



# Pest Control News Bites

The perfect guide to a safe, satisfying, and pest-free environment for you and your customers!

## RISK MANAGEMENT FOR THE PEST CONTROL INDUSTRY

Bill Coons recently joined Thomco as our Loss Control Director. Bill is a graduate of the University of Georgia where he earned a degree in Risk Management and Insurance. During his professional career Bill has provided loss control services for hundreds of companies. Bill has outlined below some critical elements that every safety program should employ.

A safety program for pest control operators will have the same basic features as safety plans for other businesses:

### I. Assignment of Responsibility

The responsibility of initiating a safety program is usually a part of the owner's role in managing a pest control business.

### II. Written Rules and Regulations

Rules will vary depending on the type of pest control business and are intended to inform employees of the company policies to help them work in a safe environment. Common rules will include:

- A. Vehicle Use policies and defensive driving-Employees work alone and drive to multiple accounts in a single day. Proper evaluation of a driver's MVR report prior to approving them as a driver is important to assure only safe vehicle operators are driving on company business.
- B. Proper lifting techniques
- C. Proper use of pesticides and clean up
- D. Ladder safety
- E. Proper use of respirators.

### III Accident Investigation Procedures

Since most pest control technicians work alone accident reporting requirements must be strict and employees must be of respectable character enough to be trusted working alone.

### IV. Record Keeping Procedures

Documentation of the safety program and of employee hiring procedures is important to comply with federal laws and protect employers from certain fines for non-compliance.

### V. Ongoing Training and Education

The industry is constantly changing and as such employees in the industry need to be kept up to date on the latest industry practices and safety practices.



### VI. Self-Inspection Programs

Offices, storage facilities, equipment and vehicles need to be inspected regularly to assure they are free of hazardous conditions and wear and tear that can lead to an accident.

### VII. Regularly Held Safety Meetings

Management should meet with employees on a regular basis and discuss safety program features and other relevant industry topics. These meetings can be held in conjunction with other meetings and do not need to take up much time but it is important to document meeting attendance and the safety topic discussed.

### VIII. Emergency First Aid Procedures

Companies should have in place plans for emergency care in the event of an accident or injury. Frequent calls into the office by technicians will allow management to know if there has been an accident. Also, the use of global positioning satellite navigation systems in cell phones is becoming increasingly popular to monitor productivity and scheduling of employees who work alone.

Employee safety is a critical issue for any business. Workplace accidents and injuries are harmful to both your employees and your bottom line. Frequent accidents and injuries lead to lost productivity from injured employees and ultimately to higher medical insurance and worker compensation premiums.

This is why it is important for all businesses regardless of size to implement a functional safety program that will keep worker compensation costs lower over time through accident and injury prevention.

Please feel free to contact Bill @ [BillC@thomcoins.com](mailto:BillC@thomcoins.com) if you have any questions concerning setting up your safety program.

Stay Safe!

## Getting The Proper Insurance Coverage is Key!

