



For Immediate Release

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St. Joseph County Road Commission Wins Workers' Compensation Award

Gets on Honor Roll

Lansing, September 11, 2019. The St. Joseph County Road Commission was recognized for having one of the lowest employee injury rates among road commissions in the state.

"The risk of injury is higher than normal when working for a road commission," says Jim deSpelder, Administrator of the County Road Association Self-Insurance Fund. The County Road Association Self-Insurance Fund provides safety training and workers' compensation coverage for road commissions. "We build and maintain the majority of roads in the state. This often results in work being done while motorists are still using a part of the roadway. We remind the workers that they come within a foot of death many times during the day," commented Jim deSpelder. He added "both getting the work done right and making sure the employee returns home injury free to enjoy their family is the goal of today's road commissions."

Mary Sholander, Chairperson of the Fund and the Director of Finance and Administration with the Marquette County Road Commission, stated "CRASIF wants to recognize road commissions which make safety an integral part of their culture. Continuously emphasizing safe operations and managing the risks of injury also result in lower workers' compensation premiums." She pointed out "lower workers' compensation premiums allow more of the taxpayer dollars to go directly to maintaining Michigan roads."

"Road commissions that have lower than average injury rates qualify to be on our Honor Roll," commented Jim deSpelder. "They should be applauded for their achievement. Low injury rates benefit the employee, the taxpayer and the road commission."

The award was given by the County Road Association Self Insurance Fund otherwise known as CRASIF. CRASIF is a Michigan based group fund that provides disability management and workers' compensation to road commissions. CRASIF services 69 out of the 83 road commissions in Michigan.