



West Virginia Loggers Council

P.O. Box 718 Ripley, WV 25271 Phone: 304-372-1955 Email:

Dear company

The promise of improved Workers Compensation (WC) rates, with the transition to a private market place in West Virginia, proved to be a false promise. Brickstreet remains the only open market option for loggers WV. And, they have been systematically reducing the number of logging businesses for who they are providing coverage, effectively forcing logging companies into the assigned risk pool, where rates are significantly higher than the published rates for open market coverage.

With the recent creation of the WV Loggers Council, the logging community has a statewide voice to address a variety of issues that can enhance the welfare of logging companies. As such, the Council has committed to exploring better options for providing workers compensation insurance to WV loggers. The Council's Executive Committee has had preliminary discussions with an organization administering a workers compensation self-insurance program for loggers in Louisiana. Started in 1994, with an average WV premium of 48%, the Louisiana Loggers Association Self-Insured Fund has systematically driven their published rate to 20%, with an effective rate of 10% after annual member distributions.

The Louisiana model is one that could be adapted to West Virginia. The first step in understanding whether the Louisiana model will work in West Virginia is to gather basic claims/loss data for WV logging businesses over the past 5 years. This will allow an analysis of the current status and identify trends in workers compensation among WV loggers.

We are respectfully requesting that you participate in this data collection process by completing the enclosed "Loss History-Loss Run Information Request" (Form 1), which simply requests the name of your workers compensation insurance carrier and policy number for each of the past 5 years. An analysis of this data will be completed by Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Inc., which is acting as the claims management organization for the Louisiana Loggers Association Self-Insured Fund. In order for Gallagher Risk Management to access your loss data, they must have your authorization. Enclosed is an authorization form for you to sign and date, allowing them access to your loss data (Form 2).

Please return the completed "Loss History-Loss Run Information Request" (Form 1) and authorization form (Form 2) to the WV Loggers council in the enclosed postage paid envelope by **February 26, 2016**. The WV Logger Council will collect all the forms and forward them to Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Inc.

All company data will remain confidential and within the possession of Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services and any results will be based on an aggregation of all company data. In that way no individual company results will be identifiable. No individual, association, company or agency will be given access to the specific loss run data of any individual logging company other the Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services.

We believe that the Louisiana model is the best opportunity currently available for achieving affordable workers comp in West Virginia. Please help us move this process forward.

With Kind Regards,

Harry Vance

Harry Vance
Chairman, WV Logger Council
Owner – Harry Vance Logging

WVLC Executive Committee

Harry Vance - Chairman, Curt Hassler, Jerry Huffman, Jay Johnston, Donald Parker, Anthony Raines, and Rick Smith