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## 1. Fire Relief Association Working Group

The State Auditor's Fire Relief Association Working Group met on October 1 and finalized its proposals for the 2025 Legislative Session. The proposals include changing the current March 31 reporting deadline to June 30, permitting relief associations with defined contribution plans to pay retirement benefits before the age of 50, and clarifying relief association statutes related to the deposit of member contributions and dues. Note that no change to the minimum retirement age is being proposed for defined benefit plans. If you have questions about any of these proposals, please [contact us](#).

Recordings of Working Group meetings and links to meeting materials are posted on the [OSA website](#).

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## 2. Fire State Aid Deadline and Reporting Status Dashboard

The next deadline for relief associations to be certified as eligible for receipt of their 2024 fire and supplemental state aid is November 1. To be certified as eligible for receipt of state aid in the next round of payments, a relief association must have submitted all required 2023 reporting information to the OSA with enough time for the OSA to complete its review and for any identified issues to be resolved before November 1.

You can check out our new [reporting status dashboard](#) to see a relief association's status in meeting its requirements with the OSA to qualify for fire state aid, and to view the status of relief association report submissions and the OSA's review of the submitted reports.

A list of the 2024 fire and supplemental state aid amounts from the Department of Revenue is posted on the [OSA website](#).

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## 3. 2025 SAFES User Authorization Form

Access to reporting forms for accountants, auditors, and other consultants will expire at the end of the calendar year. Access occurs primarily through the State Auditor's Form Entry System ([SAFES](#)), but also extends to other offline relief association documents.

Relief associations will need to renew access for their accountants, auditors, and consultants by completing the [2025 User Authorization Form](#) that is now available. The 2025 form provides access through December 31, 2025.

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# TIPS FOR TRUSTEES

## 4. Keeping SAFES Login Information Secure

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and we want to take this opportunity to share a reminder about the importance of keeping your SAFES login information secure.

SAFES is the State Auditor's Form Entry System, which is the secure web application used to access, submit, and electronically sign reporting forms. Because relief association reporting forms posted in SAFES contain nonpublic member information, relief associations must take steps to protect this data. Click the button below to find steps relief association trustees should take to keep their login information secure.

[Learn More](#)

## 5. Pension Topics

We provide a wide range of informational topics specific to relief association trustees on the [OSA website](#). Topic categories include benefit levels, board of trustees and membership, investment information, municipal contributions and financial projections, and pension payment information. This information is especially helpful to new trustees and is updated regularly. If you have questions, we encourage you to check out the Pension Topics pages.



**November 1:** Second certification deadline for 2024 fire state aid. To be certified as eligible, all 2023 information must be submitted to the OSA, the OSA review must be completed, and any issues resolved.

**November 15:** Fire state aid is paid to those relief associations certified as eligible for the second round of payments.

**Mid-November:** Application period opens for reimbursement of [supplemental benefits](#).

**November 30:** Final deadline for submitting 2023 reporting forms to avoid forfeiture of fire state aid.

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Contact Us



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Minnesota Office of the State Auditor | 525 Park Street, Suite 500 | Saint Paul, MN 55103  
US

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