



# RISK MATTERS

## NEWSLETTER

State of Alabama • Department of Finance • Division of Risk Management

ISSUE 3 -- MARCH 2019



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### FIRST STEPS AFTER A TORNADO

Recently, towns across Alabama were hit hard by severe storms and tornados. Here are a few important tips regarding action after a tornado:

Let friends and family know that you are safe. Register yourself on the Safe and Well website, provided by the American Red Cross [here](#). You can also search for friends and family members on this site. Utilize texting and social media

Check on your neighbors. If you are safe and unharmed, provide assistance to others. They may need water, shelter, medical aid, or help locating a family member or pet. Be especially attentive to anyone who might require additional assistance—infants, the elderly, those without transportation, large families, and people with disabilities.

Get started on your recovery. If you have insurance and it's safe to return home, call your insurance company to file a claim. Take photos and videos of all damages before you start cleaning up.

Be aware of potential hazards. After a tornado, expect falling limbs, poles, and other items that may have become dislodged or broken. Avoid downed power lines, as well as objects that are in contact with electrical wiring. Be aware of any structural, electrical,

or gas-leak hazards in your home. If these hazards are identified, report them to the proper authorities or utility. Wear gloves and boots around debris, and be mindful of nails and broken glass.

Care for your emotional health. Look for signs of depression or anxiety related to this experience. Seek help from your EAP, if you detect signs in yourself or others.

For state employees in need of support, your Employee Assistance Program (EAP) can help. Call your BHS Care Coordinator at 800-245-1150. See page [three](#) for more information about tornado resources.



## HEPATITIS B INFORMATION

Per the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) hepatitis B is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus which can be transmitted through blood, semen, or other body fluids. You can develop an acute or chronic infection. Chronic hepatitis B can lead to serious health issues, such as cirrhosis or liver cancer. The best way to prevent hepatitis B is by getting vaccinated.

The hepatitis B virus can survive outside the body for at least 7 days, during which time the virus is capable of causing infection. In 2016, 3,218 cases of acute hepatitis B were reported, but the CDC estimates that the actual number of cases was nearly 20,900. In the United States, an estimated 850,000 people have chronic hepatitis B but the number may be as high as 2.2 million. People may have the hepatitis B virus and not feel or look sick but can still spread the virus.

Vaccination for hepatitis B is the best prevention. It consists of a series of three shots over a specific period of time. Completing the series is necessary for full protection. The vaccine stimulates your natural immune system to protect against the hepatitis B virus. Once you have obtained immunity, antibodies will fight off the infection if the person is exposed to the hepatitis B virus in the future.

If you are interested in obtaining the hepatitis B vaccination, call your primary care physician or the Alabama Department of Public Health Immunization Division, at 1-866-674-4807, to determine which clinics in your area offer the vaccination. State employees who sustain a potential blood borne exposure during work related activities are offered the vaccination series. Once you test positive for immunity, you do not have to receive the vaccine again in the future.

## MELANIE LONGPRE WINS EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER



Congratulations to Melanie Longpre for being named Risk Management's Employee of the Quarter in December 2018! Melanie is the State Employee Injury Compensation Trust Fund (SEICTF) Manager. Risk Manager Max

Graham said, "Melanie is a hard working employee, who is highly respected and meticulous at performing her job. It is truly an honor for her to receive this award given to her by her coworkers. It proves that she is a valued and trusted staff member."

Other comments in her nominations included, "Melanie is a great manager. She always helps with questions and is 'hands on' in every aspect of the SEICTF program. Melanie is also one to praise you when you do a good job and is always thanking us for our hard work."

Please join us in congratulating Melanie and in thanking her for her commitment to the Department of Finance and DORM!

## RISK MATTERS

is published quarterly by the Department of Finance, Division of Risk Management for the State of Alabama.



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We greatly appreciate the contribution of the following individuals to this issue:

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# RISKY BUSINESS: LOSS CONTROL TRAINING AND TIPS

## WHAT'S WRONG WITH THESE PICTURES?



During the property survey process, Loss Control Specialists routinely make recommendations to help prevent or lessen the potential for losses to the properties insured by the State Insurance Fund as well as to the lives of those who work and attend school within those buildings.

Recommendation: 3' Clearance is Required at all Electrical Panels

Nothing is to be stored in an electrical or mechanical room per fire codes except for the equipment itself.

If electrical panels arc, combustibles and flammables provide a fuel source for a property destroying fire.

Emergency access to the panels is greatly obstructed by clutter.

Gas cans and fuel tanks can leak and/or explode and should only be stored in appropriate storage facilities or cabinets.

For more information please call the Loss Control Division at 334-223-6120.



## SILVER LEVEL WINNERS - LOSS CONTROL SAFETY AWARDS

Risk Manager Max Graham, along with the DORM Loss Control staff, would like to congratulate the following silver-level award recipients, in recognition of their efforts to inform staff on safety issues and their success at maintaining less than twenty percent loss ratios. Congratulations to the following departments!

Alabama Department of Economic and  
Community Affairs  
Alabama Department of Environmental Management  
Administrative Office of Courts  
Alabama Community College System  
Alabama Department of Commerce  
Conservation - State Parks  
Conservation - Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries  
Department of Revenue  
Education Department  
Forensic Sciences  
Forestry Commission

Hardin Medical Facility - Mental Health  
Historical Commission  
Insurance Department  
Medicaid Agency  
Military Department  
Mobile County Health Department  
Oil and Gas Board  
Rehabilitation Services  
Retirement Systems of Alabama  
Secretary of State  
Tourism & Travel



## RONNIE DANIELS ACHIEVES ASP CERTIFICATION



Ronnie Daniels, a Loss Control Specialist with DORM, recently earned his Associate Safety Professional (ASP) certification. This highly regarded certification is awarded by the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP) to individuals who meet eligibility and experience criteria in the safety, health, and environmental discipline and have passed a rigorous examination. Achieving BCSP certification shows that the individual has mastered the core competency required for professional safety practice.

Congratulations, Ronnie! Well done!

## NEW EMPLOYEE



Troy Rhoades joined the staff of DORM in February. He is a Senior Claims Representative in the Claims Division. Prior to joining the DORM team, Troy was an independent claims adjuster. He has more than thirty years of experience in the insurance field.

Troy enjoys golf, CrossFit, going to Marvel Movies, Alabama football, and spending time with his family. He is also an ordained minister.

Troy has been married to his wife, Missy, for 33 years and has two daughters, two sons-in-law, and four grandchildren.

## EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATE IN DRIVER TRAINING

In conjunction with the University of Montevallo's Traffic Safety Center and the Alabama Department of Archives and History, the Division of Risk Management recently held another driver safety training class. Objectives of this training were to assist state employees with driving techniques and practices to reduce the likelihood of a motor vehicle accident.

Thank you to those agencies that participated in this valuable training; Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, Alabama Department of Youth Services, Alabama Emergency Management Agency, and the State Banking Department.

To show our appreciation for their commitment to promoting driving safety for state employees, DORM Staff Attorney Daryl Masters presented certificates of appreciation to Mr. Brian Swiney and Mr. Byron Partridge, of the University of Montevallo's Traffic Safety Center.



## TORNADO RESOURCES

Items are still needed for tornado relief throughout the state. Below are listed resources and suggestions for donation:

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) <https://www.fema.gov>

FEMA's Ready.gov <https://www.ready.gov>

The American Red Cross <http://www.red-cross.org>

2-1-1 Alabama Dial 2-1-1 for resources regarding housing, shelter, supplies, and more.

Donation Items Needed: Diapers, bottled water, non-perishable food, granola bars, baby formula, baby wipes, hygiene products, feminine products, air mattresses, large heavy duty trash bags, gloves, cleaning supplies, sleeping bags, warm clothes, blankets, towels, and pillows.

Check with [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov) for more information on how you can help.