



State Auditor
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OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

E-Update

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

October 3, 2014

1. Scheduled: Volunteer Fire Relief Association Working Group
 2. Reminder: CTAS Version 8 Training
 3. Released: Pension Newsletter
 4. Avoiding Pitfalls: Data Practices
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1. Scheduled: Fire Relief Association Working Group

The Office of the State Auditor will again convene the Volunteer Fire Relief Association Working Group this fall. The Working Group meets to identify and work through current and pressing relief association issues. The first meeting of the Working Group is set for October 22 and will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at our office in Saint Paul at 525 Park Street, Suite 500.

Additional Working Group meetings have been scheduled for November 13, December 2, and December 8. An additional meeting in January will also be scheduled. All meetings are open to the public and will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at our office in Saint Paul.

Meeting agendas and materials will be available on the OSA website at:

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

2. Reminder: CTAS Version 8 Training

CTAS Version 8 training sessions will begin next week. There are still some available spots for sessions in Duluth on Monday, October 6, Grand Rapids on Tuesday, October 7, and Helga (Bemidji area) on Wednesday, October 8. The three-hour training sessions will include an overview of CTAS Version 8 and an opportunity to work with the program.

More information on the training sessions, including registration information, is available at:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20140904.000>.

3. Released: Pension Newsletter

The September **Pension Newsletter** has been released. The Newsletter provides a link to the 2014 fire state aid and supplemental state aid amounts. The Newsletter also contains information about pension and benefit rollovers, payment of insurance premiums, internal controls, and Schedule Form updates.

The complete Newsletter can be viewed at:

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

4. Avoiding Pitfalls: Data Practices

Local governments must comply with the Minnesota Data Practices Act. Towns, however, are generally exempt – only towns in the metropolitan area with urban powers must comply with the Data Practices Act.

The website of the Minnesota Department of Administration's Information Policy Analysis Division (IPAD) has educational materials about the Act and the public's access to local government information according to the Act. These materials can be accessed by going to the IPAD website at <http://www.ipad.state.mn.us/>. You can also contact IPAD at (651) 296-6733 or (800) 657-3721, or by mail at 201 Administration Building, 50 Sherburne Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55155.

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

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