



State Auditor
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E-Update

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1. Pension Update: Fire/Police State Aid Disbursements & September Newsletter
2. Revised: Statement of Position
3. Avoiding Pitfalls: Internal Controls

1. Pension Update: Fire/Police State Aid Disbursements & September Newsletter

Fire/Police State Aid Disbursements

We were informed by the Department of Revenue that this year the total state fire aid decreased by about 14 percent from last year. The decrease is due in part to fewer taxes collected on insurance premiums and in part to prior year adjustments. The Department of Revenue conducted research and determined that insurance companies in the past have overstated the amount of insurance premiums that actually dealt with fire insurance. Representatives within the Department of Revenue met to determine how to best adjust for the past reporting errors and decided to make adjustments to the 2007, 2008, and 2009 state fire aid amounts. State police aid also decreased, by about six percent from last year.

On October 1, the first round of state aid payments for volunteer fire relief associations and other pension plans that had been certified as eligible for receipt of their state aid was disbursed. To view complete listings of the fire and police aid amounts, go to:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/list.aspx?type=frm&div=pen>

September Newsletter

The September Pension Division Newsletter is now available. It includes an update on the Defined Contribution Plan Sub-Group activities and information about service credit for members on a military break in service. To view the complete newsletter, go to:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=pensionDocs>

2. Revised: Statement of Position

The Statement of Position on Classification of Data During An Audit has been revised to update citations and to include a reference to Minnesota's Department of Administration's Information Policy Analysis Division (IPAD). IPAD has authority to issue non-binding advisory opinions on data practices and open meeting law issues. To view the revised Statement, go to:

http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/other/Statements/dataclassification_0705_statement.pdf

3. Avoiding Pitfalls: Internal Controls

Every local government employee plays a part in the internal control process. Discussions about internal controls should take place at all levels to emphasize the importance a public entity places on fraud prevention and to help employees understand their responsibility in the process. Protecting public funds takes more than an annual audit: everyone has a role. For more information about internal controls, see our Statement of Position at:

http://www.osa.state.mn.us/other/Statements/importanceic_0703_statement.pdf

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