Through the System sponsored LEAN initiative, a team from UWRF joined other campuses to examine and redesign the current accident reporting process. Tracey Nyeggen, Cara Rubis, Greg Koehler, Michele McKnelly and Connie Smith (along with Dawn Hass from UW-System) joined forces to first create a map of the process and then determine the best steps for making the process more efficient. Key efficiencies from the UWRF map were combined with the maps from UW-Stout, UW-Green Bay, UW-Colleges and UW-Extension resulting in a significant improvement in the reporting process. More information will be shared in the weeks to come as the training program is developed and associated tasks are completed but for now, here are a few highlights of the goals that were identified:

* Establish an Accident Reporting Team on each campus.
* Develop training programs for supervisors, employees and Accident Reporting Team members.
* Consolidate reporting forms.
* Have Worker's Comp Coordinators submit forms to System electronically versus using US Postal Service.
* Inform providers and employees that all bills for worker's compensation injuries should be sent directly to UW-System for payment.
* Revise processes between campus worker's compensation coordinators and UW-System worker's compensation account managers to reduce redundancy of data entry.

October 3-9 is Fire Prevention Week

"Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!" is NFPA’s official theme for Fire Prevention Week (FPW), October 3-9. This year's campaign is designed to educate people about the importance of smoke alarms and encourages everyone to take the steps necessary to update and maintain their home smoke alarm protection. Smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a reported fire in half. In more than half of the reported home fires in which the smoke alarms were present but did not operate even though the fire was large enough, batteries were missing or disconnected. Nuisance alarms were the leading reason for disconnected alarms. So, buy new batteries for your smoke alarms and install them! (Replace your fire alarm with a new one if it is over 7 years old.) Practice a fire drill with your family so everyone knows the best escape route. For more information - especially for kids and families - visit www.nfpa.org.