



Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority

UPDATE

FALL 2019

New Coverage: Active Assailant and Hostage Events

Unfortunately, throughout the world, active assailant and hostage events are occurring at an alarming rate. These events are happening in a broad variety of settings, including schools, churches, businesses, entertainment venues, sporting events and public properties. The impact from these events has been widespread and devastating, from property damage to bodily injury, emotional trauma and death.

In response to the increasing frequency, severity and unpredictability of these events, the OTARMA Board of Directors has recently implemented Active Assailant and Hostage Events Coverage for its members.



For purposes of this coverage, an “active assailant event” means a premeditated attack carried out by an active assailant, using a handheld weapon, vehicle or explosive device. A “hostage event” is a premeditated incident by which a hostage taker holds a person or group of persons under duress, with a handheld weapon, for more than one hour.

Highlights of this new coverage, with some exceptions and limitations, include the following when they are caused by an active assailant or hostage event:

- **Property Damage** - Loss of or damage to a member’s real and/or personal property.
- **Business Revenue** - Loss of a member’s earnings.
- **Extra Expenses** - Reasonable and necessary extra expenses incurred by a member to continue normal operations.

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The OTARMA Program is exclusively endorsed by the OTA

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this newsletter. Professional counsel should be sought before any action is taken or decision is made based on this material.

www.OTARMA.org

Photo courtesy of Pike Township, Fulton County.

OTARMA - LEADING THE WAY FOR OHIO TOWNSHIPS

OTARMA, a self-insurance pool endorsed by the Ohio Township Association (OTA), was formed in 1987. Over the years, OTARMA has become one of the largest, most stable and financially secure

group self-insurance pools in the country. More than 1,000 Ohio townships are OTARMA Members and, with a 99% retention rate, member townships remain committed to the program.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF OTARMA'S SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES:

1986

Ohio enacted legislation that allowed municipalities to join group self-insurance pools. The Ohio Township Association (OTA) and County Commissioners' Association of Ohio (CCAO) cooperated to help get the legislation passed.

1987

The Ohio Township Association endorses the OTARMA Program.
In February, OTARMA welcomes its first member – Deerfield Township, Portage County.
By October, OTARMA has 100 Ohio townships as members.

1997

OTARMA provides a **free** Resource Library to its members.

2006

OTARMA welcomes Public Entity Risk Services of Ohio (PERSO), a dedicated claims service provider.
The Very Important Participant (VIP) Rewards Credit is offered to OTARMA Members. Nearly \$5,000,000 is returned to members over a three-year period.

2008

Motor Vehicle Report (MVR) reimbursement is introduced to OTARMA Members.

2009

Budget Relief Credit is offered to OTARMA Members.

2012

A three-year rate guarantee is offered to small OTARMA Member townships.

2013

A Capital Reserve Fund Distribution is implemented for qualifying OTARMA Members.
The MORE Grant Program is introduced as a new benefit for OTARMA Members.

2017

OTARMA reaches 1,000 members and 21 counties with 100% membership.

2018

OTARMA introduces a property appraisal service included with OTARMA Membership.
The Police & Fire Policy Grant Program is introduced as a new benefit for OTARMA Members.
Comprehensive cyber solutions are available to OTARMA Members.
OTARMA receives AAA (Unsurpassed) Financial Stability Rating for the 29th consecutive year.

2019

OTARMA Members are provided Active Assailant and Hostage Events Coverage and an option of Faithful Performance Coverage in lieu of bonds.

Thank you, members, for your ongoing loyalty to OTARMA. We look forward to continuing to **lead the way** together for Ohio townships.

If your township is not already enjoying the benefits of OTARMA Membership, we invite you to consider joining.

For more information or questions about OTARMA, please visit the OTARMA Website at www.OTARMA.org or contact an OTARMA Representative toll-free at (800) 748-0554.

New Coverage

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- **Business Relocation Costs** - Extra costs of temporarily relocating a member's operations or business.
- **Third-Party Liability** - Damages and expenses the member becomes legally obligated to pay because of bodily injury or property damage sustained by a third-party at a covered location.
- **Medical & Dental Expenses** - Medical and dental expenses necessary to mitigate bodily injury sustained by a member's employees or patrons.
- **Counseling Costs** - Counseling costs for a member's employees or patrons injured by or physically present at a covered location.



- **Funeral Costs** - Funeral costs for persons killed by an active assailant or hostage taker.
- **Crisis Management Services** - Costs for a crisis management consultant to assist the member in responding to and managing the situation after an active assailant or hostage event.
- **Employee Retraining Costs** - Job retraining costs for the member's employees who are physically present and physically injured.
- **Replacement Employee Recruitment Costs** - Recruitment costs to replace a member's employees who are physically present and physically injured.

In addition to this comprehensive and responsive coverage following an active assailant or hostage event, OTARMA's Risk Control Team has resources available to assist your township with preparing for and responding to such an event. To learn more about proactive steps you and your township can take, log into the Resource eLibrary at www.OTARMA.org. If you have an active assailant or hostage event, please immediately contact your claims office, PERSO, at (866) 907-3776.

OTARMA CALENDAR PHOTO SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 30

OTARMA Members, you are encouraged to submit photos representing your township for the annual OTARMA calendar. Work is already underway for the 2020 calendar.

We are looking for seasonal variety in the photos – from farm fields laden with sweet, yellow corn to the vibrant colors of autumn tree-lined streets, and from urban centers glistening with fresh-fallen snow to the soft hues of apple blossoms heralding new growth. We want to showcase your township and its citizens at work or play enjoying indoor or outdoor activities. In addition, photos of township personnel and buildings are all welcomed.

Your township has many reasons to be proud of your people and the work you accomplish together. All Ohio townships will receive a 2020 OTARMA calendar, so this is a great opportunity to share your township's images with others throughout the state.



The photo submission deadline is September 30, 2019. For more details, including submission guidelines, we invite you to visit the OTARMA Website at www.OTARMA.org and select *Member Services*, then *2020 Calendar Photo Submission*. You may also send an email to OTARMA@bfgroup.com to request more information.

EMPLOYEE DISHONESTY AND FAITHFUL PERFORMANCE OF DUTY COVERAGE

House Bill 291 was signed into law on December 20, 2018, and became effective March 20, 2019, as O.R.C. 3.061. The passage of this law allows a “political subdivision,” meaning a county, township, a “municipal corporation,” which includes villages and cities, as well as a school district, community school, or a library or library district, to obtain an “employee dishonesty and faithful performance of duty policy,” in place of the surety bonds that are required for the political subdivision’s officers, employees and appointees. Under O.R.C. 3.061, an “employee dishonesty and faithful performance of duty policy” such as a coverage document issued by a joint self-insurance pool, like OTARMA, can protect a political subdivision from financial or property loss.

In an effort to provide additional coverage options for the membership, the OTARMA Board of Directors, during its recent meeting, passed a motion to allow OTARMA Members the option to elect coverage for their public officials under the OTARMA Governmental Property Agreement in place of a traditional surety bond for those public officials that are required to be bonded under O.R.C. 3.061. OTARMA’s Governmental Property Agreement will provide coverage for a loss of funds or property while the public officials are performing their duties in office. This is an advantage over surety bonds, in which private assets of the public official will be pursued by the bonding company to satisfy any payment made under the surety bond.

If an OTARMA Member elects to have coverage provided under the OTARMA Governmental Property Agreement, the OTARMA Member must, pursuant to O.R.C. 3.061, elect by resolution to use OTARMA’s coverage document as an “employee dishonesty and faithful

performance of duty policy” in lieu of surety bonds, for various positions within the township, including, but not limited to, the following: Trustee, Fiscal Officer, Assistant Fiscal Officer, Deputy Fiscal Officer, Zoning Inspector, Assistant Zoning Inspector, Road Superintendent, Constable, Fire Chief, Police Chief and Administrator.

“OTARMA’s Governmental Property Agreement will provide coverage for a loss of funds or property while the public officials are performing their duties in office.”

It is important to note that the coverage provided by the OTARMA Governmental Property Agreement should be in effect prior to taking the oath of office and before the commencement of the individual’s term of office or an employee’s employment commences.

Current officeholders, employees and appointees should maintain their surety bonds until the end of their current term of office or employment. A lack of coverage when the discharge of duties is commenced by the individual shall render the office vacant under O.R.C. 3.061.

Please contact the OTARMA Service Team regarding the process to elect OTARMA coverage in lieu of acquiring a surety bond, including a sample resolution required to be passed by each township opting for this coverage.



MORE GRANT PROGRAM - REMINDER TO APPLY BEFORE THE DEADLINE

The Managing Ohio Risk Exposures (MORE) Grant Program is available to OTARMA Members. The MORE Grant Program offers up to \$500 annually per township for the purpose of assisting OTARMA Members in eliminating or preventing risk exposures that can lead to liability claims and property losses.

MORE Grant funds are available for purchases or expenses incurred during the application period of January 1 through December 31, 2019. Applicants must be an OTARMA Member when they apply and when they receive the grant funds.

OTARMA Encourages
all members to apply!

OTARMA encourages all members to apply before the year-end deadline!



Cedarville, Greene County - (left to right) Kyle Miller, Fire Chief; Ron Ankeney, Maintenance; Craig Hibner, OTARMA Representative; and Trustees Kent Campbell, Jeff Ewry and Dick Walker.



Hamilton Township, Franklin County - Craig Hibner (left), OTARMA Representative; and Lisa Shirkey, Fiscal Officer.



Eaton Township, Lorain County - (left to right) Trustees Jason Monschein and Randy Houston; and Craig Hibner, OTARMA Representative.

“The Board of Yellow Creek Township Trustees and Fiscal Officer would like to thank YOU, OTARMA and the MORE Grant Program, for the opportunity to apply again for the safety equipment grant. Since Yellow Creek Township has been associated with the MORE Grant Program, we have collected \$3,500 towards the purchase of safety equipment. We applaud OTARMA for giving back to the community.”

Kenneth Biacco, Chairman-Trustee, Yellow Creek Township, Columbiana County

“Love to see our MORE Grant dollars serving the safety needs of our members! Mission accomplished.”

Joyce Fetzer, Chair, OTARMA Board of Directors

“We are very pleased to report nearly 3,700 MORE Grant Program applications and over \$1.8 million in grant funds have been awarded since the OTARMA Board of Directors announced the program at the beginning of 2013.”

Wendy French, OTARMA MORE Grant Committee

“This is the fifth year that Sutton Township has applied for and received the MORE Grant, which has enabled us to enhance the safety of the township residents and the township workers. With the current grant, the township is purchasing safety lights. Sutton Township would like to thank OTARMA and the MORE Grant Committee for implementing this program. It is very much appreciated.”

Jo Ann Crisp, Fiscal Officer, Sutton Township, Meigs County

Additional information, including the one-page MORE Grant application, is available online at www.OTARMA.org. Or if you have questions, contact an OTARMA Representative at (800) 748-0554.

MEMBER PROFILE: OXFORD TOWNSHIP, BUTLER COUNTY

Oxford Township in Butler County is located in southwestern Ohio. In the early 1800s, this area was nearly uninhabitable woodlands. Today, the township has a large agricultural base and single-family

properties of various acreages mixed in with the farms. It is a great place to live, work and play for people who cherish small town living and have an appreciation for history and traditional American values.

Of the approximately 25,000 township residents, nearly 23,000 live in the City of Oxford, home to Miami University. The unincorporated part of Oxford Township surrounds the city.

Oxford Township was home to several leading agriculturalists in the 1800s.

Lorenzo Langstroth was known as the Father of Beekeeping for his invention of the removable frame beehive, which is still in use today.

David Magie was one of the first breeders of the Poland China hogs and was known internationally for his pedigreed hogs.

Waldo Brown was a nationally recognized lecturer, author of *The People's Farm and Stock Cyclopeda* and a columnist for the *Ohio Farmer* and the *Cincinnati Enquirer*.

Oxford Township is recognized for two structures that appear in the National Register of Historic Places.

First, the Black Covered Bridge is one of the longest and most impressive of Ohio's covered bridges. Built in 1868-69, the bridge is unique for its combination of two truss types, Childs and Long, within a single structure. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. In 2000, the bridge was restored through the efforts of the Oxford Museum Association, the Butler County Commissioners and the Butler County Engineer's Office. A State of Ohio Bicentennial Historic Marker was placed at the site in 2001. Today, the bridge is used by the Oxford Area Bike Trails to cross Four Mile Creek.

Second, completed in 1805 by Zachariah DeWitt, the two-story log homestead is the oldest building in Oxford Township and one of the oldest remaining log structures





in Ohio. Located on property belonging to Miami University, it has been under the care of the Oxford Museum Association since 1973. Constructed of hewn logs, the four-room house has floors of ash and ceilings of tulip poplar and walnut. Its rafters are pegged, not nailed. The nearby smokehouse was restored in 1999-2000.

The Oxford Township Trustees' jurisdiction extends over the unincorporated part of the township. Gary Salmon has been serving as an Oxford Township Trustee since 2004. At that time, the other two trustees, George Simonds and James McDonough, had served the township for many years, one almost 30 years and the other over 20 years. They both shared their knowledge of township government with Gary.

In 1993, Oxford Township selected OTARMA for its property and liability coverage. According to Gary, the township previously had its insurance with a local agency but had multiple policies with different companies to cover all their needs. OTARMA was able to provide all the coverage it needed with a significant

reduction in cost. The Oxford Township Trustees had known about OTARMA since it was formed in 1987, but they wanted to make sure it was successful before becoming a member. Their local agent was in favor of the move to OTARMA.

Oxford Township has remained a loyal OTARMA Member for over 25 years because the program continually adds benefits that provide value to townships. Examples include the MORE Grant, a comprehensive cyber security package and a complimentary property appraisal service. Oxford Township has taken advantage of MORE Grant funds (up to \$500 annually) every year since the program was introduced in 2013. MORE Grant funds awarded to the township have been applied towards the purchase of safety equipment, such as handheld radar units, body cameras, lights and decal kits for new police cruisers, high visibility clothing and lighting for a snowplow.



Gary Salmon,
Oxford Township Trustee

When asked what he would say to another township considering OTARMA, Gary replied,

“ OTARMA provides a great service to the township for the cost, has a workforce that understands townships' needs in insurance and continues to add benefits to their program to meet those needs. When looking at your proposal, look carefully at all the benefits included that a lot of insurance companies add on and charge more for. ”

For more information about Oxford Township in Butler County – www.oxfordtwpohio.org.

If your Ohio township is interested in learning more about OTARMA, we invite you to visit www.OTARMA.org or call (800) 748-0554 and ask to speak with an OTARMA Representative.



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OTARMA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Fox Township, Carroll County

OTARMA welcomes Fox Township as a new member. Fox Township joins 13 other townships within Carroll County that benefit from OTARMA's coverage, programs and risk management services.



It also results in Carroll County becoming a 100% OTARMA county, meaning all 14 townships in the county are OTARMA Members. Fox Township serves approximately 1,000 residents.

OTARMA Representative Andy Leitch explained that OTARMA's pricing, coverage and member benefits, such as the \$500 MORE Grant, property appraisal service and higher liability limits, convinced Fox Township to become an OTARMA Member.

Liverpool Township, Columbiana County

OTARMA also extends a warm welcome to Liverpool Township in the southeastern corner of Columbiana County along the Ohio River. The township serves a population of nearly 4,000 residents. The county is situated in a region referred to as East Ohio.

OTARMA Representative Megan Roschek explained that broader coverage and cost savings convinced Liverpool Township to become an OTARMA Member.



OTARMA UPCOMING EVENTS

Ohio Township Association Annual Winter Conference & Trade Show

February 5-8, 2020

For more information:

www.ohiotownships.org

