



State Auditor
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OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

E-Update

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1. Update: Second Certification for 2009 Fire State Aid
 2. Website: Improved Web Page
 3. Avoiding Pitfalls: Salary Adjustments
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1. Update: Second Certification for 2009 Fire State Aid

The Office of the State Auditor is pleased to announce that 142 volunteer fire relief associations met all reporting requirements to be certified as eligible for receipt of their 2009 fire state aid for the second round of aid disbursements. State aid will be disbursed on or about November 15 for the certified relief associations.

In total, 689 volunteer fire relief associations and other local public pension plans have been certified as eligible for their 2009 state aid. Only 77 volunteer fire relief associations have yet to meet their reporting requirements. The next certification deadline for 2009 state aid eligibility is March 1, 2010.

2. Website: Improved Web Page

The Office of the State Auditor's website has a page dedicated to Statements of Position (SOPs). SOPs are an educational resource for local governments, auditors and the public. We updated the SOP page to make it more user-friendly by sorting the Statements by general topic area and also alphabetically.

To view the improved and more user-friendly page, go to:

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

3. Avoiding Pitfalls: Salary Adjustments

When considering salary adjustments as a way to economize, local officials should take into account statutes that may prescribe how salaries of certain officials need to be set. Statutes differ, and some were changed during the 2009 legislative session. For example, under the new laws, most city council members' salaries may now be reduced by enacting an ordinance that will be in effect for 12 months unless the ordinance specifies a different time period. Similarly, most county commissioners' salaries or per diem payments may now be reduced by a resolution.

As with other important decisions that have legal ramifications, local officials considering compensation changes should consult with their legal advisors.

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