

## TSPC Claims:

P.O. Box 161568

Austin, TX 78716

877-676-3895 ext 202

512-519-2461 (fax)

Claims@TexasSchoolsCooperative.org

www.TexasSchoolsCooperative.org



# TEXAS SCHOOLS COOPERATIVE

Texas Schools Property & Casualty Cooperative  
Intergovernmental Risk Pool

## Spring 2009 Newsletter

By: Cari Ledesma

### Safety Conference Information

#### Texas Safety Summit

May 13 - 14

Austin, TX

Visit: [www.tdi.state.tx.us](http://www.tdi.state.tx.us)

#### Texas School Based Law Enforcement Conference

June 14 - 18

Corpus Christi, TX

Visit: [www.cscs.txstate.edu](http://www.cscs.txstate.edu)

#### Texas School Administrators Safety Conference

November 16 - 18

Austin, TX

Visit: [www.cscs.txstate.edu](http://www.cscs.txstate.edu)

### Tidbits:

#### Safety Audits

Safety Audits are required every three years. Have you conducted your required Safety Audits? If not, contact our office and we can help point you in the right direction!

### Best Practices—Center for Safe Communities & Schools

What would you do in the event of a fire? Or if a student becomes violent on campus?

The planning you do now can have a direct effect on the moments following a crisis like these and determine the extent of damage and costs incurred by your school district.

The Center for Safe Communities and Schools has published on their website The Texas Unified School Safety Standards. These standards were formulated to act as a guide for district administrators to address campus safety concerns from natural hazards to emergency operations.

The Standards are a result of input from State and local officials, school teachers and administrators. They are based on the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Defined by the US Department of Education, the Standards were broken down into four parts:

- Mitigation/Prevention
- Planning for worst-case scenarios
- Response to crisis or emergency
- Recovery

Again, these Standards are guides and are not mandates. They provide a good jumping off point in identifying potential problems and offer suggestions on who should be included in the planning and items to consider.

You can find the Texas Unified School Safety Standards at [www.cscs.txstate.edu/txssc/txssc-standards.htm](http://www.cscs.txstate.edu/txssc/txssc-standards.htm). Or contact our office and we can send you a copy.

Claims@TexasSchoolsCooperative.org

### Wildfires: Things To Watch For

It's that time of year again when rain is scarce and wildfires devastate various areas of the state. Take action to minimize the likelihood of wildfires affecting your campuses.

- Maintain a minimum of 300 ft perimeter around all buildings wherein grass is mowed to 1" high or less.
- Check with local fire department officials regarding their capabilities in the event of a fire.
- If you cannot control high grass or weeds, consider having a fire break plowed around your property.
- If wildfires threaten your school, ask the fire department to wet grass around the buildings before the fire approaches.

### Spring Break - Prepare Your Campus!

Before you leave for Spring Break vacation, make sure your campuses are prepared!

- Make sure that all outside entrances are well-lit.
- Check with local law enforcement and ask them to send a patrol car by the campuses regularly, especially during the evenings.
- Check thermostats to ensure that they are not set too low while the buildings are unoccupied. This saves money and lessens the likelihood of freezing over!
- Check all water sources for potential problems - properly functioning toilets, water fountains and HVAC drains.

## Risk Management Dinner Meeting TASBO 2009 - San Antonio



Mailing:  
P.O. Box 161568  
Austin, Texas 78716

Physical:  
5316 US 290 W  
Suite 480  
Austin, Texas 78735

Phone: 877-676-3895  
Fax: 512-901-0076

[www.texaschoolscooperative.org](http://www.texaschoolscooperative.org)

Concurrent with this year's TASBO conference in San Antonio, Texas, the Texas Schools Cooperative hosted a dinner for several member Risk Managers to sit down at one table and discuss various safety issues and programs in place at their respective districts.

In visiting with individual members, we have encountered very successful programs and policies. Our goal in setting up these Risk Management meetings is to initiate conversation amongst our members to discuss what programs and policies have been beneficial and how they got started.

This meeting touched on various topics. The first was Back to Work. In every district, Workers Compensation costs can be directly related to the success of a comprehensive Back to Work program. The discussion outlined where to start and where certain responsibilities lie within the district and those that lie with the adjuster.

Susan Mullins, with JI Companies the Workers Compensation Third Party Administrators for the Texas Schools Cooperative, discussed details of documenting offers of light duty made to employees as well as various steps that can be taken to get the injured employee back to work quickly and safely.

Another topic of discussion was implementation of Safety Programs. Victor Mora at Laredo ISD shared information on the Safety Program they have in place. He outlined the flow of information from the Safety Department to the designated safety officers and ultimately down to the various campuses and departments.

Steve Neece, Program Manager for Texas Schools Cooperative, discovered a fire policy that Mike Wright at Waxahachie ISD had in place at his previous district. This fire policy is extremely comprehensive and highlights a number of hazards seen everyday in a number of campuses throughout the state. Mr. Wright was kind enough to elaborate on the policy and discuss with the group some of his experiences with fire resulting from the lack of such a policy.

For more information regarding these Risk Management issues or if you would like to attend the next event, contact our office at [Claims@TexasSchoolsCooperative.org](mailto:Claims@TexasSchoolsCooperative.org)

Also available online at: [www.TexasSchoolsCooperative.org/news.php](http://www.TexasSchoolsCooperative.org/news.php)

Please take note of our new address and phone number.

Direct ALL mail to:  
P.O. Box 161568  
Austin, Texas 78716

Call Toll Free:  
877-676-3895

Need Safety Training Videos?

Call 877-676-3986 ext 202  
Or Email  
[Claims@TexasSchoolsCooperative.org](mailto:Claims@TexasSchoolsCooperative.org)

We will send a list of all available videos and safety material.