

## Special points of interest:

- Have you conducted your School Safety Audit?
- For more information check out the Center for Safe Communities & Schools at:  
[www.txssc.txstate.edu](http://www.txssc.txstate.edu)

## Upcoming Conference Dates

**DFW Safety Summit**  
Dallas, Texas  
August 5, 2009

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

**19th Annual Texas Workers Comp Educational Seminar**  
Austin, Texas  
September 14-16, 2009

Dallas, Texas  
October 26-28, 2009

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

**Texas School Administrator Safety Conference**  
Austin, Texas  
November 15-18, 2009

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

## Need to report a claim?

- Claims can be submitted online at:  
[www.TSPCC.org](http://www.TSPCC.org)
- Claim forms can be faxed to 512-519-2461.
- Or you can call our office at 512-901-0072.



**TEXAS SCHOOLS**   
**COOPERATIVE**  
Texas Schools Property & Casualty Cooperative  
Intergovernmental Risk Pool

Newsletter—Summer 2009

## Getting Employees Back to Work

Do you have a Return to Work program in place? Not every injury is severe, but when an injured employee begins to lose time from work the stakes are raised. Research shows that employees who are engaged in active return to work programs typically recover more quickly and thoroughly from workplace injuries. Furthermore, employees who feel that their employers are acting as a partner in recovery from their injury tend to return to work faster than those who don't. The goal of workers compensation is to get the injured employee healthy and back to work as quickly as possible. It takes cooperation from employers and employees to make this happen; cooperation guided by an effective return to work program.

While the goal of workers compensation is to get your injured employees to their pre-injury condition, this is unfortunately not always possible. Certain injured employees may be able to return to their positions with only minimal medical

restrictions in place. In other cases, an injured employee can return to work on modified duty or into a light

duty position. We can help you evaluate an injured employee's restrictions to see what sort of duties the employee is able to perform in order to get back in the workplace.

We can also help you prevent situations where employees are unable to perform the activities outlined in their job description. Unfortunately, an inadequate (or non-existent) return to work program can result in a situation which sets up well intentioned employers and employees for failure. We are happy to review your current policy and help develop a successful Return to Work program. Our adjusters and case managers will be pleased to work with you to ensure that injured workers are in compliance with relevant medical restrictions. Workplace injuries may happen, but it's our mission to minimize their detrimental impact on you and your employees.

## Damaged Light Poles Cause For Concern

A number of school districts throughout the state have lived through the nightmare of stadium light poles cracking and falling on nearby structures. Thankfully, no injuries have been reported, but the potential is definitely there.

Be sure to check your light poles for cracks or signs of fatigue. If you discover any damage, have them taken down immediately to avoid any further damage. If you would like to have them checked out but don't know where to turn, contact our office.

## A/C Units Capable of Causing Costly Damages

Over time air condition lines can fill with dust, pollen or debris prohibiting proper drainage. Here are a few tips to keep them clean:

- Remember that water runs downhill so make sure the hose is on a downward slope and flows away from gym floors!
- Be sure that there are not any kinks in the hose and the drain pan is clean.

- Periodically, squeeze the hose from fitting to drain to dislodge any debris that has accumulated over time.

- Be mindful of your temperature settings!
- Make this a part of your routine and check the systems regularly!

If you are interested in this type of service, contact us. We can point you in the right direction!

# TSPCC.org



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

Now it's even easier to contact us via email or visit our website. Old email addresses and web address will continue to their regular delivery to our inboxes, but TSPCC.org is short and sweet! Just replace the @texasschoolscooperative.org with @tspcc.org in our email addresses.

## Preparation for New Year Presents Hazards

While this time of year is exciting, staff must be mindful of the hazards associated with getting the campus ready for students.

With the beginning of a new year comes new classroom décor and new layouts. Be sure that ladders and step stools are easily accessible for teachers to get to those hard to reach places. A number of workers compensation claims result from a teacher standing on a chair to hang decorations and falling in the process. Giving them the tools to act safely could save the district thousands of dollars and keep teachers focused on educating the children as opposed to healing from an injury.

Another area for concern is loose power cords. Be sure that they are covered with a plastic strip or even taped down to ensure that teachers and students do not trip over these cords as they walk around the classroom. The same is true for any electronic devices.

Also watch for overloaded outlets. Most classroom outlets are not equipped to handle microwaves and refrigerators. Ask your teachers to walk through each other's rooms to identify any potential hazards.

As the buses hit the road, make certain tires have good tread depth left and maintenance is up-to-date. Also send a fresh set of eyes to evaluate all bus routes for dangerous intersections.

## Drought Conditions Lead to Fires

During the hot, dry days of summer grass fires can start and spread quickly. Quick tips:

- Keep grass cut to one foot or less. Maintain a minimum 300 foot perimeter around buildings and other structures.
- Closely monitor all welding/torching activities.
- Check with local fire department officials about their capabilities in the event of a fire. Keep emergency numbers posted in each office.
- In extreme areas where there is an abundance of high grass or weeds that you cannot control, consider having a fire break plowed in around your property.
- If wildfires threaten your campus or property, call the fire department immediately and ask them to wet the grass around the buildings before the fire approaches.

Also available online at: [www.TSPCC.org/news.php](http://www.TSPCC.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@TSPCC.org](mailto:Claims@TSPCC.org)

We will send a list of all available videos and safety material.  
- Bus Safety -Ladder Use -Proper Lifting  
-Personal Protective Equipment