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Cattaraugus County Receives NYMIR Risk Management Award

At this week's 100th Annual Fall Seminar of the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) in Niagara Falls, the New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal (NYMIR) presented Cattaraugus County with NYMIR's 2025 Risk Management Award. The honor is given annually in recognition of a county in the NYMIR property and liability insurance program that has displayed a high level of commitment to sound risk management, safety and training efforts.

In presenting the glass crystal award, NYMIR Executive Director Peter A. Baynes stated that, "Effective risk management requires a team approach, with everyone working together to reduce the liability and exposures which are inherent in providing local government services. Cattaraugus County was chosen from among our 39 member counties because of the dedicated and proactive way in which its risk management department utilizes a safety committee and responds to NYMIR's loss control recommendations. Cattaraugus County has a group of officials and employees who take safety seriously for the benefit of its employees and residents, which generates cost-savings for the County and, indirectly, all of the municipalities in the NYMIR program."

NYMIR cited the hard work of County Attorney Ashley Smith and the four members of her risk management staff who handle all new employee and staff safety orientations, incident investigations, and compliance safety training (with nearly 13,000 NYMIR online training courses taken since 2021). The county's risk management team also administers a robust drug and alcohol screening and testing program that includes pre-employment, random and post-accident testing.

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NYMIR is a non-profit, statewide property and casualty insurance program for New York State's local governments. Formed by a partnership among the New York State Association of Counties, the New York State Conference of Mayors and the Association of Towns of the State of New York, it was licensed by the NYS Insurance Department in 1993. It is now the State's largest underwriter of municipal property and casualty risk, with 1,015 municipal subscribers from all across the state.