



State Auditor
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OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

E-Update

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1. Deadline: County Financial Reporting Form
 2. Released: Volunteer Fire Relief Relevant Statutes Booklet
 3. Update: Fire Relief Association Working Group
 4. Avoiding Pitfalls: Plowing Snow on Private Property
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1. Deadline: County Financial Reporting Form

November 1st is the deadline for counties to submit their annual financial reporting forms. The form can be found at:

<https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/safes/login.aspx>.

2. Released: Volunteer Fire Relief Relevant Statutes Booklet

An updated version of the Volunteer Firefighter Relief Associations Selected Relevant Statutes booklet is now available. The booklet contains many of the state laws applicable to volunteer fire relief associations, including law changes enacted during the 2010 legislative session. Relief association trustees are encouraged to download the booklet for reference when updating bylaws, making investment decisions, and calculating benefit payments. The booklet can be found at:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20080304.004>.

3. Update: Fire Relief Association Working Group

The 2010/2011 Volunteer Fire Relief Association Working Group held its first meeting on October 14. Working Group members reviewed a draft record retention schedule and

discussed topic suggestions that were submitted by relief association trustees from across Minnesota, and some technical issues.

The next Working Group meeting has been changed from the previously-announced date. It will now be held on Tuesday, November 16, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the OSA office in Saint Paul. Meeting materials are available on our website at:

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

4. Avoiding Pitfalls: Plowing Snow on Private Property

Counties and towns have statutory authority to remove snow from private property. The county or town must be paid not less than the cost of the snow removal, and the work must not “unduly delay or interfere” with the removal of snow from public highways under the entity's jurisdiction. The relevant statute is [Minn. Stat. § 160.21](#).

Some entities also have more specific statutes relating to snow removal from roadways, such as the statute for St. Louis County found at [Minn. Stat. § 383C.234](#). Cities should consult with their attorneys to clarify the scope of their authority to remove snow from private property.

The 2010 Legislature also provided counties, towns and cities with specific authority to adopt an annual resolution to remove snow from certain unopened or private roads in uncompleted subdivisions. The new legislation is found in subdivision 6 of [Minn. Stat. § 160.21](#).

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