

December 24, 2001

TO: AGENCY HEADS
RISK COORDINATORS
SAFETY ADVISORS

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SUBJ: Annual Vehicle Incident Report - FY 01

Attached is the latest vehicle incident report. The good news is that police citations have drastically decreased. Unfortunately, the cost of collisions per 12,000 miles is up. You will not see a comparison with past incidence frequency or incidence rates. That is because we have changed the "case definition" for incidents that are included this year.

In last year's report we told you about these planned changes. In the past, claims with an incurred cost of less than \$2.00 and all non-collision claims were excluded. But it is important to look at all relevant data when evaluating risk. The most frequent cause of vehicle crashes is operator error. To correct future errors, it is essential to conduct a system evaluation. For example, the most frequent reason given for speeding is being late for a meeting. The employee is late because they are over-scheduled. So the real corrective action needs to address scheduling and management expectations. Emphasis needs to be put on modern incident analysis and corrections of system failures. Accident investigation still plays a role. But past experience has taught us it is not sufficient to prevent repeats of the same error. And when driving, error-free performance is key.

Report Highlights:

- ❖ Traffic citations are down by 26.7%. This is the first downward trend since 1996.
- ❖ Citizen complaints are essentially unchanged.
- ❖ Miles driven in state-owned vehicles increased by 1.5% or 1,576,108 miles after decreases in the two prior years.
- ❖ The accident cost per 12,000 miles jumped dramatically by 69% from last year. This figure includes property, liability and workers' compensation costs.

We send your agency Risk Coordinator regular property and liability claim reports. Your Safety Advisor gets worker injury data from SAIF. Both can advise you on individual incidents and your agency's vehicle risk control activities. We continue to work with the highest risk agencies – the V8. With their help we have updated the Vehicle Incident Prevention Toolkit. View it at <http://risk.das.state.or.us/vipptool.htm>.

Your continued efforts to manage driving risks and reduce incident frequency is essential. If you have questions about this report or need help with vehicle incidents, call us at (503) 373-RISK.

Attachments