

## RISK MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW & INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR BSA VOLUNTEERS

## **GREAT SALT LAKE COUNCIL**

The Great Salt Lake Council (GSLC) enjoys a comprehensive and effective risk management program, based on BSA guidance found in the *Scouting Healthy and Safely* (680-026) and the *Guide to Safe Scouting* (34416) guidebooks. Visit the GSLC's own *Scouting Safely* website at <a href="http://www.gslc-bsa.org/safety-resources/45823">http://www.gslc-bsa.org/safety-resources/45823</a> for more information.

Our efforts are based on three principles; 1) Loss prevention, 2) Risk assumption, and 3) Risk transfer. Each Scout unit and their leaders are an active participant in this process, especially when it comes to promoting safety and being aware of our own responsibilities.

Loss prevention includes a variety of activities and objectives. The GSLC utilizes an Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Committee which is comprised of BSA professional staff and volunteers with expertise in safety management, insurance, claims management, public health, risk evaluation, emergency services and other skills. The Committee meets regularly to review and discuss all aspects of the council's activities, operations, protocols, and procedures from a risk management perspective. Often these meetings produce recommendations intended to improve the experience and enhance the safety of an activity. Resources are drawn from existing scout materials and from other organizations. Other activities of the committee include loss control inspections of facilities, safety instruction, and coordination with loss control engineers of insurance carriers and promoting safety awareness. When a local council's ERM committee meets established BSA standards, the council receives substantial credits which are applied against the cost of risk transfer.

**Risk assumption** is generally the practice of self insurance. When risk of loss factors (frequency and severity) of activities are eliminated or substantially reduced, the risk can usually be self assumed. It is far more efficient to absorb the cost of indemnity and defense of occurrences which have low frequency and severity than to pay a premium to a commercial insurance carrier to insure against a possible loss. The committee often generates recommendations which advocate the use of self-insurance to the extent the GSLC budget can accommodate occasional infrequent and small losses.

Risk transfer is the practice of transferring risks to professional risk bearers (insurance companies) through insurance policies. The GSLC does this by participating in insurance programs arranged with the National BSA organization located in Dallas, Texas and through the purchase of specific GSLC policies arranged locally. The National programs are, for the most part, third party liability policies attaching above locally arranged liability policies and are intended to respond to catastrophic events. These include Auto liability, General liability, Directors and Officers liability, and liability policies intended to respond for legal defense and indemnity against allegations of abuse. The GSLC also arranges local

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property policies intended to cover specific properties against perils causing physical damage and resultant business interruption loss.

The combination of the GSLC's loss preventions efforts, the ERM committee's ongoing efforts, BSA National insurance programs and locally arranged insurance programs provide the Great Salt Lake Council with an efficient and comprehensive risk management program.

**Unit Leader Insurance Coverage** – the insurance coverage for BSA Volunteers listed below are brief outlines of the insurance provided by or through the local council for volunteers and chartered organizations. Certain levels of insurance are provided by each individual leader, such as the initial layer of automobile liability insurance when they are providing transportation.

Comprehensive General Liability Insurance - This coverage provides primary general liability coverage for registered volunteer Scouters with respect to claims arising out of an official Scouting activity with the exception that the coverage is excess over any insurance that may be available to the volunteer for loss arising from the ownership, maintenance, or use of a motor vehicle or watercraft. This insurance is available only while the vehicle or watercraft is in the actual use of a Scouting unit and being used for a Scouting purpose. Coverage is more than \$5 million for bodily injury and property damage. The insurance provided to unregistered Scouting volunteers through the BSA general liability insurance program is excess over any other insurance the volunteer might have to his or her benefit, usually a homeowner's, personal liability, or auto liability policy. The general liability policy does not provide indemnification or defense coverage to those individuals who commit intentional and/or criminal acts. The Boy Scouts of America does not have an insurance policy that provides defense for situations involving allegations of intentional and/or criminal acts.

**Automobile Liability Insurance** - All vehicles MUST be covered by a liability insurance policy. The amount of this coverage must meet or exceed the insurance requirement of the state in which the vehicle is licensed. (It is recommended, however, that coverage limits are at least \$100,000 combined single limit.) Any vehicle carrying 10 or more passengers is required to have limits of \$500,000 single limit. In the case of rented vehicles, the requirement of coverage limits can be met by combining the limits of personal coverage carried by the driver with coverage carried by the owner of the rented vehicle. All vehicles used in travel outside the United States must carry a liability insurance policy that complies with or exceeds the requirements of that country. A BSA Tour Plan or a council short-term camping permit is required when units travel overnight or outside their district. The council should establish more specific guidelines setting forth when a BSA Tour Plan is required. A Tour Plan is required for all trips of more than 500 miles or more one way and all tours outside the United States of America. The plan should list the drivers' names and limits of automobile liability insurance carried.

Each local council establishes the parameters under which a BSA Tour Plan is required. The plan must list each driver's name and the limits of automobile liability insurance carried. Leaders should file a Tour Plan at least 21 days before the activity to ensure the local council has enough time to review the plan and assist in updating the plan should that be necessary.

For more details, please visit the BSA website at <a href="http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-018">http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-018</a> WB.pdf