will be onsite at the end of April. I would be delighted to pass on any thoughts or concerns you may have about the transition. You can email me at [jvandyk@neami.com](mailto:jvandyk@neami.com) or call 888-737-6269.

### AND ANOTHER NEW CHAPTER IN RISK MANAGEMENT

With the addition of Ed as PERMA's public safety risk management specialist, we are rounding the corner to a complete team of professionals that use technology to aid traditional loss control services. Ed will be guiding and advising PERMA's public works, highway, waste management, and water authority members, as well as working in tandem with Debbie Stickle to develop programs that benefit them all. Just one more staff member, a program manager, is needed to round out the team.

### CLOSING THE BOOK ON PROGRAM RECOGNITION

For the next three years, just as it has for the last 15, PERMA will be operating as an AGRiP-recognized risk pool. In full disclosure, AGRiP is another NEAMI client who is now managed by York, but that does not mean that PERMA did not have to go through the same extended process to achieve recognition. I prize our recognition, as it is only been bestowed on several dozen of the hundreds of operating risk pools in the United States, Canada, and abroad. AGRiP's value as an institution goes beyond professional recognition – the education and networking opportunities afforded to the staff and boards of its member pools are priceless.

Finally, I hope to speak with all of you in person at the Annual Conference May 25 & 26.

The range of speakers this year is phenomenal. I am especially looking forward to Mary Beth Woods of the NYS Workers' Compensation Board and Gordon Graham, of Lexipol, and formerly of the California Highway Patrol.

**It should be a wonderful time and I hope to see you all there!**

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### Managed by Northeast Association Management, Inc.

Public Employer Risk Management Association, Inc. (PERMA), the largest self-insurance pool for public entities in New York State, has been administered by Northeast Association Management, Inc. (NEAMI) since 1995. NEAMI, with its staff of approximately 80 professionals, provides claims management services, as well as nurse case management, risk services, coverage underwriting, and general member services.

# PERMA RISK MANAGEMENT

## Comprehensive Training and Specialized Service

PERMA has the widest selection of risk management solutions of any workers' compensation coverage provider in New York State. We pride ourselves on assisting our members with everything from OSHA compliance and HR training to data analysis and claims trending. Here is an introduction to all that the risk management department has to offer.

### Risk Analysis



**Contact –  
Debbie Stickle,  
senior director of  
risk analytics,  
dstickle@neami.com;  
888-737-6269,  
ext. 3079**

PERMA employs risk analytics to shed light on areas of stronger and weaker risk management. We want to figure out what accidents are most common, what safety measures work, and what types of claims cost the most. And we provide assistance:

- Pool-wide, creating targeted programs and services to the highest risk groups, such as PTSD awareness seminars, crossing guard trainings, and comparative equipment studies for police.
- For groups of similar members, combining and sharing data to create perspective into their risk profiles by comparison. Members can then work together to share best practices and build strong safety cultures.
- To individual members, by creating risk profiles that illuminate high-risk areas, and then applying targeted risk services.

### Risk Group Specialists



**Contact –  
Lewis Moskowitz,  
public safety risk  
management  
specialist,  
lmoskowitz@neami.  
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**Edmund Starowicz,  
public works risk  
management  
specialist,  
estarowicz@neami.  
com; 888-737-6269,  
ext. 3004**

PERMA's first claims modeling project was initiated to determine how to allocate risk management resources to provide the right solutions, in the right place, at the right time. Within the first year, we identified police losses as the prime target for tailored loss control initiatives, and by year two, identified public works as the secondary target. PERMA's police and public works specialists provide targeted interventions in the highest risk areas, such as EMS and fire assists, lower back injuries, mental stress and trauma, traffic control, training-related injuries, and motor vehicle accidents.

Lew and Ed are available to consult with members anytime and provide loss control and risk management leadership, guidance, and services in their respective specialties to PERMA members.

### Regulatory Compliance and Hazard Audits



**Contact –  
Sarah O'Brien,  
risk management  
consultant,  
sobrien@neami.com;  
888-737-6269,  
ext. 3056;**



**Norm Wiley,  
risk management  
consultant;  
nwiley@neami.com;  
888-737-6269,  
ext. 3028**

One of the fundamental tasks of any risk management program is to provide compliance assistance for federal (OSHA) and state (PESH) training requirements and perform physical worksite inspections. PERMA provides both of these essential services to all PERMA members, including participants in our county plans.

Our consultants also respond to risk alerts initiated by PERMA case analysts and patient advocates in regards to claim particulars.

### Additional Services



**Contact –  
Sigrid Vompa,  
risk management  
assistant,  
svompa@neami.com;  
888-737-6269,  
ext. 3086**

PERMA also offers a curated collection of training DVDs, a personalized online training portal (PERMA Safety Institute), and many additional onsite services, including:

- Confined space training
- Environmental testing
- Ergonomic evaluations

- Safety program creation
- PPE training
- Lifting/transfer technique

These services, and many others, can be scheduled at little or no cost to the member. PERMA is the first stop for members' evaluation and training needs.



# SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S JOB

*Ed Starowicz, Public Works Risk Management Specialist*

## **SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S JOB IS WRITTEN BY ED STAROWICZ**

*Ed joined the PERMA team from the Town of Pittsford, where he was deputy superintendent of public works from 2003 until January 2017. He was educated at Alfred State College and Rochester Institute of Technology, and is a certified Quality Improvement Facilitator. As PERMA's public works risk management specialist, Ed provides public works loss control and risk management leadership, guidance, and services to PERMA member entities.*

### **As I take the lead for PERMA as their public works risk management specialist,**

I am informed by my personal mantra, "Safety is Everyone's Job." This statement was sadly illustrated by January's confined space accident in Key Largo, FL ([www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2017/01/18/three-utility-workers-descend-to-their-deaths-in-florida-manhole-overcome-by-fumes](http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2017/01/18/three-utility-workers-descend-to-their-deaths-in-florida-manhole-overcome-by-fumes)), where a simple accident in a manhole turned out to be a silent killer. In this incident, two workers entered a 15-foot-deep manhole,

not knowing that it was filled with a mixture of hydrogen sulfide and methane gases. Based on initial reports, the workers entered the manhole without any equipment because of the manhole's small size. The two workers went down, went silent, and then a rescue firefighter entered after them without an air pack. All three people died.

Our PERMA organization experienced deep sorrow in 2010 with the loss of an employee of one of our members in a similar situation to Key Largo. The employee entered a manhole, went silent, and then a firefighter entered. Both perished.

### **QUESTIONS TO ASK**

One resident in Key Largo commented, "The smell is just a really strong, strong rotten egg smell." Now, when you already have that smell on the surface, you need to step back and ask, "What do I need to safely enter this space?" You should be asking the following questions before every confined space entry:

- Did you perform atmospheric testing?
- Do you have proper entry equipment onsite?
- Do you have a rescue plan in place, and rescue equipment onsite?

OSHA and PESH require that confined spaces which have certain atmospheric conditions or physical hazards be designated as Permit-Required Confined Spaces. If you have such a space within your municipal boundaries, you must:

- Have a Permit-Required Confined Space entry program
- Train your managers and supervisors in the entry process
- Implement confined space entry permits using qualified trained personnel

### **PERMA HAS MANY RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO ASSIST WITH YOUR NEEDS.**

The PERMA DVD Library has ten titles available to borrow that address confined space, from multiple perspectives and for different levels of hazard ([www.perma.org/members/dvd-library/#ConfinedSpace](http://www.perma.org/members/dvd-library/#ConfinedSpace)).

The PERMA Safety Institute (accessible from the Member Dashboard – [www.perma.org/members](http://www.perma.org/members)) has the online course Confined Space Entry, which details OSHA's requirements for entry. And onsite training is also available. **Contact Sigrid Vompa, risk management assistant to schedule – [svompa@neami.com](mailto:svompa@neami.com); 888-737-6269, ext. 3086.**

I am excited to join the PERMA team, and would be happy to answer any questions about any of the above, or anything else in relation to public works. **Contact me at [estarowicz@neami.com](mailto:estarowicz@neami.com) or 888-737-6269, ext. 3004.**

*Spend time to save a life. Safety is Everyone's Job.*

*York Risk Services Group – continued from page 1*

### • **Continuous quality assurance (CQA).**

An approach to quality management that emphasizes organizations and systems instead of the individual. CQA focuses on processes, internal and external conditions, and objective data to improve the quality of services delivered to PERMA members.

"York's investment in NEAMI, and in pooling in general, has us very excited for the next

phase in PERMA's evolution," said Stephen Altieri, president and chair of the PERMA Board of Directors. "The Board was fully involved in the process of evaluating and approving York's acquisition of NEAMI, and we are convinced the benefits to PERMA members in terms of cost containment and services offered are numerous."

York will start immediately to upgrade equipment and systems at the PERMA office

in Latham. From a member perspective, the transition should be seamless.

**If you experience any disruptions in service, please contact the Member Services department – [memberservices@neami.com](mailto:memberservices@neami.com) or 888-737-6269, ext. 3088.**

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE

*May 25 & 26, Sagamore  
Hotel & Resort, Lake George*

*The PERMA Zone is shaping up into quite the experience! Early registration that ended February 27 broke records, thanks in part to a \$25 Sagamore gift card giveaway. And every week brings a new feature to an already wondrous conference. You do not want to miss it!*

## *Workshops You Need*

### **“The Jeopardy Room” – IME from A to Z**

Independent Medical Examinations (IMEs) are an essential part of the workers’ compensation system. But what do you actually know about them? Workers’ comp attorney Matthew Mead and PERMA’s senior director of claims Rich Hayes will walk you through the practical and legal applications of IME’s in New York State. And you can ask questions of a lawyer without having to pay by the hour!

### **“Sounds & Silence” – Hearing Conservation Compliance**

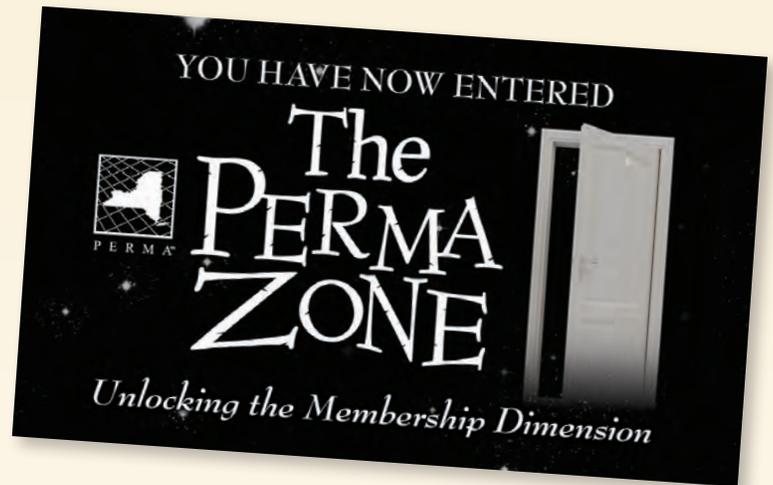
Eighty-five (85) decibels isn’t much. It’s the level of sound made by common kitchen appliances: a garbage disposal, a dishwasher, or a blender. Even though it’s not a lot, your employees who are daily exposed to that amount of noise must receive training annually to comply with OSHA and PESH regulations.

To help you out, we are bringing in industrial hearing expert Helene Freed to discuss regulation compliance and the six essential components of a hearing conservation program.

### **“A Most Unusual Camera” – Body/In-car Camera Policy Issues and Officer Safety**

One of the most debated topics in policing today is the use of body/in-car cameras. Michael Ranalli of police and fire policy training provider Lexipol is decidedly pro-camera, BUT, as an attorney, he knows the complications that surround implementing a camera policy. Join Michael as he discusses using cameras as training tools for improving officer decision-making and reducing officer injuries.

**Download the conference brochure for more workshop info: [www.perma.org/wp-content/uploads/2017-conference-brochure.pdf](http://www.perma.org/wp-content/uploads/2017-conference-brochure.pdf)**



## *Entertainment You Want*

Do you like to dance? Of course you do. Then come in your finest Thursday night to rock out with “America’s Rock and Roll Fun-omenon” – The Nerds! The Nerds are credited by the New York Times as the group that re-ignited the craze for cover bands in the mid-2000s. They cover everyone from Steppenwolf to Englebert Humperdink to Billy Joel, and they do so with comic panache.



But if you need to wind down, wander around in the Conference Center lobby and find a NY Drawing Booth artist. In 120 seconds, these artists will hand-draw your portrait on an iPad, and then send it to your phone, email, or print a 4”x6” copy for you on-site.

## *Facebook You Can’t Live Without*

You can even share your portrait on Twitter or PERMA’s new Facebook page: PERMAAnnualConference. In the weeks leading up to the conference, we will provide a steady stream of updates to the Facebook page, and we will be FacebookLive streaming the most popular workshop sessions. If you want the most current information, follow us!

**To register, visit [www.perma.org/members/register/](http://www.perma.org/members/register/). And do so soon – registration ends April 24, and after that rooms are subject to availability. Any questions can be directed to Kristen Morris, event planning specialist at [kmorris@neami.com](mailto:kmorris@neami.com) or 888-737-6269, ext. 3078.**

*We can’t wait to see you on  
May 25th at the Sagamore!*

Follow us on Facebook for all the latest updates!  
**PERMAAnnualConference**

## PERMA *Staying Informed*

### *Guidance for Firefighters Volunteering at a Secondary District*

Recently, a member Village came to us with concerns regarding a volunteer firefighter who wanted to participate with the Village's fire department, even though he was a member of another volunteer district. Commonly referred to as "bunking-in," this particular volunteer was attending school in the Village.

While volunteer firefighters are not allowed to be members of two departments, in accordance with General Municipal Law 209(i), they may volunteer on an on-going basis with a secondary department, provided the volunteer:

- Offers his/her services in writing to the secondary department
- Receives acceptance in writing from the department

After these two requirements are met, the firefighter may become a temporary volunteer in the secondary department. If the firefighter were to be injured in the line of duty, the injury would fall under the secondary department's volunteer firefighter benefit law (VFBL) coverage.

For further info, GML 209(i) can be found here: [codes.findlaw.com/ny/general-municipal-law/gmu-sect-209-i.html](http://codes.findlaw.com/ny/general-municipal-law/gmu-sect-209-i.html)

If you have any questions, please contact Rich Hayes, senior director of claims – [rhayes@neami.com](mailto:rhayes@neami.com); 888-737-6269, ext. 3074.

### *New on the PERMA Website*

#### **PESH FORMS NOW AVAILABLE**

PESH 900 – Log of Work Related Injuries and Illnesses ([www.perma.org/wp-content/uploads/1-PESH900form.pdf](http://www.perma.org/wp-content/uploads/1-PESH900form.pdf)): Complete this log with information from all work-related injuries and illnesses throughout the year. The log is used to populate PESH 900.1 at the end of the year.

PESH 900.1 – Annual Summary of Work Related Injuries and Illnesses ([www.perma.org/wp-content/uploads/1-PESH9001.pdf](http://www.perma.org/wp-content/uploads/1-PESH9001.pdf)): Complete this summary using information from PESH 900. Must be posted by February 1, and remain posted through April 30.

#### **NEW PAYMENT OPTION!**

PERMA now accepts contribution payments via automated clearing house (ACH)/electronic funds transfer (EFT). If your

financial institution supports electronic payments to service providers, then simply visit [www.perma.org/members/electronic-transfer/](http://www.perma.org/members/electronic-transfer/) to obtain PERMA's account and routing information. If you need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us at [billing@neami.com](mailto:billing@neami.com).

#### **2016 ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE**

Fiscal year 2016 (6/1/2015 – 5/31/2016) saw PERMA at a high point in its evolution with finances, member services, and commitment to operational technology growing in quality, breadth, and depth. View the report in detail here: [www.perma.org/wp-content/uploads/PERMA-2016-Annual-Report.pdf](http://www.perma.org/wp-content/uploads/PERMA-2016-Annual-Report.pdf).

#### **REDESIGNED FIRST FILL CARD**

The PERMA First Fill Card ([www.perma.org/wp-content/uploads/Perma\\_Optum-Generic-NY-Dir-of-Care-First-Fill\\_ENG-SPAN\\_Editable-1.pdf](http://www.perma.org/wp-content/uploads/Perma_Optum-Generic-NY-Dir-of-Care-First-Fill_ENG-SPAN_Editable-1.pdf)) supplies 10 days of medication, free of charge, to any injured worker whose claim has not yet been accepted into the claims system. PERMA's pharmacy benefit manager, Helios, changed their name to Optum earlier this year, and the redesigned card reflects this change.

## REGIONAL *Meeting*



#### **INDUSTRIAL MACHINE SAFETY**

At the regional training in Lake Placid at the end of March, PERMA highway and public works employees received education in industrial machine safety.

Led by Doug Miller of Occupational Safety Consultants, the training discussed how to:

- Safeguard machines to meet OSHA, PESH and American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards
- Determine the best types of safeguards for various applications

- Incorporate ergonomics into safeguarding methods
- Prepare for OSHA and PESH inspections

**If you missed the training**, please contact Sigrid Vompa, risk management assistant, to see if you can schedule it for your municipality – [svompa@neami.com](mailto:svompa@neami.com) or 888-737-6269, ext. 3086.

**If you didn't get an email or flyer notifying you of the training**, please contact Erin Harrington, communication specialist, to make certain you are on our contact list – [eharrington@neami.com](mailto:eharrington@neami.com) or 888-737-6269, ext. 3094.

# REGULATORY *Update*

## *Information Needed – Workplace Violence in Healthcare/Social Services*

On December 7, 2016, OSHA published a Request for Information (RFI) – [www.osha.gov/walking-working-surfaces/index.html](http://www.osha.gov/walking-working-surfaces/index.html) - to solicit comments on employer/employee experience with workplace violence in healthcare and social assistance settings. The RFI also requests detailed information on effective strategies workplaces have implemented to reduce their incidence of violence. The information gathered will be used to inform a potential standard on violence prevention.

Comments and materials may be submitted electronically via the Federal eRulemaking portal ([www.regulations.gov/document?D=OSHA-2016-0014-0001](http://www.regulations.gov/document?D=OSHA-2016-0014-0001)), or via mail, fax, or hand delivery.

**The submission deadline is right around the corner – April 6 – so get your comments in now!**

## *Final Rule Issued – Walking/Working Surfaces & Personal Fall Protection Systems*

Falls from heights and on the same level (a working surface) are among the leading causes of serious work-related injuries and deaths. To better protect workers from these hazards, OSHA has issued a final rule ([www.osha.gov/walking-working-surfaces/index.html](http://www.osha.gov/walking-working-surfaces/index.html)) on Walking/Working Surfaces and Personal Fall Protection Systems that updates/clarifies standards and adds training and inspection requirements. The rule incorporates advances in

technology, industry best practices, and national consensus standards to provide effective and cost-efficient workers protection.

**The rule benefits employers by providing greater flexibility** in choosing a fall protection system. For example, it eliminates the existing mandate to use guardrails as a primary fall protection method and allows employers to choose the fall protection system that will work best for them.

Most of the rule became effective in January, but some provisions have delayed effective dates, including:

- Ensure exposed workers are trained on fall hazards – **May 17, 2017**
- Ensure workers who use equipment covered by the final rule are trained – **May 17, 2017**
- Inspect and certify permanent anchorages for rope descent systems – **November 20, 2017**
- Install personal fall arrest or ladder safety systems on new fixed ladders and replacement ladders on sections over 24 feet – **November 19, 2018**
- Ensure existing fixed ladders over 24 feet are equipped with a cage, well, personal fall arrest, or ladder safety system – **November 19, 2018**
- Replace cages and wells (used as fall protection) on all fixed ladders over 24 feet with ladder safety or personal fall arrest systems – **November 18, 2036**

**To ensure you are currently in compliance, contact Sigrid Vompa, risk management**

**assistant, to schedule a hazard assessment – [svompa@neami.com](mailto:svompa@neami.com); 888-737-6269, ext. 3086.**

## *Educate your Employees to Stop the Spread of Illness in the Workplace*

As the cold and flu season is almost over, it is the perfect time to start educating your employees on workplace wellness before the season comes back around.

Workplaces offer many opportunities for people to interact, which increases the risk of respiratory illnesses spreading. So preventing illnesses among employees supports steady workplace operations. Getting a flu vaccine every year is the best way to avoid getting seasonal flu, but there are other important actions you can take to protect yourself and others.

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Wash your hands often.
- Limit large workplace gatherings during flu season.
- Maintain a working distance of at least three feet between coworkers.
- Clean frequently touched objects like door knobs, refrigerator handles and light switches.

The Center for Disease Control provides educational resources and trainings that will show you how to incorporate personal and workplace actions to prevent illness from spreading among your employees. Visit [www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/tools-resources/educational-materials.html](http://www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/tools-resources/educational-materials.html) for more info.

# PERMA RECEIVES AGRiP RECOGNITION *for the Sixth Time!*



**AGRiP Vice President Brett Davis, PERMA Executive Director Jeff Van Dyk, and AGRiP President Tom Barnes**

The Association of Governmental Risk Pools (AGRiP), an organization dedicated to energizing the power of pooling, recognized PERMA for its pooling best practices on March 6 at the AGRiP Governance and Leadership Conference in Orlando, FL.

AGRiP's recognition program consists of an intensive process of internal review, followed by peer review, of a pool's policies, practices, procedures, leadership, and functional collaboration. The process must be repeated every three years to maintain recognition.

PERMA first won recognition in 2001, as the seventh international pool to receive the award from AGRiP. There are currently 47 recognized pools.

"I was honored to accept the AGRiP recognition on behalf of PERMA," said Jeff Van Dyk, executive director of PERMA. "AGRiP's advisory standards are the gold standard for pool organization and operation."

PERMA was one of eight pools who received recognition from AGRiP this year.



P E R M A™

**PUBLIC EMPLOYER  
RISK MANAGEMENT  
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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Albany, NY 12212-2250

**Visit us at [www.perma.org](http://www.perma.org)**

*New York's largest  
self-insured provider of  
workers' compensation for  
public entities.*

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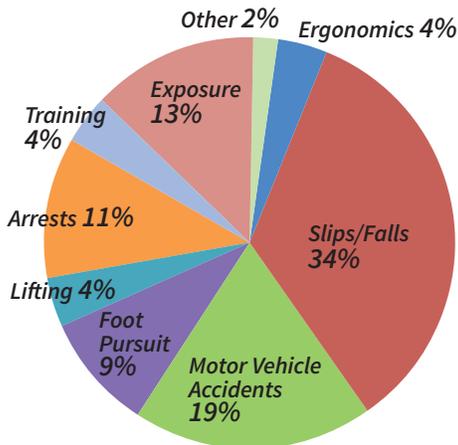
for the latest updates!

# LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORTS SUMMARY

*by Lew Moskowitz,  
Public Safety Risk  
Management Specialist*

**JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2017**

## ACTIVITY AT TIME INJURY OCCURRED



**In January and February of this year, PERMA received 47 law enforcement/corrections claims.**

The chart on the left represents a breakdown of the activities taking place at the time the accidents occurred.

As the chart makes apparent, the majority of these accidents involved slips and falls, mostly weather-related on member-owned properties. **Almost all of the accidents could have been prevented if walking/parking areas outside of police stations were properly shoveled and salted.**

Motor vehicle accidents were the second largest area of claims reported during January and February. The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) has reported that **officers wearing their seatbelts during a vehicular crash return to work five days sooner than those who do not.** The IACP recommends that agencies should mandate seatbelt wear for all personnel. A sample seatbelt policy can

be found on New York State Association of Chiefs of Police website: [www.nychiefs.org/images/ModelPolicies/SeatBeltPolicy.doc](http://www.nychiefs.org/images/ModelPolicies/SeatBeltPolicy.doc).

This information is a summary of the first two reports I have sent to PERMA member law enforcement contacts this year. The feedback I have received on the reports has been very positive. The purpose of these reports is to draw attention to the activities that were taking place at the time injuries occurred. I hope that these monthly reports are being shared with all members of the law enforcement/correction agencies that are receiving them. **If the reports are continually shared, we can create an awareness that will, over time, help us all avoid the most likely injuries in the future.**

*If you would like to be added to the law enforcement subscriber list, please contact me: [Imoskowitz@neami.com](mailto:Imoskowitz@neami.com) or 888-737-6269, ext. 3083.*