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NEWS

Land Improvement Contractors Of America · Illinois Chapter

September - October 2023

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AREA 3 TRAP SHOOT & GOLF OUTING SEPT. 8, 2023

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IF WE (SOMEHOW) MISSED YOUR PRESENCE...

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VIRTUAL SEPTIC TRAINING SEPT. 28, 2023

(page 9)

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- ▶ **Lake Decatur Water Quality Initiative RCPP** *(page 12)*

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings again. I hope everyone is having a great summer. Around here, we are still working on getting the fleet ready for this Fall. Every summer, I try and become more and more prepared for the upcoming Fall season; everything from stocking bolt bins, repacking wheel bearings, building up wear

parts and the like. Every year, I try and add a new tool to the toolbox. This is becoming more and more important as our winters are trending warmer and what was the Fall season is now becoming just the "season." I remember getting a couple of months in the Winter to catch up on fleet maintenance, which is not always the case anymore. More and more maintenance must be done in the field in order to keep everything working right. As the saying goes, "tractors don't break in the barn." There is nothing worse than breakdowns, but the better you are prepared for them, the faster you get back up and running.

Just as expected, ILICA has been active this summer. In early August, we completed our drainage project at Illinois Central College in East Peoria. Several members took advantage of our trench safety workshop and walked away with their OSHA Excavation & Trenching Competent Person certification. Several other members helped us install field tile, shape a wascob, and install nine water control structures which will be used for research. We are now looking forward to our drainage demonstration at this year's Farm Progress Show in Decatur (Aug. 29-31). ILICA will be working just outside of Progress City. We encourage everyone to come by and see all the new machinery we will have out there helping us with the installation.

I continue to be amazed at the support ILICA gets from our Associate members. The amount of machinery and material that gets donated to complete our projects is amazing. It shows the connection ILICA has with industry leaders. It also shows how much these associate members value the work we are doing. Let's face it, conservation practices have been proven to work yet are still slow to be adopted. Together with our partners in conservation, ILICA is steadfast in our commitment to promote these practices. I have been saying for years you could keep a small crew busy by just installing water control structures for drainage water management, bioreactors, saturated buffers, wetland restoration, waterways, wascobs, etc. The more we talk about the importance of these practices, the faster the adoption rate will be for implementation. How often do you promote a conservation practice in your own business? It's a little bit of extra work, which you bill for. Oftentimes, it prolongs your "season" into summer. I call them side jobs that really pay off. It has been one of the keys to my success, even being as small of a company as I am. The window for spring work in fields going into crop rotation is getting smaller and smaller as farmers' abilities to plant crops becomes faster and faster. Don't be afraid to take on "side jobs."

Let's head into this "season" well prepared. ILICA supports you in so many ways. If you have any questions about your ILICA benefits, please call the ILICA office. Ryan or Michelle can explain them in full detail. Enjoy what is left of your summer.

Best Regards,

Eric Layden

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	A = absent		P = present		C = cancelled meeting	
Area / Director	Jan	March	May	June	Sep	Nov
Pres: Eric Layden	P	P	P	P		
VP: Jon Seevers	P	P	P	P		
1st VP: Tyler Seals	P	A	P	P		
Area 1 - Brian Brooks	P	P	P	P		
Area 2 - Steve Anderson	P	A	P	A		
Area 2 - Stuart Anderson	P	P	P	A		
Area 3 - Grant Curtis	P	A	A	A		
Area 3 - Joe Streitmatter	P	P	A	A		
Area 4 - David Kennedy	P	A	P	P		
Area 4 - Lee Bunting	P	P	P	P		
Area 5 - Rick Maguire	—	P	P	A		
Area 6 - Scott Day	P	P	A	A		
Area 6 - Bill Dean	P	A	P	P		
Area 7 - John Barttelbort	—	A	A	A		
Area 8 - Tom Beyers	P	P	P	P		
Area 8 - Tyler Seals	P	A	P	P		
Associate Director: David Randolph	P	A	A	A		

BOARD & MEMBERS' MEETING SCHEDULE

Unless changed by the Board during the year, the ILICA business meetings are scheduled as follows:

Sept. 9, 2023 - Regular Meeting of the Board:

Virtual & IP - ILICA Office, Galva

Nov. 4, 2023 - Regular Meeting of the Board:

TBD

Exact location, meeting times & other details will be published in the ILICA News and sent to members via mail and/or email.

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2024 ILICA ANNUAL CONVENTION

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U.S. SAFETY AGENCY TO REQUIRE AUTOMATIC EMERGENCY BRAKING ON HEAVY TRUCKS & BUSES

JUNE 22, 2023: The government will require heavy trucks and buses to include automatic emergency braking equipment within five years, the federal traffic safety agency said Thursday, estimating it will prevent nearly 20,000 crashes, save at least 155 lives a year.

The announcement by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration follows a similar move last month for all new passenger cars and light trucks. The actions represent the traffic safety agency's latest efforts to regulate electronic systems that take on certain tasks that drivers themselves have normally handled. NHTSA has been reluctant in the past to impose such regulations, saying the technology would change during the time it took to enact new rules.

Ann Carlson, the safety agency's chief counsel, said Thursday that automatic emergency braking systems will reduce the frequency and severity of rear-end crashes, as well as rollovers and accidents involving loss of driver control.

"Advanced driver assistance systems like AEB have the power to save lives," she said at a news conference. The new requirement "is an important step forward in improving safety on our nation's roadways by reducing — and ultimately eliminating — preventable tragedies that harm Americans."

The proposed rule applies to new trucks and buses weighing at least 10,000 pounds and is expected to become final next year. The heaviest trucks — those over 26,000 pounds — will be required to install the braking system three years after the rule becomes final, while vehicles weighing between 10,000 and 26,000 pounds will have until 2028.

AEB systems use forward-facing cameras and sensor technologies to detect when a crash is imminent. The system automatically applies the brakes if the driver has not done so, or, if needed, applies additional braking force to supplement the driver's actions. The proposed standard would require the technology to work at speeds ranging from 6 to 50 miles per hour.

The American Trucking Associations, the industry's largest lobbying group, welcomed the announcement.

"The trucking industry supports the use of proven safety technology like automatic emergency braking," said Dan Horvath, the group's vice president of safety policy. "With NHTSA's recent regulation requiring AEB on all new passenger vehicles, this proposal for heavy duty trucks is timely and appropriate."

According to NHTSA statistics, there are about 60,000 rear-end crashes a year in which a heavy truck or bus is the striking vehicle. Once implemented, NHTSA estimates the proposed rule will prevent more than 19,000 crashes, save 155 lives and prevent nearly 9,000 injuries annually.

The agency says the rule on new passenger vehicles and light trucks will dramatically reduce rear-end crashes, saving at least 360 lives per year. It also is projected to cut injuries by at least 24,000 annually and reduce property damage.

The Transportation Department, which includes NHTSA, called the proposal an important step in the broader goal of reducing roadway deaths. The number of people killed on U.S. roads declined slightly last year, to 42,795, but still represents a national crisis, the agency said.

The announcements on automatic emergency brakes follow a provision in the 2021 infrastructure law requiring automatic braking in all vehicles, passenger and commercial.

As of December, a total of 15 automakers had included the technology standard on most or all new models. General Motors said automatic emergency braking will be standard on nearly all its vehicles by the end of the model year.

Automatic braking systems are not flawless. NHTSA has opened three investigations into systems from Tesla, Honda and Freightliner that activated the brakes for no apparent reason.

Source: Cheddar News - author Matthew Daly

https://cheddar.com/media/us-safety-agency-to-require-automatic-emergency-braking-on-heavy-trucks-and-buses?utm_source=n2k&utm_medium=email



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ILICA Ladies' Page

This festive Halloween Snack Board is filled with tasty snacks, treats, and even a few tricks! It's the perfect spread for parties or a fun night in. Your friends and family will love these fun Halloween snacks.

Our boys LOVE Halloween, it is one of their favorite holidays. It isn't my personal favorite, but I am happy to celebrate with my boys, even if that means dressing up..ha!

I may not get excited about costumes, ghosts, and goblins, but I always get excited about the food! Every holiday needs good food, I am all about the Halloween snacks and treats.

I made a Halloween Snack Board and it was fun to put together and fun to eat. The boys LOVED it. I got major mom points for putting this delicious spread together:)

I love making snack boards because they are easy, there's something for everyone, and they are SO fun! This Halloween version would be great for Halloween parties, play dates, movie night, or game night. You can also make a board for just your family, a fun night in! Snacks are always a good idea!

How to Make a Halloween Snack Board

I am going to share how I made my Halloween Snack Board and some tips, but there is no right or wrong way to make a snack board. There are no rules! Have fun with it, use your favorite snacks or what you have in your pantry. You can make a big snack board or a small snack board.

- First, decide how many people you are making the board for. This will help you determine what board to use and how many snacks to buy.
- If you are sharing with family and friends, have them bring a Halloween snack to add to the board. This will help keep the cost down and you get to try new things!
- I always try to have a mix of sweet and salty, some healthy and some indulgent, and kid and adult friendly snacks.
- Next, you need a board. You can use a wood cutting board, marble board, large platter, or even a baking sheet. The board can be rectangle, square, round, long, or you can even put a few small boards together. For this board, I used a large wood cutting board. I also use this board all of the time.



- Get out a few small bowls for dips, olives, candy, etc. It is nice to have height and variation on the board. Also, do you need serving spoons or forks? Get those out too!

- Prep in advance! Wash and cut up veggies and fruit, make dips, cut up cheese, etc. Do anything you can so when it's time to put the board together, you are ready!

- Lay out all of the snacks so you can see what you have. See what colors and textures you have. Decide what needs to go in bowls.

- Start building your board! Put the bowls on the board first and then start adding small piles and groupings of snacks on the board. I like to mix up the colors so you don't have all of the same color in one area. Again, there are no rules! You can always

move things around. Once you have the look you like, I always make the piles of snacks a little fuller so there are no gaps. You want a FULL board with no spaces.

- Snack time! Provide small plates for guests and let them enjoy!

Halloween Snacks

Now, I will share the Halloween snacks I used for this board. Remember, you can mix things up and use your favorite snacks.

Try to choose snacks that are festive! Look for snacks and treats that are orange, black, or have Halloween colors and shapes. I also added a skeleton, spiders, little bones, and spooky eyes to give it more Halloween flare!

- ▶ Cheez-Its
- ▶ Candy Pumpkins
- ▶ Halloween M&M's
- ▶ Ants on a Log (celery, peanut butter, and raisins)
- ▶ Snap peas
- ▶ Oreo Spiders (Use a Double Stuff Oreo cookie, stick pretzels, and candy eyes to make a spider. I use a little icing to make the eyes stick.)
- ▶ Cheese balls

- ▶ Candy corn
- ▶ Spooky Guacamole (my favorite guacamole with eyes on top)
- ▶ Blue corn tortilla chips
- ▶ Chocolate Pretzel Ghosts (dip pretzel rods in white chocolate and use mini chocolate chips for the ghost eyes)
- ▶ Black olives
- ▶ Gummy worms
- ▶ Baby carrots
- ▶ Reese's Pieces
- ▶ Clementine pumpkins (peel and add a little piece of celery for the stem)
- ▶ Cheddar Sun Chips
- ▶ Popcorn
- ▶ Cheese pumpkins (use a small pumpkin cookie cutter to cut the cheese)
- ▶ Salami



For more recipes visit: www.twopeasandtheirpod.com

Source: Reprinted with permission from Two Peas and Their Pod creator and article author Maria Lichty: <https://www.twopeasandtheirpod.com/halloween-snack-board/>




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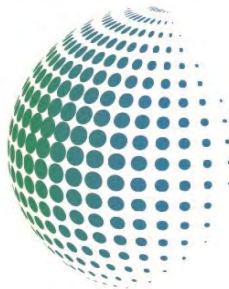
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Lake Decatur Water Quality Initiative Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

The City of Decatur is the recipient of a **\$9.8-million-dollar United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant focused on improving water quality in key areas across the Lake Decatur watershed.** The 5-year program provides substantial cost-share and flexibility to landowners and growers for certain practices aimed at reducing sediment and nutrient losses to the lake. Funding and non-USDA technical assistance is being directed to key counties, drainage areas and fields within a set proximity to the reservoir. Priority Counties include **Macon, Piatt and DeWitt.**

Four primary practice incentives are being offered:

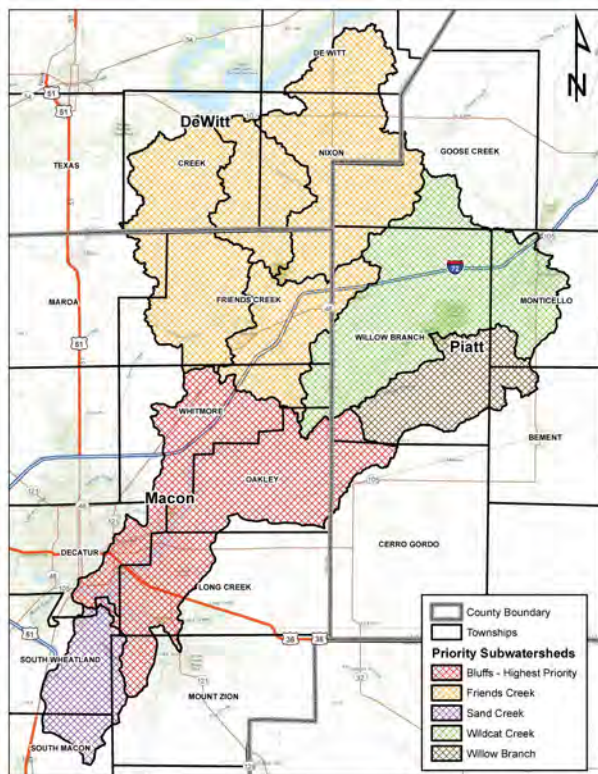
- 1. Cover Crops** – up to **\$103.80 per acre** for drilled, spring terminated, more than one species. Cover crops are being offered on portions of fields more susceptible to erosion and nutrient loss.
- 2. Nutrient Management** – **100% of the cost covered** for a nutrient management plan and up to **\$85.94 per acre** for deep placement of nutrients, and associated record keeping, soil and stalk testing.
- 3. No-Till/Strip-Till** - **\$22.74 per acre** to transition to no-till or strip till.
- 4. Tile Drainage Management** – **100% cost-share** for drainage water management (manual or automated water control structures), bioreactors, and saturated buffers.

Additional financial incentives such as **service and product discounts**, in addition to **base rates**, are available from program partners and vendors, which can further increase cost-share rates.

Other notable program elements include:

- **Streamlined USDA signup process and assistance with paperwork.** When cost-share becomes available in early 2024, interested landowners/growers will contact either the City of Decatur directly or a private contractor to complete initial eligibility screening and begin the sign-up process prior to any interaction with the County USDA-NRCS office.
- Up to **5-year contracts** for cover crops and tillage practices.
- **Free one-on-one non-USDA technical and management assistance** from area farmers and crop advisors.
- Generous **lump-sum payments** for practice test plots prior to enrolling entire or partial fields.
- **No Adjusted Gross Income** or AGI caps.

Free equipment rental may be offered by a local retailer on a first-come-first serve basis. Other practices currently being negotiated with the USDA include generous **short-term land rental payments for harvestable filter and field borders, financial support for transition to organic, and substantial land rental and direct payments to plant hemp.** Fields are not eligible if already enrolled in a USDA program for the same practice.



Priority areas or “subwatersheds” for the initial years of the RCPP include the Bluffs, Friends Creek, Sand Creek, Willow Branch, and Wildcat Creek.

1. Bluffs Watershed. Includes all or parts of these townships:

Mount Zion Twp., Decatur Twp., South Wheatland Twp, Long Creek Twp., Willow Branch Twp., Whitmore Twp., Oakley Twp., and Cerro Gordo Twp.

2. Friends Creek Watershed. Includes all or parts of these townships:

DeWitt, Goose Creek, Creek, Nixon, Texas, Maroa, Willow Branch, Friends Creek, Whitmore, Oakley.

3. Sand Creek Watershed. Includes all or parts of these townships:

Mount Zion, South Macon, Decatur, South Wheatland, Long Creek.

4. Willow Branch Watershed. Includes all or parts of these townships:

Monticello, Bement, Willow Branch, Cerro Gordo.

5. Wildcat Creek Watershed. Includes all or parts of these townships:

Goose Creek, Monticello, Willow Branch, Friends Creek, Whitmore, Oakley.

If you own/operate farm ground in one of these areas and are interested in learning more or being considered for financial assistance, please contact your county representative.

Piatt County
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 Northwater Consulting
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 jeff@northwaterco.com

Macon County
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Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association

Area 3 Trap Shoot & Golf Outing Friday, Sept. 8, 2023



Izaak Walton League Trap-Skeet Grounds: 9:00 am
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Barker Park Golf Course: 12:00 pm (shotgun start)
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Name(s)	Trap, Golf, Dinner @ \$105	Trap Only @ \$30	Golf & Dinner @ \$80	Golf Only @ \$55	Dinner Only @ \$40
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2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

My preferred foursome is: _____ I do not have a preference

***Event sponsors receive buy 3 get 1 free golf & dinner registration (\$240/foursome)**

Company name (to be listed on signage): _____

Contact: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Enclosed is the check, **PAYABLE TO ILICA**, in the amount of \$ _____.

Mail check and this form to: **Illinois LICA - 112 Exchange St., Ste 2 - Galva, IL 61434**

TRAP SHOOT REQUIREMENTS: Bring your own gun & the correct loads for it. Lead shot acceptable.



Register Online

IF WE (SOMEHOW) MISSED YOUR PRESENCE...

It wasn't for lack of trying on Illinois LICA's part this summer if we missed your presence during the past few months. In the last issue of *ILICA News*, we shared all the details from the golf outing, trap shoot, member picnic, backhoe rodeo, and combined partnership field day for the "Woodchip Bioreactor" and "Saturated Buffer" partnerships, all held in June. This issue we squeeze in some quick takeaways and photos from the remainder of the jam-packed summer months (sans Farm Progress Show, yet to be held between print dates and mailing deadlines of this issue). This summer's been a whirlwind of activities and opportunities uniquely available to Illinois LICA members, and we thank all of you that came out to share a laugh, your friendship, your expertise, and/or your time to invest in yourself to continue LICA's proud legacy of quality workmanship in resource management.

Advanced Drainage Workshop

- 2 days of comprehensive drainage training
- 25 registrants
- 9 Associate sponsors/vendors

National LICA Summer Meeting

- 5 days of site seeing, seminars, meetings, & networking
 - ▶ 6 pre-tours
 - ▶ 3 education seminars
 - ▶ 16 committee meetings
 - ▶ 1 board meeting
- PENDING: new digital safety program, LICA Ag Drainage Conference



THANK YOU ADVANCED DRAINAGE WORKSHOP SUPPORTERS

Advanced Drainage Systems; Agri Drain Corp.; Drain Tile Safety Coalition; Ecosystem Services Exchange; IADD; Metal Culverts; Prinsco; River Valley Pipe; Springfield Plastics



OSHA Trench Safety Competent Person

- Classroom and in-field training
 - ▶ Hands-on trench hazards identification scenarios
 - ▶ Portable shoring demonstration
- 18 contractors certified

Illinois Central College Field Demonstration & Tours

- ILICA installed (3 days): 20 acres subsurface drainage, 9 water control structures, 1 water & sediment control, 1 diversion
- Two tour groups/events with 5 field stops each
 - ▶ Community College Alliance for Agriculture Advancement (C2A3) National Conference
 - ▶ Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership's Ag & Conservation Family Night

THANK YOU PROJECT SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS

Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc.; Agri Drain Corp.; Alta Equipment Company; Birkey's; Bradford Supply Company; Central Plastic Products, Inc.; Fratco, Inc.; Grey & Associates; Illinois Central College; IL NRCS; ISAP; Martin Equipment of Illinois, Inc.; Mid America Trenchers, LLC; Prinsco, Inc.; River Valley Pipe, LLC; Roland Machinery Co.; Schulte Supply, Inc.; Springfield Plastics, Inc.



Visit www.ilica.net/projects for full project details.

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ILICA Trivia

What year was
"Winter In Paradise"



Be the first to submit the correct
answer to michelle@illica.net

One lucky winner will receive a prize!

July/Aug Answer: Princeton, IL



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Illinois

Area 3 Trap Shoot & Golf Outing September 8, 2023 Kewanee, IL

Izaak Walton Trap - Skeet Grounds: 9:00 am
Baker Golf Course: 12:00 pm
Register via QR code on page 15

Board of Directors Meeting (hybrid) September 9, 2023 Galva, IL

Committee meetings: 8 am - 12 pm
Board Meeting: 1 pm

In-person:

ILICA Office
112 Exchange St., Ste. 2,
Galva, IL 61434

Virtual:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9759547353?pwd=c1ZPcjFhSTBTYjhXeERNZnFRTXZdOZz09>

Or call: 1-312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 975 954 7353
Passcode: 0000

Prairie Feather Farms Field Day September 14, 2023

Prairie Feather Farms: Dwight, IL
Attend this field day to visit an ILICA constructed wetland and to learn more about this effective conservation drainage practice

Contractor Training Store & Illinois LICA Virtual Septic Training September 28, 2023

8 - 11:30 am
Register: <https://form.jotform.com/210405973758159>
or via QR code on page 9

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Land Improvement Contractors Association of America

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Safety Policies



Safety Meeting Material



State Requirements



OSHA Requirements & Newsletters



Business must be a member of a State Chapter of LICA. Each member will gain complete access to the ZyWave Resource Library! Email: anational.lica@gmail.com to set-up an account and get started!

Questions? Contact Bruce Mosier or Kari Van Es at Prins Insurance for additional information.

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HOW SAFETY PROGRAMS CAN LOWER COSTS



With help from safety programs, you can save your company money, improve productivity and increase employee morale on the road. Here's how.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), workplaces that establish safety and health management systems can reduce their injury and illness costs by 20 to 40 percent. Safe environments also improve employee morale, which positively impacts productivity and service. When it comes to the costs associated with safety, consider the following statistics from OSHA:

- U.S. employers pay almost \$1 billion per week for direct workers' compensation costs alone, which comes straight out of company profits.
- Injuries and illnesses increase workers' compensation and retraining costs.
- Lost productivity from injuries and illnesses costs companies roughly \$63 billion each year.

In today's business environment, these safety-related costs can be the difference between reporting a profit or a loss. Use these tips to understand how safety programs will directly affect your company's bottom line.

The Cost of Safety – Measurement

Demonstrating the value of safety to management is often a challenge because the return on investment (ROI) can be cumbersome to measure. Your goal in measuring safety is to balance your investment vs. the return expected. Where do you begin?

There are many different approaches to measuring the cost of safety, and the way you do so depends on your goal. Defining your goal helps you to determine what costs to track and how complex your tracking will be.

For example, you may want to capture certain data simply to determine what costs to build into the price of your service, or you may want to track your company's total cost of safety to show increased profitability, which would include more specific data collection like safety wages and benefits, operational costs and insurance costs.

Since measuring can be time consuming, general cost formulas are available. A Stanford study conducted by Levitt and Samuelson places safety costs at 2.5 percent of overall costs, and a study published by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) estimates general safety costs at about 8 percent of payroll.

If it is important for your organization to measure safety as it relates to profitability, more accurate tracking should be done. For measuring data, safety costs can be divided into two categories:

1. Direct (hard) costs, which include the following:
 - Safety wages
 - Operational costs
 - Insurance premiums and/or attorney's fees
 - Accidents and incidents
 - Fines and/or penalties
2. Indirect (soft) costs, which go beyond those recorded on paper, such as the following:
 - Accident investigation
 - Repairing damaged property
 - Administrative expenses
 - Worker stress in the aftermath of an accident resulting in lost productivity, low employee morale and increased absenteeism
 - Training and compensating replacement workers
 - Poor reputation, which translates to difficulty attracting skilled workers and lost business share

When calculating soft costs, minor accidents costs are about four times greater than direct costs, and serious accidents are about 10 to 15 times greater, especially if the accident generates OSHA fines or litigation costs.

According to the International Risk Management Institute (IRMI), just the act of measuring costs will drive improvement. In theory, those providing the data become more aware of the costs and begin managing them. This supports the common business belief that what gets measured gets managed. And, as costs go down, what gets rewarded gets repeated.

The Value of Safety

OSHA studies indicate that for every \$1 invested in effective safety programs, you can save \$4 to \$6 as illnesses, injuries and fatalities decline. With a good safety program in place, your costs will naturally decrease. It is important to determine what costs to measure to establish benchmarks, which can then be used to demonstrate the value of safety over time.

Also, keep in mind that your total cost of safety is just one part of managing your total cost of risk. When safety is managed and monitored, it can also help drive down your total cost of risk.

Considering the statistics, safety experts believe that there is direct correlation between safety and a company's profit. We are committed to helping you establish a strong safety, health and environmental program that protects both your workers and your bottom line. Contact us today at 712.729.3252 to learn more about our value-added services.



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