

1994 COMP  ALLIANCE 2024

30
YEARS

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THE ALLIANCE ADVISOR

JULY 2024

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NEWS AND SAFETY INFORMATION

Safe Workplace Award Announcement

Earlier this month we announced a change to the Safe Workplace Award. The Comp Alliance prides itself on rewarding members for their dedication to creating a safe workplace. We know that sometimes our members make positive changes that may take some time to yield results. Now, a portion of the Safe Workplace Award is based on loss experience, and a competitive portion is based on survey responses.



As in the past, members with qualifying loss experience will automatically qualify for a Safe Workplace Award. In addition, a competitive element has been added that all members can apply for regardless of loss experience. If you'd like to be considered for the competitive portion of the award, fill out the online application during the window for your cycle. Only one application per organization is necessary. The form automatically saves your progress, so you may log out and return to your application at any time.

SAFETY SOURCE

Access additional members-only training resources on Safety Source.

[View Safety Source](#)

SAFE WORKPLACE AWARD

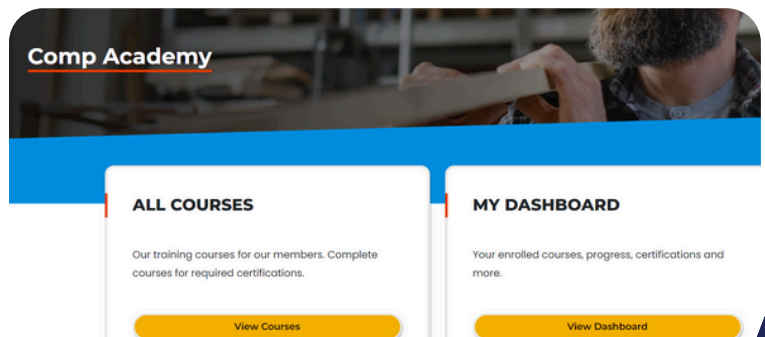
Members on the January cycle can apply for the Safe Workplace Award until August 1, 2024.

[Apply](#)

The Safe Workplace Award application is available for members on the January cycle through a new online form, now until August 1st. Members on this cycle received a

separate email with specific instructions on accessing and filling out the form earlier this month. We will follow up when the application opens for members on the June and July cycles. If you are unsure what cycle you are on, please reach out to Shawn Roes or Conor Hayden.

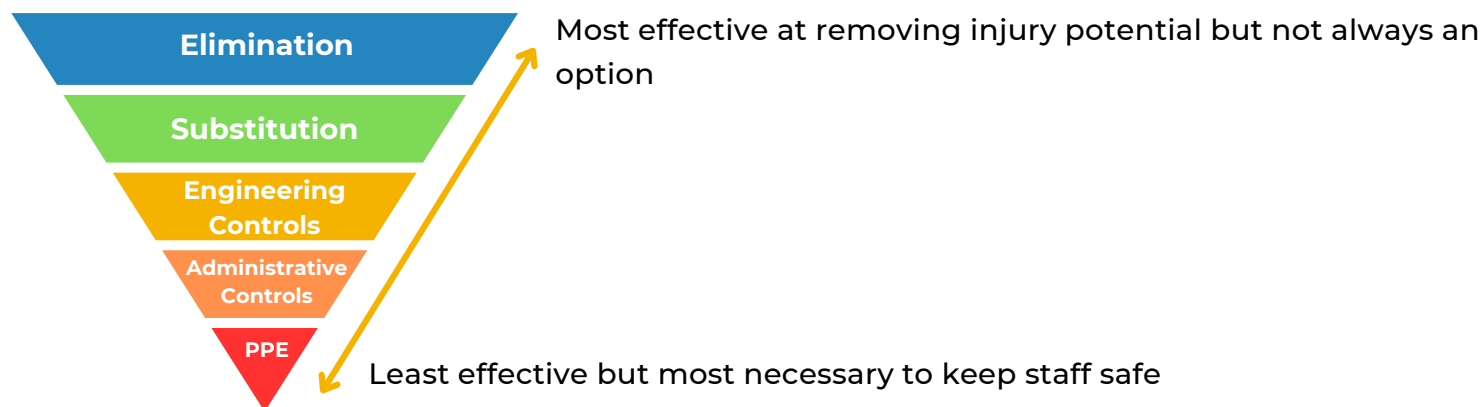
To apply for the Safe Workplace Award, you must be logged in to the Comp Academy. Please email compalliancemarketing@wrightinsurance.com to request access to the Comp Academy. Once approved, we will follow up with the link to register. Registration will not be processed unless the email is in our system. If you have any questions regarding the content of the survey, reach out to rblaisdell@wrightinsurance.com. We look forward to seeing your responses.



Utilize the Hierarchy of Controls to Keep Employees Safe

The Hierarchy of Controls is a simple risk management technique to identify hazards associated with a risk. It is a process that identifies and ranks methods to protect workers from hazards. This hierarchy practice can be used for any number of risks within any municipal department but Highway and DPW are where it is most likely to be utilized, with the variety of high-hazard job functions and work environments.

The five steps of the Hierarchy of Controls, ordered from most effective to least effective, resemble a descending pyramid where the top section, Elimination, represents complete employee safety as the risk is removed from the department process. Personal protective equipment, or PPE, is at the bottom, acknowledging the risk includes hazards that can only be controlled using proper personal protective equipment. This practice can be used for any risk and hazard control, including electrical safety, excavation, work zone setup, and infection control.



Take, for example, the use of the hierarchy of controls when addressing outdoor heat exposures:

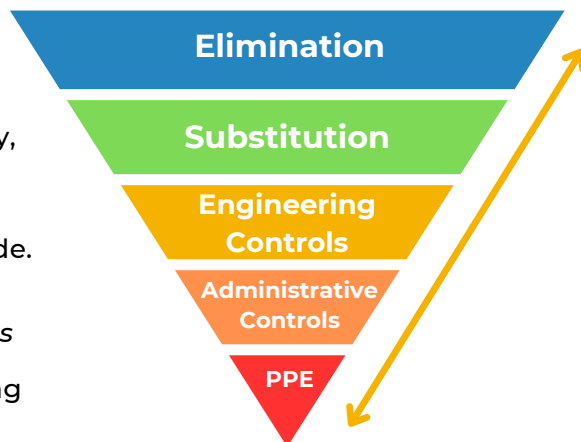
Do not work outdoors under heat conditions
This is not always possible for departments like DPW, Highway, or Parks.

Schedule work in exposed, sunny areas for earlier in the day, and work in shady areas in the afternoon. Ask that jobs requiring heavy PPE be performed early in the morning.

Use fans, air conditioners, vehicle air conditioning, and shade.

Adopt rules for safety during heat conditions.
Examples: Acclimation, breaks, training, and water stations

Wear light clothing, hats, sunscreen, sunglasses, and cooling gear



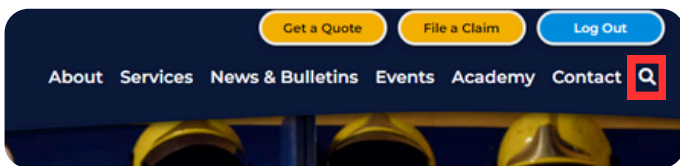
As you can see, the hierarchy of controls can help your department achieve a safer work environment. Look to utilize this framework for your high-hazard job functions and work conditions.

Reminders

30th Anniversary Celebration

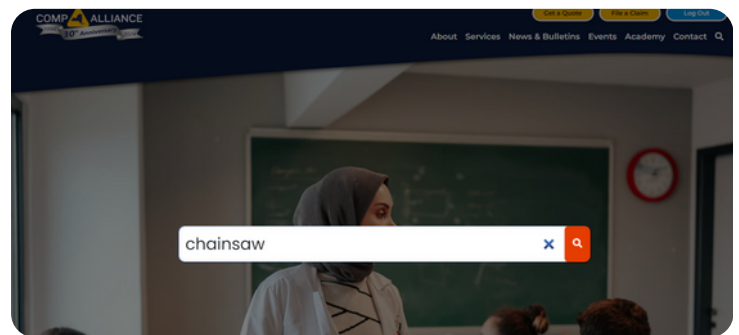
We are looking forward to hosting one representative from your organization at our 30th Anniversary Celebration this fall! We'll see you October 17th and 18th at The Sagamore Resort. Look out for our formal invitation.

Search Function



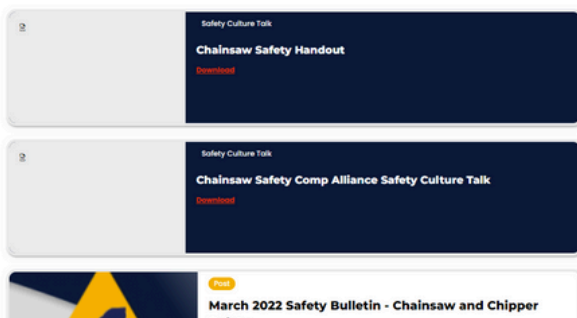
Did you know that the Comp Alliance website has a search bar?

Use it to search for safety topics you'd like to read up on or to find a specific article.



Search Results for: chainsaw

Showing results 1 - 6 of 6



Be sure to log in to access all available content. If there is a topic we haven't covered, email us at compalliancemarketing@wrightinsurance.com.

Safety Committee Meeting Attendance

The Comp Alliance is available to attend your Safety Committee meetings! Reach out to us about joining.

SCHOOL CORNER



What's School Corner?

Welcome to School Corner! This new section of the newsletter will include reminders and safety content specific to our school members. If there is a topic you'd like us to cover, reach out to us at compalliancemarketing@wrightinsurance.com.

School District Advisory Committee Meeting

We will be holding a virtual SDAC meeting on August 21st to discuss risk management resources, Comp Alliance website resources, our services, and more. We'll be sending out a formal invitation with more details soon.

Don't Let Your Guard Down This Summer

Summer school programs offer students unique opportunities for learning and growth during the warmer months. Ensuring a safe and secure environment is crucial, particularly as temperatures rise and routines shift. Follow these tips to protect staff and students from harm this summer.

When it comes to poison ivy, keep an eye out for the poison ivy plant, which you can identify by its three smaller leaflets, and avoid it as much as possible. If you do get poison ivy:

- Do not scratch the infected area.
- Wash your clothes and towels.
- Try over-the-counter lotions or steroid creams.
- Look out for a bad reaction on your face, or in your eyes or groin, and call your primary care doctor when you notice it.



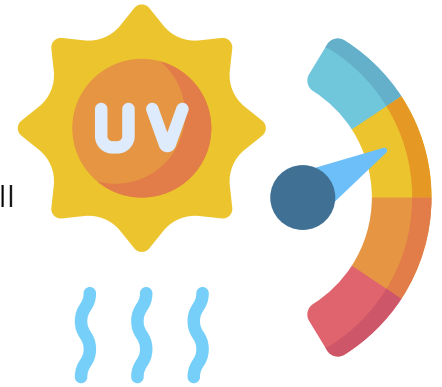
Treating a bee sting and preventing bug bites:

- If you're not allergic to bee stings, ice and elevation can help give you some relief. If you have a known allergy that causes anaphylaxis or hospitalization, always keep an EpiPen nearby
- You should call 911 if you get lip or tongue swelling.



Don't Let Your Guard Down This Summer (cont.)

Teachers, when out on bus, recess, or car line duty, get more sun than one may realize. Daily use of an SPF can reduce the risk of skin cancer by up to 50% and help prevent signs of aging such as wrinkles, dark spots, and sagging skin. Unprotected sun exposure increases your risk of skin cancer and early skin aging. People of all skin colors are at risk of this damage. You can reduce your risk by:



- Limiting your time in the sun, especially between 10 am and 2 pm, when the sun's rays are most intense.
- Wearing clothing to cover skin exposed to the sun, such as long-sleeve shirts, pants, sunglasses, and broad-brim hats. Sun-protective clothing is also available.
- Using a water-resistant, broad-spectrum sunscreen, to protect against UVA and UVB rays, with an SPF value of 30 or higher regularly and as directed.



Do not forget about summer school transportation safety:

- Ensure that buses are well maintained so that vehicles do not overheat and break down, causing students to be exposed to elevated temperatures while waiting for assistance.
 - Prioritize the use of buses that have air conditioning in areas that experience extreme heat.
 - Consider having water available for students for longer routes.
- Make sure that bus drivers always visually inspect every row to ensure every student is off the bus at the end of every route.

Reinforce the following practices for custodial safety:

- Remind staff of the potential to work under high heat index conditions, with hot environments and manual labor combining for potential heat stress. This also includes outdoor staff completing grounds work.
- Conduct proper lifting when moving classroom objects, including initial lift and placement.
- Use chemicals safely. All chemicals must be approved by the district and stored in properly labeled containers.
- Use ladders safely. Be sure to inspect the ladder pre-use and follow safe ladder-use guidelines.



Upcoming Training Seminars

The Comp Alliance has several live video conference trainings scheduled for members throughout July, August, and September. We'll cover PESH-mandated topics including Workplace Violence, Right-to-Know, and Bloodborne Pathogens. Visit www.compalliance.org for our full calendar.

HAZWOPER

Monday, 8/12, 8:00 - 8:30 am

Monday, 9/23, 8:00 - 8:30 am

Monday, 10/28, 8:00 - 8:30 am

Upcoming Virtual Trainings

- Monday, 7/15: 10 AM - 12 PM
- Thursday, 7/18: 5 PM - 7 PM
- Monday, 7/22: 10 AM - 12 PM
- Monday, 7/29: 10 AM - 12 PM
- Monday, 8/5: 10 AM - 12 PM
- Monday, 8/12: 10 AM - 12 PM
- Monday, 8/19: 10 AM - 12 PM
- Tuesday, 8/20: 5 PM - 7 PM
- Monday, 8/26: 10 AM - 12 PM
- Monday, 9/9: 10 AM - 12 PM

Upcoming Conferences

We look forward to seeing you at these conferences. Be sure to stop by our booth! Check the Events page on our website to stay up-to-date on where we're headed next.

8/4 - 8/7 NYSCTFOA 2024 Summer Conference - Oswego, NY

9/16 - 9/20 NYCOM Fall Training School - Saratoga Springs, NY

10/15 Potsdam Local Government Conference - Potsdam, NY

10/21 - 10/23 NYCOM Public Works Training School - Saratoga Springs, NY

11/11 - 11/14 ASBO New York SBMW - Saratoga Springs, NY

Welcoming New Members

Welcome new members! We look forward to working with you to keep your organization safe.

Brookfield Central School
Cato-Meridian Central School District
Clinton Central School District
Holland Patent School District
New Hartford School District
New York Mills UFSD
Odessa Fire Department
Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES
Oriskany Central School
Remsen Central School
Sidney Central School District
Town of Kent
Town of Webb UFSD
Town of Italy
Vestal Central School District
Village of North Syracuse
Village of Odessa
Waterville Central School District
Whitesboro Central School District
Village of Haverstraw VFF