

1994 COMP  ALLIANCE 2024

30
YEARS

Exceptional Service. Long-Term Stability.

THE ALLIANCE ADVISOR

OCTOBER 2024

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NEWS AND SAFETY INFORMATION

Safe Workplace & Loyalty Award Announcement

Earlier this year 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. 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. Once completed, be sure to click the Submit button at the bottom of the page. The Safe Workplace Award application is available for members on the June and July cycles through a new

online form, now until November 1st. Members on this cycle received a separate email with specific instructions on accessing and filling out the form earlier this month. If you are unsure

SAFETY SOURCE

Access additional members-only training resources on Safety Source.

[View Safety Source](#)

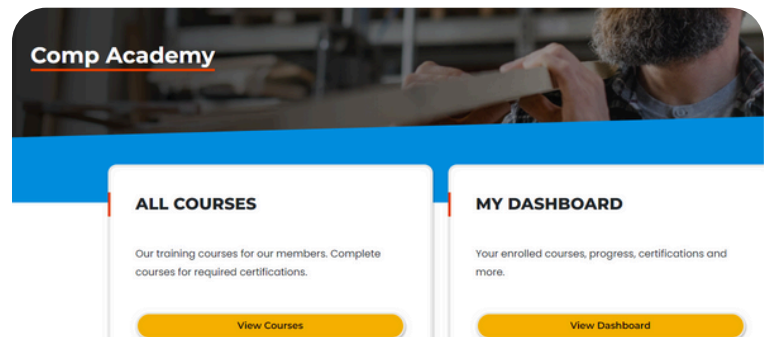
SAFE WORKPLACE AWARD

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

[Apply](#)

what cycle you are on, please reach out to Aaron Reader or Shawn Roes.

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.



Additionally, the Comp Alliance recently issued Loyalty Awards to eligible members on our June and July cycles. We will be distributing these awards over the next several weeks. Members as of January 1, 2025 should expect to receive a Loyalty award this winter.

Benefits of Safety Source Online

In 2020, the Comp Alliance announced our partnership with Safety Source Online, an online video training service offering several safety training programs for our valued members. Safety Source is a website, requiring member login credentials, that offers over 850 training topics, providing quality safety material to municipal employees. The training videos address many vital safety subjects to meet the needs of the municipal work environment and various job descriptions. These safety videos are straightforward and concise. They provide an impactful message of safety, strengthen knowledge on numerous topics, and can be utilized as stand-alone training.

Comp Alliance members receive a unique username and password to access this extensive safety video library. Reach out to Shawn Roes, sroes@wrightinsurance.com, to gain this information. Once you have credentials, visit the site at <https://midwest-employers-casualty.safetysourceonline.com/>. Upon login, you can search the Video on Demand (VOD) system for particular safety topics, view their latest video offerings under New Releases, or search through the headings listed on job descriptions. For technical support, Safety Source provides an e-mail contact and phone number.

Of Safety Source's new releases, these are most relevant to Comp Alliance members:

- Welding Safety: The Basics (SS1103AE)
 - Recently, in Massachusetts a workplace incident due to welding near a flammable source resulted in the death of a welder working in a DPW garage. This course is a good review, reminding employees of the related dangers.
- Driving Distractions of the Everyday Driver(SS1073I)
 - A solid review for all municipal fleet drivers as motor vehicle accidents rate high as a cause of workplace injuries.
- Ergonomics: What's Wrong With This Picture (SS1049I)
 - Repetitive motion injuries, especially for office personnel, can be debilitating and may require surgery to correct. This video works best for office staff, teaching self-correction for computer use.
- Repetitive Motion: Reduce the Risk (SS1132A)
 - This is similar to the Ergonomics course above but goes beyond the office, covering any work activities contributing to musculoskeletal injuries.
- Skid Steer Loader Safety Training (SSC0025EE)
 - You might be surprised that fatalities and injuries can occur using these smaller machines. This course covers basic safety and best practices for injury prevention.

Benefits of Safety Source Online (cont.)

These are just a few of the valuable training videos available on Safety Source. We recommend utilizing them during monthly department toolbox talks. If staff is injured, consult these videos as a post-accident review to prevent future incidents. Additionally, you can review a video during routine safety committee meetings and discuss it as a group.

For further information on the contents of Safety Source and access for your municipality, contact the Comp Alliance Director of Loss Control, Robert Blaisdell, at rblaisdell@wrightinsurance.com.

30th Anniversary Celebration

AGENDA

THURSDAY, OCT 17

- 12:00 PM - ARRIVAL & LUNCH
- 1:00 PM - WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS
- 1:15 PM - KEYNOTE SPEAKER
- 2:45 PM - BREAK
- 3:00 PM - BUILDING A CULTURE OF SAFETY & PROFESSIONALISM
- 4:30 PM - CHECK-IN
- 6:00 PM - RECEPTION, DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY, OCT 18

- 8:00 AM - BREAKFAST
- 9:30 AM - PROGRAM UPDATE
- 10:00 AM - IMPROVING YOUR EXPERIENCE THROUGH COMP ALLIANCE RESOURCES
- 11:00 AM - MAXIMIZING YOUR SAFE WORKPLACE AWARD
- 11:45 AM - CLOSING REMARKS



We're looking forward to celebrating our 30th anniversary with you next week in Lake George! There will be informative presentations, entertainment, and a few surprises. Don't miss our session on maximizing your Safe Workplace Award on Friday. We'll go over the process for the new competitive portion of the award.

Thank you to our members, new and old, for trusting us with your workers' compensation insurance since 1994.

See you soon!



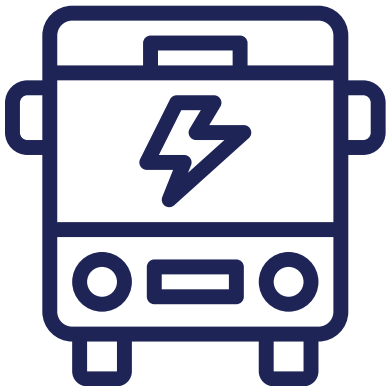
SCHOOL CORNER



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.

Electric School Bus Safety



New York mandated that by 2027, any new school buses must be zero-emission, and by 2035 the school bus fleet, statewide, will be all-electric. In the coming years, districts must install charging stations and potentially overhaul their electrical infrastructure and bus routes to support the new fleets. All school buses are designed to be safer than any other passenger vehicle and are the most regulated vehicles on the road, required to meet more Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards than any other vehicle. As schools transition to electric school buses, consider the safety precautions schools should take.

While extremely rare, school bus fires are possible with all types of school buses. While the batteries in electric school buses are less likely to catch fire than the internal combustion engines used in diesel-burning and propane-burning school buses, accidents frequently damage batteries. This can put passengers and emergency personnel at risk of harmful chemicals, electrical shocks, and unusually hot-burning fires that can reignite spontaneously.¹ School officials and bus operators can take several practical steps to manage the fire risks associated with electric fleets. These include:

Charging

Leaving buses to charge overnight brings significant fire risks, as small battery components build up and store large amounts of energy. To minimize risk, put measures in place to monitor charging stations while in use and ensure fully charged buses are immediately disconnected from charging points.

Storage

Risk assessments are also necessary for EV bus storage and parking locations. Evaluate proximity to other vehicles and combustible materials and increase space where possible.

(cont.) →

SCHOOL CORNER



Electric School Bus Safety (cont.)

Thermal runaway is a dangerous process that occurs when the temperature of a battery or other electrical component increases rapidly and uncontrollably. Sometimes thermal runaway can take time to arise, impact from the operating day may only set off thermal runaway as the bus is stored overnight. As such, parking and storage areas should be monitored continuously to address and mitigate any risks.



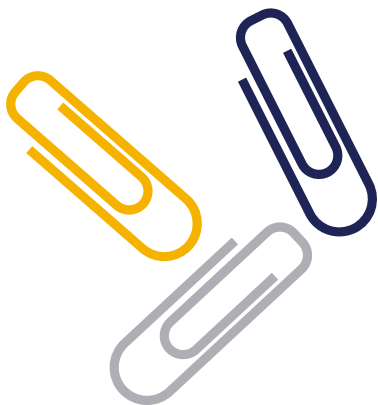
Suppression

As they pose unique fire risks, traditional fire suppression systems and techniques will only go so far in preventing lithium-ion battery fires. Therefore, effective protection requires a unique solution. Work with your local fire departments for input and accessibility to adequate electrical battery fire suppression systems. ²

Consider these areas of safety and protection for your future electrical fleet vehicles. Consult your local municipal fire department for adequate suppression protections and municipal centers for electrical charging capabilities and licensing.

1: <https://www.wyden.senate.gov/news/press-releases/wyden-introduces-bill-to-empower-first-responders-with-resources-needed-to-tackle-clean-up-from-electric-vehicle-crashes>

2: <https://www.thebigredguide.com/insights/electric-buses-spark-fire-safety-requirements.1635855016.html>



WELCOME
**BACK^{TO}
SCHOOL**



Upcoming Training Seminars

The Comp Alliance has several live video conference trainings scheduled for members throughout October, November, and December. We'll cover PESH-mandated topics including Workplace Violence, Right-to-Know, and Bloodborne Pathogens. Visit <https://compalliance.org/events> for our full calendar.

HAZWOPER

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

Monday, 11/04, 8:00 - 8:30 am

Monday, 12/09, 8:00 - 8:30 am

Upcoming Virtual Trainings

- Monday, 10/14: 10 AM - 12 PM
- Thursday, 10/16: 5 PM - 7 PM
- Monday, 10/21: 10 AM - 12 PM
- Monday, 10/28: 10 AM - 12 PM
- Monday, 11/4: 10 AM - 12 PM
- Thursday, 11/8: 6 PM - 8 PM
- Monday, 11/11: 10 AM - 12 PM
- Monday, 11/18: 10 AM - 12 PM
- Monday, 11/25: 10 AM - 12 PM
- Monday, 12/9: 10 AM - 12 PM



It was great seeing you at NYCOM Fall Training School. Until next year!

Upcoming Conferences



The AOT 2025 Annual Meeting is open for registration and we're looking forward to seeing you. If you haven't registered already, take advantage of early bird rates through 11/1! You don't want to miss out on this year's new programming.

We'll also be 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.

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