

SAFETY EQUIPMENT GRANTS GAIN POPULARITY

In the second year of the PACIF Equipment Grant program, the idea is really catching on that members *can* obtain big-ticket items that significantly improve employee safety.

Last autumn, the PACIF Board of Directors approved setting aside \$200,000 of the fund's surplus for the 2011 PACIF Grant program (double the amount allocated when the program was new in 2010). Members

can apply for 50 percent, up to \$5,000, of the money required to buy durable equipment designed to improve worker and/or workplace safety or reduce municipal property damage or theft. Applications must include explanations of need and specific price quotes from credible vendors. Awards are determined by a committee composed of VLCT's Loss Control staff and managers. The year is divided into two application periods, and so many PACIF members submitted meritorious applications in the spring that a record \$142,686 has already been granted this year. The remaining \$57,314

(continued on next page)

Examples of Items Approved for 2011 PACIF Equipment Grants

More types of equipment were deemed appropriate for grants in 2011 than in 2010. These examples are in addition to the types listed in the December 2010 VLCT News.

For Police Departments

- Jackets which are highly visible in traffic and impervious to body fluids and bloodborne pathogens
- High-visibility raincoats

For Fire Departments

- High-intensity truck-mounted strobe lights that control traffic signals while traveling to a fire
- A powered device that empties and rolls large-diameter water hoses (to both prevent back injuries and allow more firefighters to fight the fire)
- Back-up camera systems for on fire trucks (to improve the driver's rear view)
- Cold- and ice-water rescue suit
- Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) Pak portable air supply (to help save a downed firefighter)

For Public Works Departments

- A gas-powered wet saw to cut asbestos cement water pipe according to OSHA requirements
- A portable light tower to illuminate utility trenches during nighttime work
- Traffic safety signs, cones, and barrels
- A portable jackhammer (to avoid the use of a bucket loader for installing posts)

For Municipal Offices

- Grounding of existing electrical circuits and installation of additional grounded circuits (to bring wiring to code and remove the need to "daisy-chain" extension cords and power strips)

Look! Six new courses at PACIF Online University!

- Sexual Harassment Prevention for Supervisors
- Accident Incident Investigation
- Effective Law Enforcement Communication*
- Occupational Disease Prevention for Firefighters*
- Arc Flash Awareness**
- New Employee Orientation‡

* In the Police, Fire, EMS curriculum

** In the Public Works and Utilities curricula

‡ Coming soon to all curricula

Visit www.vlct.org → Insurance & Risk Services → Programs → PACIF → Online University.

MENT SERVICES

EQUIPMENT GRANT

(continued from previous page)

is available for the applications that are received before August 31, 2011.

“This program does a great job of helping PACIF meet its goal of decreasing claims,” said Fred Satink, Loss Control Specialist, Risk Management Services. “It is truly a win-win system, because municipalities can double their purchasing power to acquire equipment that reduces their risk of injury or property damage, and PACIF saves money in the long run by paying fewer or smaller claims.”

In the first part of 2011, 55 of 57 applications met requirements and received grants, the average grant amount per municipality was \$,2594, and the total value of equipment to be bought with help from a PACIF grant was \$318,983. In 2010, a total of \$81,509 was paid to 45 applicants for an average grant of \$1811.31 toward total proposed purchases of \$377,564. Even though some members that won grants ended up not using them, the municipalities that made their purchases are presumably much safer for doing so. Look for a future article featuring some of their stories.

Ione L. Minot, Contributing Writer



Great-West
RETIREMENT SERVICES™

The Power of Partnering™

Kay M Kuzmik
Office Manager

Ronald “Chip” Sanville
Account Executive

Jonathan Smith
Account Representative

100 State Street, Suite 346
Montpelier, Vermont 05602
(802) 229-2391
(800) 457-1028 x 2
(802)229-2637 Fax
www.gwrs.com

kay.kuzmik@gwrs.com
ronald.sanville@gwrs.com
jonathan.smith@gwrs.com
Securities offered through
GWFS Equities, Inc.
A Great-West Company



2011 RMS CALENDAR

VLCT Trainings for Compliance with US Department of Transportation (DOT) CDL Requirements. 8:30 a.m. to noon, Wednesdays in August and September at the locations listed below. Each class is free for employees of PACIF members and \$50 for others. To register, please call Shawna O’Neill at 802-229-9111, ext. 1935.

- **Designated Employer Representative (DER) Training** reviews the federal DOT drug and alcohol testing responsibilities of employers and the role of DERs consistent with 49 CFR Part 40. Louise LaPoint of ParaMed Plus will teach new and current DERs how to keep their employer in compliance with DOT regulations.

Wednesday, August 3, Bellows Falls Fire Department, 170 Rockingham Street, Bellows Falls

Wednesday, August 10, Killington Town Office, 2706 River Road, Killington

Wednesday, August 17, Lyndon Public Safety Building, 316 Main Street, Lyndonville

Wednesday, August 24, Shelburne Town Offices, 5420 Shelburne Road, Shelburne

- **Reasonable Suspicion Testing (RST) Training** fulfills the DOT 49 CFR §382.603 requirement that all persons designated to supervise CDL drivers must receive at least “60 minutes of training on alcohol misuse and 60 minutes on controlled substance use.” This class includes information on how alcohol and controlled substances affect the human body and teaches attendees several practical and positive ways to approach drivers whom they suspect to be under the influence.

Wednesday, September 7, Bellows Falls Fire Department, 170 Rockingham Street, Bellows Falls

Wednesday, September 14, Killington Town Office, 2706 River Road, Killington

Wednesday, September 21, Lyndon Public Safety Building, 316 Main Street, Lyndonville

Wednesday, September 28, Shelburne Town Offices, 5420 Shelburne Road, Shelburne

Forklift Train the Trainer Class. Tuesday, July 26, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Healthy Living Market, 222 Dorset Street, South Burlington. Did you know that VOSHA/OSHA requires all Fork Truck operators to be trained by a “qualified person”? This training is designed for powered lift truck operators in manufacturing, construction and retail. A complete overview of 29 CFR 1910.178 (V)OSHA standards will be followed with a discussion on load balance, characteristics and truck components, engineering design, fueling, and fundamentals of operation, with a hands-on forklift safety inspection. This course is primarily a train-the-trainer seminar and can be used to fulfill the classroom component of (V)OSHA requirements. Valuable handouts included. \$125 per person. To register, contact Bruce Gray at Landrock@verizon.net or 518-562-1462.

RCRA: EPA Training for Hazardous Waste Generators. Tuesday, August 9, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Bickford’s Family Restaurant, Routes 5 and 9, Bennington. Offered by Cerberus EHS. \$185 per person includes lunch, manual, and certificate of completion. For information and to register, call 802-321-9005 or email vermont8@hotmail.com.

Deadline to apply for a 2011 PACIF Safety Equipment Grant. August 31, 2011. Find information and application form at www.vlct.org/insuranceriskservices/programs/equipmentgrants/.

SAVE THE DATE: the **Vermont Safety and Health Council’s 2011 Fall EXPO** will be on October 12 at the Killington Grand Hotel.

TRUST

Medical, Dental, Vision, Wellness
Life, Disability, COBRA
Long-Term Care, Cafeteria Plan

UI TRUST

Administration, Education
Claims Management
Advocacy, Appeals