

Manager/Supervisor Risk Management

#165–8/8/13

A twice weekly e-mail training for YCPARMIA members

TOPIC: SAFETY – TRIGGERING YCPARMIA’S INVOLVEMENT

As discussed in the last topic, the members’ safety activities/program should be an integral part of normal business practices; the amount of effort and resources that they dedicate to safety reflects their overall risk tolerance. YCPARMIA’s role is to assist in these efforts by providing technical skills and support at no additional cost to our members. In practice that puts us on the outside in a consultant role, and with some notable exceptions, we do not interfere or interact on safety issues in our members’ operations unless invited. The scope of what we do is normally determined and controlled by the member.

When providing safety services, YCPARMIA works through somebody – generally the person that management has assigned with the responsibility for resolving some specific issue. That person defines the scope of our service and participation; YCPARMIA staff is there to help them, but the entity remains responsible for the results. These projects are often isolated and particular to a specific department or work unit’s needs. Additionally, they are often in response to something that has happened, and are often task oriented. This activity is fine as long as there is someone looking at the bigger safety picture.

Our staff is convinced that by far the most effective way for a member entity to make use of YCPARMIA safety resources is through the activity of their Safety Committees. This is the group that internally investigates safety issues and plans responses. Their role is loss prevention; their actions should be more anticipatory than reactionary. They impact the entire entity, and can generate progress toward a safer work environment. Technical expertise provided by YCPARMIA staff can have a significant impact on the quality of the Committee’s work by bringing it in line with “best practices.”

There are exceptions to the practice of waiting for an entity request. When YCPARMIA recognizes a situation that threatens the pool’s resources, we will investigate practices, and often make recommendations to the involved entity to mitigate the exposure. In those situations we report to the YCPARMIA Board Director, or the Associate Members’ designated representative.

In summary, there is a very fine line that has to be recognized. YCPARMIA can push members on loss prevention, but we are pushing from an interested position on the outside. Nothing is impossible for us because we don’t have to do it. Our members, with time, budget, and staffing limitations, carry the burden of responding to safety issues; it is YCPARMIA’s intention to assist by providing technical skills and expertise that our members do not necessarily have. But, that benefit is normally only realized when the member chooses to make use of these services.

Next Topic: Safety – YCPARMIA’s Role/Specific Activities - continued