

## Nelson, Dan

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**From:** Luke, Tim  
**Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2000 8:11 PM  
**To:** Nelson, Dan  
**Subject:** RE: workers compensation insurance for water districts

Dan,  
The State Insurance Fund says that workers comp is required for all water districts/watermasters regardless of number of days worked. It is my understanding that the Industrial Commission enforces the requirement. IDWR does not require water districts to obtain the insurance and we don't enforce or report on districts that don't have it. In the past, IDWR has merely warned districts that they are technically required to have the insurance under Idaho Code. If they don't want to get it I'm not going to make them. I think they are foolish not to have it and I would question why they are even an active district if the watermaster only works 3 days. Your response may want to mention that they may want to pay attention to any meetings/hearings regarding water management rules because those rules may require that watermasters measure water whenever diversions are on, thus extending perhaps the watermasters term of service and the district budget.

Tim

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Nelson, Dan  
**Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2000 5:45 PM  
**To:** Luke, Tim  
**Subject:** workers compensation insurance for water districts

Tim,

I attended the water district meeting for Sinker Creek today. In the packet of information that Gary Spackman gave me to talk over with the water districts was the letter that you sent concerning workers compensation insurance for watermasters. When I brought this up they water district members stated that the insurance was more than what they paid for the water master and that he only worked approximately 3 days. They requested that I ask if it is really necessary to have worker compensation insurance with their limited use of a water master.

I spoke with John Westra who told me that we have not required that the smaller districts like Sinker Creek to get this insurance. John did say that most of the districts do have the insurance. I then spoke with Gary Spackman and he said that he believed that the district was required by IDWR to get the insurance and to contact you and find out what to do before I sent them a response.

Please let me know what you think.

Thank you

Dan Nelson  
Western