



# State of Nevada

Department of Administration

## RISK-Y BUSINESS

Risk Management Division

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### In this issue:

Senate Bill 140	1
Decommissioning	2
Battery Risks	2
Fire Extinguisher	
Training	2
RM Training	3
Need More Cars?	3
Quest. of the Quarter	3

## SENATE BILL 140

**In June 2011, the Nevada Legislature passed a bill that would prohibit all drivers from texting or using hand-held cell phones while driving. Senate Bill 140 was approved by the Governor, who made it clear that he would support a statewide ban on text messaging while driving. The law will go into effect October 1, 2011**

The texting ban will prohibit drivers from using a cell phone or other wireless communications device to access or search the Internet, to type, enter, send, or read any non-voice communication, including text messages, instant messages (IM), or email.

The ban does not apply to emergency personnel, licensed amateur radio operators who are communicating certain public information, employees of public utilities who are responding to emergencies, or drivers who are reporting emergencies or responding to dangerous situations.

Violation of the law would be punishable by a fine of up to \$50 for a first offense; \$100 for a second offense within seven years; and \$250 for a third offense within seven years. Higher fines would be imposed on drivers who violate this law while driving in traffic control zones. The law instructs officers to give warnings to those who violate the law beginning October 1, 2011.

The ban imposed beginning January 1, 2012 would also apply to drivers using cell phones or other wireless communications devices to make or receive phone calls, unless they have and use hands-free equipment. The same penalties would apply for violation of this provision of the law.

Distracted driving, in the form of texting or talking on a cell phone, is responsible for thousands of vehicle crashes every year. It is good judgment to not drive distracted. Now, it is also the law. State of Nevada employees are encouraged to set the example and lead the way for all Nevada drivers.

## **DECOMMISSIONING YOUR BUILDING**



When the decision has been made to vacate your building, you must contact State Public Works Division, Mr. Chris Chimits, Deputy Manager. Mr. Chimits will arrange for assistance in creating your decommissioning budget which will address abandonment of all utilities, protection of the vacant building and related issues.

Once the building is vacant, the building no longer has an applicable Certificate of Occupancy. To obtain a new Certificate of Occupancy, the agency desiring to move in must contact Dennis Nolan, State Public Works Division Building Official, to inform him of the new proposed use. The facility will require re-inspection for compliance with the current codes and standards. The building codes and accessibility laws under which the State operates change periodically and those changes to codes and accessibility laws could have an effect on the ability to re-occupy the building as well as impact on the agency budget for the proposed use of the facility.

## **BATTERY RISKS**

Americans buy almost 3 billion dry-cell batteries every year (about 32 per family) to power toys, portable tools and electronic devices.

Batteries contain a variety of heavy metals and corrosive acids that generate power by converting chemical energy to electrical energy. However, these toxic ingredients have the potential to cause burns or injury to the skin or eyes.

Rechargeable lithium ion batteries, in rare instances, pose a fire risk because they may overheat and ignite if they fail. Lithium ion batteries are found in notebook computers, mobile phones, cameras, ride-on toy vehicles and radio-controlled cars and aircraft.

Lithium batteries are not only a choking hazard for small children and pets, but they pose the risk of serious internal injuries if swallowed. Always keep button-cell batteries well out of reach of children and pets. If you suspect that one has been ingested, seek medical attention immediately.



## **GREAT SUCCESS FOR "HANDS-ON" FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING**

The Carson City Fire Department, Las Vegas Fire Department, North Las Vegas Fire Department, Ely Fire Department, and Elko Fire Department provided hands on training on "how to use a fire extinguisher."

Even the classroom time was very informative and interesting. The first session was extended by 45 minutes, because those employees in attendance had many questions or concerns regarding fire safety.

We had great employee participation in Carson, where we trained over 50 state employees in two sessions. Additional classes will be scheduled upon request after the fire season is over. We want to thank all the Fire Departments and their staff for providing this important training.

In the fall, the State Fire Marshall will also provide fire extinguisher training via simulated software. Those classes will be available on a regular basis throughout the state. Once this training is available the classes will be posted in NEATS



## Continuing Classes From Risk Management

Risk Management offers a wide variety of training. Defensive Driving, CPR and First Aid are just a few of the many classes offered. To see the complete list, visit our website:

[www.risk.state.nv.us](http://www.risk.state.nv.us)

To enroll, please use the NEATS System. If you do not have the resource to use NEATS, or have any questions, please call (775) 687-3187.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING		
DATE	CITY	ADDRESS
7/28/2011	Reno	1100 Valley Road
8/10/2011	Las Vegas	Veterans Affairs-Boulder
8/16/2011	Carson City	201 S. Roop St. Suite 201
8/30/2011	Carson City	201 S. Roop St. Suite 201
9/1/2011	Reno	1100 Valley Road
9/6/2011	Las Vegas	4747 Vegas Dr.
9/13/2011	Carson City	201 S. Roop St. Suite 201
9/20/2011	Elko	1020 Ruby Vista Dr.
9/27/2011	Carson City	201 S. Roop St. Suite 201
CPR/AED /1st AID		
8/25/2011	Carson City	201 S. Roop St. Suite 201
9/14/2011	Carson City	201 S. Roop St.
9/22/2011	Elko	1020 Ruby Vista Dr.
WORKPLACE VIOLENCE		
8/26/2011	Carson City	201 S. Roop St., Suite 201
9/8/2011	Las Vegas	4747 Vegas Dr.
9/15/2011	Carson City	201 S. Roop St. Suit 201
9/21/2011	Elko	1020 Ruby Vista Dr.
EMERGENCY PLANNING/FIRE EXT.		
9/8/2011	Las Vegas	4747 Vegas Dr.
9/15/2011	Carson City	201 S. Roop St. Suite 201
9/20/2011	Elko	1020 Ruby Vista Dr.
SAFETY COMMITTEE		
8/25/2011	Carson City	201 S. Roop St. Suite 201
9/28/2011	Carson City	201 S. Roop St. Suite 201
BACK INJURIES & SAFE LIFTING		
9/7/2011	Las Vegas	4747 Vegas Dr.
9/21/2011	Elko	1020 Ruby Vista Dr.

## NEED MORE CARS FOR YOUR AGENCY??

The Purchasing Division offers state excess vehicles for sale to state agencies. Vehicles are available primarily at the Purchasing Division Warehouse in Reno. Vehicles may be inspected in person or viewed on their web site at <http://purchasing.state.nv.us/property/vehicle.htm>



## Workers' Comp Question of the Quarter:



### What is Temporary Modified Duty Assignment?

The Risk Management Division receives inquiries on this type of assignment (modified duty/light duty) on a regular basis. If an injured worker is placed on light duty or modified duty by the treating physician and the employer is able to accommodate them, then the injured worker can be on "light duty" for 90 days. If the same injured worker continues to have light duty restrictions after the first 90 days and the employer is able to accommodate the restrictions, the injured worker can be offered another 90 days on "light duty" as long as s/he is performing at least 51% of his/her job duties. The applicable NAC is 284.6004. If you have questions please contact Risk Management 775-687-3187.