



TOIRMA Update

Windshield Time

The main number for TOIRMA's new Springfield office is 217-744-8010; fax 744-8011. The toll-free number remains the same, 888-562-7861.

IN MY DAILY COMMUTE from Springfield to the office in Peoria, it gives time for thinking about TOIRMA and the reasons behind the successful growth the program has enjoyed in our 24th year of existence.

It also causes the question to be asked—How can we improve on that success?

TOIRMA has enjoyed many “GOOD” assists to achieve this success. Just to name a few would include the following:

- “GOOD” leadership with knowledge of a growing need and a workable solution to remedy that need for townships in Illinois
- “GOOD” TOIRMA township board members who understand the value we continue to deliver to our township members
- “GOOD” staff members who like doing what they do and work very hard to do it well
- “GOOD” local representation in the designated areas of the state has added to the program and the success of that effort
- “GOOD” posters and publications, which encourage the members to correct issues of importance—signs, awareness of responsibilities of the elected job, quickly reporting of claims, just to name a few, but all of which reduce claims and help contain increasing costs.

One of those posters flashed into my mind this week a couple of times while traveling in the dense fog. TOIRMA had a “Lights On for Safety” campaign to encourage our members to become more visible on the highways in an effort to reduce some claims which had been occurring. It was also intended to make the motoring public more aware of both vehicles and equipment that use the road system.

I was traveling on Interstate 55 north of Springfield about 10 miles and the visibility was poor—perhaps

100 feet in front of my vehicle—when the vehicle in front of me hit the brakes and swerved into the left lane. Immediately in front of where that vehicle had been was another car with no visible lights. The potential for serious problems could have been reduced by the one simple action of turning on the lights to become more visible.

Fortunately for everyone, there was no one in the left lane, so it all worked out, but it did leave me wondering just how many other times that might occur that morning. It also did reinforce the urgency of having the lights on while traveling to increase visibility.

That poster, while it has been around for a while, still remains very relevant for everyone on the roads today. As you drive the highways with either vehicles or equipment, please remember to turn on the lights and make sure they are working correctly. It is important for your safety, as well as for the rest of the motoring public.

Now to the question I asked earlier about how to improve on the success of TOIRMA?

TOIRMA is always seeking an answer to that question. Some of our best suggestions for additional coverage needed for townships have come from our members, who know what is needed to improve or enhance the program. In the next few weeks, we will encourage our members to respond to our annual survey. Please take a few minutes to complete it and return in the provided envelope. We will analyze each of them, looking for ways to maintain the “GOOD” developments of the past while looking toward the future.

By the time this is published, we will be in the Springfield office. As soon as we have the new phone numbers, they will appear on our Web site. Our 1-888-562-7861 number will remain the same, as will all the current numbers for those at CCMSI. We will appreciate your patience during this time of transition, as we get everything worked out and running smoothly.

As always, please call if I can be of assistance.

— Rod

