



1-800-362-1011

www.hathomson.com

Tom Baynard, H.A. Thomson Loss Control Representative, Honored at Tredyffrin Township

On September 11, 2008, the Communications Center at Tredyffrin Township, Chester County, was rededicated and named to honor the contributions of Tom Baynard to the community. Tom was an officer with the Township for 26 years including 16 years as Chief of Police. The speakers at the event noted Tom's efforts in forming a Town Watch and in leading the Tredyffrin Township Police Department to become one of the earliest in the nation to achieve National Accreditation. Tom was also recognized for being a pioneer in implementing training and standards within his department. Many of Tom's current co-workers at H.A. Thomson attended the ceremony.



Give us a call

When your municipality acquires new buildings, equipment, and vehicles, please remember to give us a call so we can add the new acquisition to your insurance schedules. During our annual reviews and loss control surveys, we often find items that have been purchased during the previous year, but not called in to our office. Buildings, equipment, and vehicles that are damaged but not on your policies will most likely not be covered.

We value your business

Rise in Bond Claims

In the past several years we have seen a significant rise in treasurer and other dishonesty bond claims. It is important to properly bond your employees to prevent uncovered claims, as well as to implement accounting controls to reduce the possibility of theft.

Borough and Township treasurers need to be separately bonded. According to the 2nd class Township Code, treasurers should be bonded to the highest amount of money available at any time during the year. The Borough Code does not have a requirement on the amount. Many Borough treasurer bond limits are too low. Increasing the limit will not cost a substantial amount compared to the peace of mind the increased limit will provide. You can contact Betty Stone at Extension 146 if you would like to increase your bond.

Municipal tax collectors are also required to be separately bonded. Blanket employee dishonesty coverage is available to cover all municipal employees and governing board members that don't need to be separately bonded. Authority treasurers can be covered by a blanket dishonesty policy. Contact your Account Manager if you are interested in obtaining a quote or increasing your coverage limit.

Even with a bond, it is important to try to limit potential claims. Separation of duties between making deposits and handling receipts along with reconciling bank statements are very basic steps that should be implemented. Outside, professional audits are also an important loss prevention measure. Proper bond limits and accounting controls will help protect your taxpayers.

Group Life and Disability

H.A. Thomson represents a number of carriers that offer group term life insurance and disability insurance. Small groups under 10 individuals can be considered. Currently, one carrier is offering discounts up to 15% off the current life rates for groups of 10 or more. Call your account manager at 1-800-362-1011 if you would like to receive a quote.

Junior Volunteer Firefighters and Fundraising Activities

We were recently asked an interesting question regarding Junior Volunteer Firefighters and the Child Labor Law. Junior Volunteer Firefighters are permitted to engage in certain activities under Section 7.3 of the Child Labor Law. Junior Volunteer Firefighters are eligible for the same Workers' Compensation benefits as other volunteer firefighters. The question we received was - *If Junior Volunteer Firefighters participate in fundraising activities, would this violate the Child Labor Law?*

Fundraising activities are not included in permitted activities under Section 7.3.

We received an answer from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor on this issue. The Child Labor Law's intent is to prevent exploitative child labor. Fundraising does not qualify as exploitative child labor and, therefore, does not violate the Child Labor Law. The Attorney General's Office has issued supporting opinions in similar cases in the past. However, because fundraising is outside the list of authorized activities for Junior Volunteer Firefighters, they may not be eligible for Workers' Compensation benefits.

Your Volunteer Fire Company should exercise restraint in allowing minors to engage in fundraising activities. While they will avoid the fines associated with violating the Child Labor Law, they are putting the minors at risk if they should be injured and do not receive the benefits they expect from your Workers' Compensation policy.