

Targeted interventions earn PERMA the Award for Excellence in Performance



P E R M A™

The AGRiP Board of Directors has selected [Public Employer Risk Management Association, Inc. \(PERMA\)](#) to receive the 2019 Award for Excellence in Performance.

In 2014, PERMA launched an analysis of decades of data to identify the largest claim drivers, and created a team of risk management professionals. The next year, the risk management team developed six targeted interventions to address the highest claim drivers.

These interventions came in the form of five training sessions to address some of the most costly types of claims filed by public safety personnel, and a new grant pilot program to provide police officers with vests that reposition heavy equipment from the gun belt to the upper torso.

The training sessions have led to impressive results. A unique training, created to highlight the dangers that crossing guards are exposed to during the course of their duties, has resulted in zero lost time claims since its inception. Developed in conjunction with the local municipal police academy, this program highlights best practices, use of proper equipment as well as covering state and federal laws.

An awareness training for EMS and fire assists resulted in an average claim cost decrease of nearly 60 percent. Another training on PTSD awareness,

implemented in March 2016, has resulted in no mental stress claims filed by participants since that time.

Initially a one-year program, the police vest grant pilot program resulted in zero reported low back claims for participating police officers. PERMA is now looking at ways to expand the program to make it available to the entire pool.

“PERMA’s careful analysis of claims data and thoughtful program planning is a great example of how new initiatives can impact pools. These interventions didn’t just decrease the number of claims. These steps gave people the education and tools they need to do their job safely,” AGRiP Board of Directors President Brett Davis said.

Recognizing the public safety risk success, PERMA identified several public works interventions, including motor vehicle accidents, lifting manhole covers and getting in and out of large vehicles. These interventions have been developed over the past 12 months, and implementation and assessment measurements will begin this year.

The awareness, technology and alternative techniques are all transferrable to other public entity risk pools.

The AGRiP Award for Excellence in Performance recognizes a pool for outstanding programs or services, particularly when the program can be easily replicated by others in the industry.