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THE ALLIANCE ADVISOR

MARCH 2026

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NEWS AND SAFETY INFORMATION

Safe Workplace & Loyalty Award Distribution

The Comp Alliance will distribute Safe Workplace Awards to eligible members on our June/July cycles over the next few weeks. January members should be on the lookout for the release of their survey in the near future. As always, the application will be open, via the Comp Academy, for two months. If you need access, please reach out to compalliancemarketing@wrightinsurance.com.



Additionally, Loyalty Awards were recently distributed to members who renewed their membership with Comp Alliance on January 1, 2026.

Together, the safe workplace and loyalty awards ensure that all Comp Alliance members share in the success of our program, and remain fully invested in keeping their employees free from workplace injuries. Last year, we returned more than \$2 million to our members and nearly \$14 million since the program began. We are proud to continue giving back to our members through these programs.

NYAOT Annual Meeting and Haber Award Recipient

In recognition of its commitment to maintaining a safe work environment and minimizing employees' time lost due to workplace injury, the Town of Brighton was presented with the 2026 G. Jeffrey Haber Leadership Award by the Comp Alliance at the New York Association of Towns (NYAOT) Annual Meeting and Training School.



From the left, Michael Kenneally, Executive Director, Comp Alliance; Bill Moehle, Town Supervisor, Town of Brighton; Board Chairman Christopher A. Koetzle, Executive Director, NYAOT

The award recognizes the proactive measures the town has implemented to establish a "culture of safety" and keep its workplace safe for employees. As a result of the efforts of the elected officials, managerial staff and employees of the town, Brighton has elevated the importance of workplace safety, reducing the potential frequency and severity of workplace injuries, and saving its taxpayers on the Town's workers' compensation costs.

The award recognizes the leadership and commitment required by elected officials, and the discipline required by employees at all levels, to maintain a safe work environment. The coordinated effort of the town's leadership and employees elevates the importance of workplace safety and promotes a safe workplace culture. ➔

Comp Alliance Executive Director Michael Kenneally noted, “The town’s workforce is the foundation of the community, and ensuring their safety is essential to the effective and efficient delivery of services. The small and largely unnoticed attention to details, particularly as it undertakes a reconstruction of its Town Hall, creates a safe environment for both employees and the public. The leadership exhibited by the Town is truly an example to all towns in New York State.”

More than 1,200 local government officials and affiliates from across the state attended the 2026 NYAOT Annual Meeting and Training School, where the Town of Brighton was honored. The event is a multi-day training for town officials from the 933 towns in New York State and is held annually in New York City each February. The award was presented to Town Supervisor Bill Moehle as part of the Awards Luncheon on Monday, February 16, 2026.

New to the Comp Academy: Groups

We are pleased to announce the latest functionality improvement to the Comp Academy!

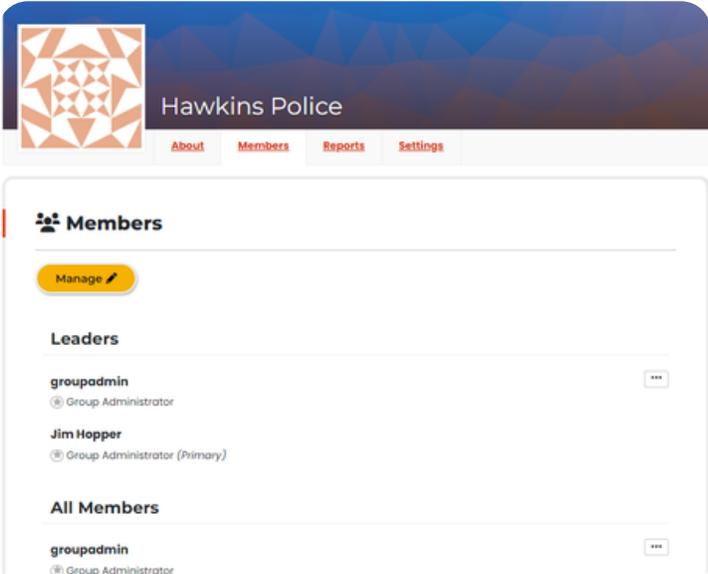
Now Introducing: Groups

Groups allow those managing your organization’s Comp Academy training to approve email addresses for registration, assign a set of courses, and track their completion with access to all group members’ certificates.

While one group administrator is required, you can create different groups and assign multiple employees to manage them, based on your needs. For example, you may want to create a separate group for highway employees, as they take HAZWOPER training in addition to the four mandatory trainings required by PESH annually.

Are you already taking advantage of the Comp Academy? Great news! There is a way to add existing users to a group so you can more closely monitor their progress. Additionally, group administrators can mark required courses complete for employees who take one or more classes outside of the Comp Academy.

If you are interested in learning more about this brand-new feature, please reach out to us at compalliancemarketing@wrightinsurance.com. Happy learning!



Positive Leadership Reduces Injuries



The Comp Alliance Risk Management team conducts annual safety inspections for all our members. A major part of this process includes interviews with administrators, supervisors, and department heads to gather information about their operations, review injuries, and observe the ongoing municipal workplace safety culture. Many times, we can determine the status of the safety program, positive or negative, by the leadership qualities of those interviewed. How would you rate the leadership qualities of your team?

Positive leadership can reduce workplace injuries by fostering a productive, safe work environment. It reinforces open communication, prioritizes employee well-being, and emphasizes identifying and minimizing workplace hazards. According to [OSHA](#), this commitment can look like:

- Leaders who encourage reporting of hazards, near-misses, and safety concerns without fear of retaliation, enabling prompt, proactive fixes.
- Showing up at safety meetings, performing site walkthroughs, and engaging with employees, demonstrating that safety is a top priority, not just a policy.
- Ensuring workers have the necessary personal protective equipment (PPE), training, and tools to complete their tasks safely.
- Managers who lead by example, consistently following safety procedures and making safety a part of daily conversation.
- Showing care for employee mental and physical health, leading to reduced stress, which is often a contributor to accidents.
- Using incentives for engaging in safe behaviors, rather than just punishing accidents.

At its most effective, positive leadership can boost employee morale, leading to these additional benefits:

- Increased productivity
- Fewer absences
- Better employee retention
- Greater employee engagement

So, what are some tangible examples of positive leadership? Administrators and supervisors who welcome outside safety inspections and display a thorough knowledge of their department operations, including personnel. They understand and follow current safety regulations and standards, encourage employee involvement, and conduct safety training programs not to meet requirements, but to improve staff knowledge on safety practices to reduce or eliminate workplace injuries.



Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Desha's Law

Workplace safety comes in many forms, including employees' response to an injured coworker. When thinking about workplace injuries, first aid often comes to mind. However, we ought to also consider what to do should a coworker, or student, go into sudden cardiac arrest.

Effective January 20, 2026, NYS schools must implement new Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) standards under "Desha's Law" (S5539A). These regulations aim to ensure a prompt, coordinated response to cardiac emergencies on school grounds:

- **Mandatory Plan & Integration:** Every public school must adopt a CERP within their district-wide safety plans by January 20, 2026, and building-level plans by September 1, 2025.
- **AED Access and Maintenance:** AEDs must be clearly marked, accessible, and maintained consistent with American Heart Association guidelines.
- **Training and Drills:** All staff must receive annual training on sudden cardiac arrest. New employees hired after the school year starts must receive training within 30 days of hire.
- **Emergency Response Procedures:** The plan must outline specific procedures for responding to incidents, including identifying trained staff, establishing a school-wide response team, and managing emergency communications.

Sudden cardiac arrest occurs when the heart abruptly stops beating. This typically causes victims to collapse, become unresponsive, and stop breathing normally or altogether. The following is an appropriate response.

- **Ensure scene safety:** Remove hazards around the victim or halt work in the area.
- **Check for responsiveness:** Is the victim non-responsive and not breathing or gasping for breath?
- **Yell for help:** Tell someone nearby to call 911 or your emergency response number. Ask someone to bring you an AED (automated external defibrillator) if there's one on hand.
- **Check for no breathing or only gasping:** If the person isn't breathing or is only gasping, begin CPR with compressions.
- **Administer CPR:** Push down at least two inches in the center of the chest at a rate of 100 to 120 pushes a minute. Allow the chest to return to its normal position after each push.
- **Use an AED:** As soon as it arrives, turn it on and follow the prompts.
- **Continue CPR:** Administer it until the person starts breathing or moving, or until someone with more advanced training, such as an EMT or paramedic, takes over.

The most important response to a person suffering from a heart attack is to move quickly. Following the CERP standards under Desha's Law, annually train staff in CPR so they are familiar with the process and can jump in quickly to assist, install AEDs in strategic locations, and outline emergency response procedures.

Upcoming Conferences



We enjoyed seeing those who attended the NYCOM Winter Legislative Meeting! The team is looking forward to visiting with you at the Annual Meeting in Bolton Landing.



The NYAOT 2026 Annual Meeting was another success. We'll see those of you attending the Town Finance and Personnel Schools this spring. Stop by and say hello!

We'll also be seeing you at these conferences. Be sure to check out our booth! Take a look at the [Events page](#) on our website to stay up-to-date on where we're headed next.

4/15 - 4/17 NYGFOA 2026 Annual Conference - Albany, NY

4/19 - 4/22 NYSTCA 2026 Annual Conference - Albany, NY

4/20 - 4/21 Tug Hill Local Government Conference - Verona, NY

5/6 - 5/7 Adirondack Planning Forum - Saranac Lake, NY

Upcoming Training Seminars

The Comp Alliance has several live video conference trainings scheduled for members throughout the year. 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, 4/27, 8:00 - 8:30 am

Monday, 5/18, 8:00 - 8:30 am

Upcoming Virtual Trainings

- Monday, 4/6: 10 AM - 12 PM
- Monday, 4/13: 10 AM - 12 PM
- Friday, 4/17: 5 PM - 7 PM
- Monday, 4/20: 10 AM - 12 PM
- Monday, 4/27: 10 AM - 12 PM
- Monday, 5/4: 10 AM - 12 PM
- Monday, 5/11: 10 AM - 12 PM
- Monday, 5/18: 10 AM - 12 PM