



State Auditor
Rebecca Otto

OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

E-Update

*The official online news
publication of the Office
of the State Auditor*

November 7, 2014

1. Meeting: Volunteer Fire Relief Association Working Group
2. Deadline: Forfeiture Reporting
3. Revised: Statement of Position on TIF
4. Update: Second Certification for 2014 Fire State Aid
5. Avoiding Pitfalls: Payroll-Related Tax Issues

1. Meeting: Volunteer Fire Relief Association Working Group

The Volunteer Fire Relief Association Working Group will be meeting on Thursday, November 13, at 11:00 a.m. at our 525 Park Street office in Saint Paul. Meetings are open to the public. Working Group meeting materials are available at:

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

2. Deadline: Forfeiture Reporting

November 20th is the deadline for law enforcement agencies to report final disposition of property seized subject to forfeiture for the month of October. To report final disposition of forfeitures, please go to:

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

3. Revised: Statement of Position on TIF

The Statement of Position entitled "TIF Administrative Expenses" has been revised to reflect recent statutory changes and for clarity. The Statement can be viewed at:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20110518.001>.

4. Update: Second Certification for 2014 Fire State Aid

The Office of the State Auditor is pleased to announce that 112 volunteer fire relief associations met all reporting requirements to be certified as eligible for receipt of their 2014 fire state aid and supplemental state aid in the second round of aid disbursements. State aid will be disbursed on or about November 15 for those plans that met the reporting requirements.

A list of the 2014 fire state aid and supplemental state aid amounts is available online at:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20140926.000>.

5. Avoiding Pitfalls: Payroll-Related Tax Issues

Government entities face multiple payroll-related tax issues, such as:

- Is an individual an independent contractor or an employee?
- Are severance payments, if permitted, taxed?
- Do we need to issue W-2 forms for elected officials?
- Is an employee's clothing allowance taxable income?

The Office of Federal, State and Local Governments of the IRS ("FSLG") provides information and guidance to government entities on federal tax issues. If a government entity is audited by the IRS and found to be in noncompliance, fines and penalties are possible, and the government entity or its employees could be subject to back taxes.

For more information about FSLG and to access informational materials, please go to:

<http://www.irs.gov/govt/fslg>.

If you are interested in signing up to receive an e-mail version of the E-Update regularly, [click here](#).

The Office of the State Auditor is located at 525 Park Street, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55103.
Phone: (651) 296-2551 or (800) 627-3529 (TTY) Fax: (651) 296-4755.
Web: www.auditor.state.mn.us.