

NEWSLETTER



WELCOME BACK!

As we kick off the 2025-26 school year full of excitement and new beginnings, let's continue to keep safety front and center—for both staff and students. This issue of our newsletter includes important risk management tips from SIG to help us create a safe, secure, and positive learning environment all year long!

34th Street Consulting

Redefine Workplace Relationships

Thank You For Joining Us!

Thank you to everyone who attended the Boundary Training sessions last month! Your presence, insights, and engagement helped make the sessions meaningful for everyone.

We're excited to connect with our Nevada County members in August to offer the same valuable training.

To schedule a playground supervision training, please contact Kris Packwood at: kpackwood@sigauburn.com



Your presence makes the playground a safer place for everyone!



Scan and Assess

Continuously observe the entire play or activity area to identify potential hazards, risky behaviors, or changes in the environment. Scanning should be systematic (left to right, near to far) and repeated frequently to catch emerging issues early. Assess the dynamics of the group, weather conditions, and equipment status.

Communicate Ground Rules

Clearly state and consistently enforce safety rules and behavior expectations. This creates a safe, respectful environment and sets boundaries for behavior.

Be Present and Engaged

Supervisors should remain attentive and focused on their role, avoiding distractions such as phones or side conversations. Engage with participants, encourage positive behavior, and respond quickly—building trust through active presence.

Anticipate and Prevent

Use experience and judgment to predict potential problems before they arise. Prevention is often more effective than reaction.

Promote Inclusive Play

Encourage participation by all children. Foster an environment where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and safe.

Watch Climbing Areas

Climbing structures present a higher risk for falls and injury. These areas require extra vigilance. Ensure children are using the equipment appropriately, aren't pushing or crowding, and are within age-appropriate zones. Spot for younger or less coordinated children if needed.

Monitor Play Equipment

Inspect play equipment regularly for wear, damage, or unsafe modifications. Make sure swings, slides, ropes, and other features are being used properly. Remove or flag broken or hazardous equipment. Ensure surface materials are intact and cushioned.

Handle Emergencies Calmly

Stay composed and act quickly in an emergency. Follow established protocols for injuries, lost children, weather threats, or other incidents. Calm leadership helps reassure children and adults alike, ensuring that the situation is resolved safely and efficiently.

Stay Hydrated

Model and remind participants to drink water regularly, especially in hot weather or during active play. Dehydration can lead to fatigue, dizziness, and heat-related illnesses. Water breaks should be frequent, especially for younger kids.

Educate About Sun Safety

Teach and model protective behaviors like wearing hats, applying sunscreen, and seeking shade during peak sun hours.

Ensure All Forms Are Completed

- Athletic Waiver (release of liability and risk acknowledgment)
- Medical clearance or physical exam forms
- Emergency contact and insurance information

Review Safety Protocols

- Concussion awareness and injury procedures
- Hydration and heat safety guidelines
- COVID-19 or other health-related policies, if still applicable



Here are some tips for employers to help safeguard outdoor workers and students from heat-related illnesses:

Plan: Create and implement a written heat illness prevention plan that includes emergency procedures. This plan should clearly outline procedures for monitoring weather, recognizing symptoms of heat-related illness, and responding to emergencies.

Training: Ensure all employees and supervisors receive training on how to prevent heat illness. This training should cover how heat illness develops, early warning signs and symptoms (such as dizziness, nausea, confusion, and excessive sweating), prevention strategies, and the importance of hydration and acclimatization. Supervisors should be trained to recognize symptoms in others and respond quickly and effectively.

Water: Provide clean, cool, and free drinking water. Water should be located as close as possible to work areas and refilled throughout the day. Workers should be encouraged to drink at least one quart (roughly four 8-ounce cups) of water per hour, even if they're not thirsty, to stay properly hydrated in hot conditions.

Rest: Allow and encourage workers to take at least 5-minute cool-down rests in shaded areas whenever they feel overheated. These breaks are not only permitted but essential to prevent heat-related illnesses, and workers should not be penalized for taking them.

Shade: Provide adequate shade when temperatures exceed 80°F; workers must be allowed access to shade at any time to cool down. This shaded area should be large enough to accommodate all workers on break and be located as close to the worksite as practicable. Workers must be allowed to access shade at any time, not just during scheduled breaks, to prevent overheating.



To schedule an Activities/Events training, please contact Charlene Quilao at: cquilao@sigauburn.com



SIG is committed to fostering a safe and enjoyable environment for staff, students, and our communities!



As a reminder, beginning July 1, 2025, auxiliary organizations will no longer be covered under SIG's Liability Memorandum of Coverage.

SIG's Risk Management team is available to guide you and your auxiliary organizations through this transition. We recommend setting up a training session with SIG to help your auxiliary organizations understand and use the Activities/Events Matrix effectively.

Note: District-sponsored activities and events will continue to follow the same processes through SIG.

NOTE: SIG's Memorandum of Coverage specifically excludes RED activities

Matrix guidelines and resources for events and activities are designed to help members recognize and manage potential risks. The interactive matrix outlines the risk levels for various activities and offers related resources.

GREEN - low level of risk.

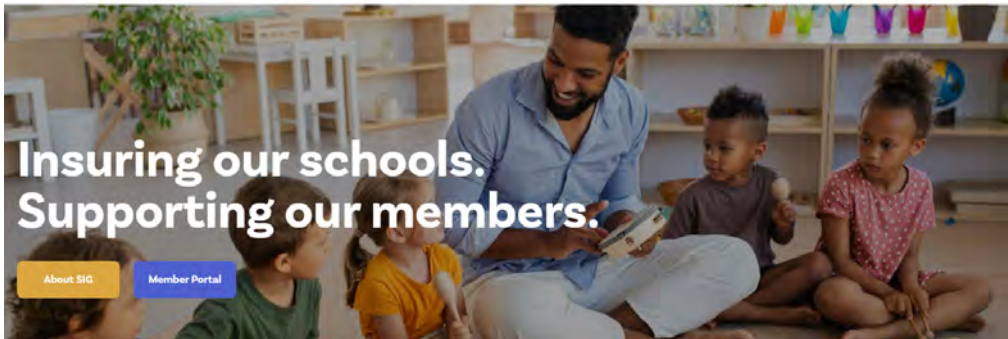
YELLOW - higher level of risk requiring additional supervision or oversight.

ORANGE - higher hazard that requires prior review and approval from SIG. These activities come with a higher deductible in the event of a claim.

RED - activity is too great a risk and should not be undertaken.



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For more information and assistance in completing both program, please email SIG's Risk Management Team :

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**Upcoming
SIG Workers' Compensation
Workshop!**



Join us for presentations by our Workers' Compensation partners, highlighting key processes and programs related to Workers' Compensation.

Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025
Time: 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Location: SIG Conference Room
550 High Street (1st floor)
Auburn, CA 95603



A separate registration link will follow shortly



Enhanced Safety Credit Program

Our longstanding Safety Credit Program has been updated to include a significant increase to the minimum credit award for districts that complete the program requirements. This change reinforces our commitment to supporting meaningful risk reduction initiatives in property, liability, and workers compensation across districts and campuses throughout the SIG pool. For the '25-'26 school year, SIG has implemented a \$1,000 minimum Safety Credit award to all members who complete the program requirements.

New Cyber Safety Credit Program

In response to the increasing need for strong cybersecurity practices, we are launching a Cyber Safety Credit Program focused specifically on digital safety. Districts that complete cybersecurity-focused actions and safeguards will be eligible for an additional credit with a minimum award of \$2,000!

Support from SIG

To help you successfully complete these programs, SIG is available to assist every step of the way. We offer a variety of trainings for a multitude of Job Classifications ranging from Certificated staff, Classified staff and even Volunteers. There are training sessions available for Athletic Coaches, Chaperones, Campus Monitors, Traffic Safety Monitors, Yard Supervisors, and even General Safety and Awareness Trainings are available both in person and via online webinars and meetings. SIG conducts workplace safety, crime prevention assessments, and even playground inspections.

SIG is happy to work with your team to develop an annual plan that ensures timely and successful completion of both credit programs.

Safety Credit Program--New higher limit of \$1,000+ to all members who complete the criteria

Cyber Credit Program--New opportunity of \$2,000+ for meeting information security criteria

Earn \$3,000+ by completing both programs together!