



Excellence

IN RISK MANAGEMENT

2017 Recipient

Sustained Risk Management Initiatives

Town of Vernon & Vernon Public Schools

Background

Several years ago the Town of Vernon and the Vernon Public Schools started a multi-year Enterprise Risk Management initiative to build on its culture of risk management. The Town and School leadership established a governance framework and multiple programs to identify, address and monitor exposures and losses. Their joint efforts have significantly reduced accidents and injuries across both organizations.

Their first step was the creation of the Town's Advisory Committee, the Board of Education's Executive Steering Committee, and the Office of Emergency & Risk Management to service both the Town and Public Schools. The Committees accomplished their goals through a collaborative process that involved:

- Developing a clear understanding of process and next steps,
- Agreeing on accountability and ensuring attendance at meetings,
- Setting and meeting time lines and deadlines,
- Implementing standardized systems across the Town and Schools, and
- Having a high level of commitment to analytics and risk modeling.

Town and school officials learned that by implementing consistent and standardized risk management policies and procedures, risks are better managed, people are kept informed, resources are utilized more efficiently, and program sustainability is ensured.

Lessons Learned & Results

By making risk management an organizational priority, it has become a conscious process, empowering staff to make informed and timely decisions. The culture was changed by operationalizing risk management efforts into daily government functions, which then improved the overall health and safety of the community.

The results are:

Town of Vernon

- Overall 30% decrease in claims frequency.
- Median Lag Time went from a high of 13.2 days to currently 4.4 days.
- Number of lost time claims have been on the decline over the past 6 policy years.
- Medical-Only claims have been on the decline over the past 4 policy years.

Vernon Board of Education

- Overall 57% decrease in claims frequency over the past several policy years.
- Number of lost time claims have been on the decline over the past 6 policy years.
- Medical-Only claims have been on the decline over the past 4 policy years.
- Overall loss severity has decreased by over 50%.

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