ICRMT UPDATE

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Safety Alert: The Dangers of Storing Flammable Items in Stairwells

Stairwells are critical emergency escape routes, and it is essential that they remain clear of hazards to ensure people can exit quickly in the event of a fire or other emergency. Unfortunately, some individuals may inadvertently store flammable items in these areas, posing serious risks to both building occupants and first responders.

Why Is Storing Flammable Items in Stairwells Dangerous?

1. **Impedes Emergency Evacuation:** Stairwells are designed to be unobstructed pathways for quick evacuation in an emergency. Storing items, especially flammable substances, blocks these vital routes and can delay evacuation, putting lives at risk. In the event of a fire, time is of the essence, and any blockage can make the difference between life and death.

1. **Increases Fire Risk:** Stairwells may not be able to handle combustible material storage. Flammable items—such as cleaning supplies, gasoline, paint, or other volatile chemicals cause an increased fire hazard. These can not only block a fire escape but may increase the hazard. Stairwells are designed in a fire-resistant manner including fire-related doors on each floor. If the doors are left open or materials are stored in the stairwell it impedes this safety design.

2. **Compromises Firefighting Efforts:** When flammable items are stored in stairwells, it not only puts building occupants at risk but can also hinder the work of firefighters. Stairwells are key access points for emergency responders. Storing materials here can impede their ability to quickly reach higher floors, making firefighting operations more difficult and dangerous.

3. **Violates Fire Codes and Regulations:** Fire codes and building regulations strictly prohibit the storage of hazardous or flammable materials in stairwells. Regulations like NFPA 101 are in place to protect the safety of everyone in the building, and violating them can result in fines, legal consequences, and increased risk of injury or death. Is it worth risking someone's life to store materials in the stairwell?

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Role of Automation In Claim Processing

In today's fast-paced world of TPAs and insurance, efficiency and accuracy are paramount, especially in claims processing. As a Third-Party Administrator (TPA), embracing automation can significantly enhance your operations. Let's explore how

automation is revolutionizing claims processing and the benefits it brings to TPAs and their clients.

Streamlining the Claims Process

Automation simplifies and accelerates the claims process by reducing manual tasks. Automated systems can handle initial claim intake, document management, and data entry, allowing claims adjusters to focus on more complex tasks. This speeds up the process and reduces the likelihood of human error, ensuring more accurate and consistent outcomes.

Read the full blog >

Managing FMLA

In the realm of workplace safety and workers' compensation, the term "incident only" claims often surfaces. These are reports of workplace incidents that do not result in immediate injury or require medical treatment. While they might seem minor or inconsequential at first glance, investigating and reporting these incidents to the workers' comp carrier/administrator is crucial for several reasons.

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Absence Management

FMLA and STD Administration services provided by Insurance Program Managers Group - IPMG offers a Total Absence Management solution with flexible options available to meet your specific business needs. Our approach utilizes clinical and claim expertise to manage the absence and return to work of employees. These services are available as integrated or standalone products.

View the Flyer

Select4Hire's Integrity Test: Building Better Futures for ICRMT Members

Having difficulty finding the right candidate for your job vacancy? Hiring the right person is crucial to an organization's ability to successfully execute its objectives, while controlling liability. Utilizing the Select4Hire Integrity Test can help, and ICRMT members can use Select4Hire's Integrity Test at no cost. Read on to learn more.

The Select4Hire (S4H) Integrity Test is a pre-interview employment screening tool developed by industrial/organizational psychologists at Portland State University. S4H represents the next evolution in the pre-employment assessment of job candidates by identifying job applicants who exhibit high risk behaviors in the areas of employer theft, substance abuse, hostility, and dishonesty. These types of behaviors are NOT obvious or overt during the interview process, which can lead to hiring individuals--so called "bad apples" --who become a liability with the organization, negatively impacting the organization through their behaviors, and impacting the organization's finances, morale, productivity and insurability. Suffice it to say, the overall quality of the workforce is improved when high-risk job candidates are removed from the applicant pool. Overall, the S4H test increases an organization's productivity, morale, and profitability, while decreasing turnover.

Applicants complete the screen on a smartphone or computer, typically in 12 –15 minutes. The employer receives results immediately, which help to expedite the hiring process. Applicants are assessed as either "qualified" or "non-qualified" removing the need for individual branch locations to interpret each recommendation. However, management can access an applicant's full recommendation and disclosures from their own secure online management console at any time. An

applicant who is designated as "non-qualified" has engaged in one or more of the behaviors below, at high levels:

- Admitted to current, illegal drug use, and/or

- Disclosed theft behaviors during the past two years, and/or

- Exhibited hostile/angry responses on the test, and/or

- Tried to "fake" the test.

In a 2011 study published by Pacific University's School of Professional Psychology, researchers studied whether the use of integrity tests in pre-employment screening had an impact on the size of worker's compensation claims across a number of industries. The study concluded that the compensation claims filed by unscreened workers were both more frequent and substantially more costly than those filed by workers who were vetted via a form of integrity testing.

The S4H Integrity Test protects your organization from hiring workers who have confessed to prior exaggeration of workplace injury severity, and/or who have participated filing questionable or outright fraudulent insurance claims.
In addition to those already mentioned, the benefits for ICRMT members in implementing this pre-interview screen include significant reductions in workers' compensation losses, reduced short-term disability claims, and reduced employment practice liability claims.

For those who are concerned about the legality of the S4H test, Federal and State law requires such screening tools to be either validated or non-discriminatory. The S4H Integrity Test is both and exceeds legal requirements. Throughout its 30+ year history of use in the U.S., and with over 500,000 people screened, there has only been a handful of actions filed, and none have held up in court.

For more information on the Select4Hire Integrity Test, or if you would like to implement this into your hiring process, please contact your Risk Management Consultant.

Neogov Course Catalog

https://community.neogov.com/learn/w/risk-pool-training

New Courses Available!

- Introduction to Grants BX06
- Transitioning to an Office Environment BX16
- Workplace Violence for Healthcare Workers SK08
- Writing Clear Incident Reports BX18
- Bystander Intervention HW79
- Understanding Racial and Cultural Differences DE14
- Customer Service for Frontline Employees BX20

Upcoming Neogov Learn Community Spotlight calls

On the second Wednesday of every other month, the Learn team hosts a call to share product updates, discuss processes, and collect feedback from NEOGOV customers on upcoming features. Please join this recurring meeting to get your voice heard! The next meeting will be held on June 11th from 1 pm to 2 pm CST.

Click Here to Register >

Have questions? Contact our Risk Management Team.

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