SMCSIG
October Newsletter



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

SMCSIG received a PRISM Eagle Award for its school site inspection program. What set it apart was linking inspection findings to our workers' compensation claims data. The results showed that sites with more physical hazards also had more frequent and more serious injuries.

Based on that connection, we are rolling out an ongoing site inspection program. ESM designed an iPad app that follows its comprehensive inspection protocol, and our own Maintenance and Operations staff will conduct the inspections. Member districts can sign up as early adopters at the October 15 Maintenance and Operations meeting.

SPECIAL DATES

- November 5 - JPA Board Meeting
- November 19 — SMCSIG Webinar - Common Pitfalls that Lead to Employment Claims

WELCOME!!

We hope you enjoy our October newsletter! This month, check out the latest SMCSIG news, learn how to prepare for the upcoming El Niño season, sign up for an upcoming SMCSIG webinar, and celebrate SMCSIG's PRISM Eagle Award for Innovation. Take a look at what's new and see what's coming up!



SMCSIG WINS PRISM EAGLE AWARD FOR INNOVATION

PRISM hands out its Eagle Awards each year at the statewide conference to recognize good work by California public agency risk pools. This year SMCSIG received one for its approach to a familiar problem. How do you spot the conditions that cause employee injuries before someone gets hurt?

With approval from the SMCSIG Board, Environmental Safety Management (ESM) and SMCSIG staff walked school buildings and grounds across the program. They looked for things like rolled or torn floor mats, dim work areas, cracked sidewalks and uneven ground.

Finding hazards was only the first step. SMCSIG then lined up the inspection results against workers' compensation claim data. Sites with more physical problems also had more injuries, and those injuries tended to be more serious.

That gives us a much better idea of where to spend prevention dollars. General safety training still has its place, but we can now go after specific problems at specific sites. Replacing a mat or fixing a light may not sound like much. These are often the same conditions tied to our larger claims.

WHAT COMES NEXT

The award is nice, but the more important part is where the program goes from here.

ESM is giving SMCSIG an inspection app that runs on an iPad. Maintenance and Operations staff will be trained to use it at their own school sites throughout the year. Inspections become part of regular work instead of a one-time project.

SMCSIG paid for ESM to do the first round of inspections, build the process and provide the training and tools. Because the work can now continue in-house, member districts should see the benefit for years.

SMCSIG and ESM will introduce the app to our Maintenance and Operations teams. We are looking for school sites that want to take part in the next phase. Pease reach out to SMCSIG if you want to become a participant.

We already have good information about where injuries happen. This program helps us use it to catch problems sooner and fix them before they turn into claims.



EL NIÑO IS COMING: WE ALL HAVE A PART TO PLAY

You don't have to work in Maintenance and Operations to help get ready for El Niño. All of us walk the campus every day, and that makes every one of us a set of eyes. If you spot a problem early, a small fix can head off a slip-and-fall, a flooded classroom, or an injury.

Here are five things to watch for:

1.**Clogged drains and gutters.** Leaves and debris in storm drains, gutters, or downspouts can send water where it shouldn't go.

2.**Pooling water and slick walkways.** Puddles on walkways, ramps, and entrances turn into slip hazards fast, and so do wet leaves and algae.

3.**Leaks and water stains.** Look for drips, stained ceiling tiles, and damp carpet near windows and doors. Those are often the first signs of a roof or seal problem.

4.**Trees and loose items.** Overhanging or dead branches, leaning trees, and anything outdoors that wind could pick up, like signs, canopies, or bins.

5.**Trip hazards at entrances.** Mats that are missing, curled, or soaked, and cracked or uneven pavement where people walk in out of the rain.

If you see something, report it to your site supervisor or put in a work order right away. Don't try to fix anything that needs a ladder, tools, or heavy lifting. Your job is to spot it and report it, and we'll take it from there.

Thank you for helping keep our campus safe this season.

Introducing the New SMCSIG Webinar Series!

We're excited to announce the launch of the SMCSIG Webinar Series — a new series designed to bring you timely, practical insights on property and liability topics that matter to your organization.

Each session will tackle a different topic, highlight common challenges and pitfalls, and give you takeaways you can put to work right away.

We'll bring you a new property or liability topic every quarter, so there will always be something new to learn.
Save the date, watch for registration details, and join us for the first SMCSIG webinar this November!

We hope to see you there!

November 19 topic!

Sign up for the November session here!

COMMON PITFALLS THAT LEAD TO EMPLOYMENT CLAIMS

This presentation explores ten common pitfalls that expose public entities to employment liability. Through real-world examples and best practices, this session will help Human Resources and administration strengthen compliance, promote fair and consistent treatment of employees and contractors and minimize legal risk.



PRISM RESOURCES

Linked below are PRISM resources, which we hope will be helpful to your districts. We hope you find them useful!

WATERWAYS AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

STORM AND FLOOD PREPAREDNESS FOR SCHOOLS

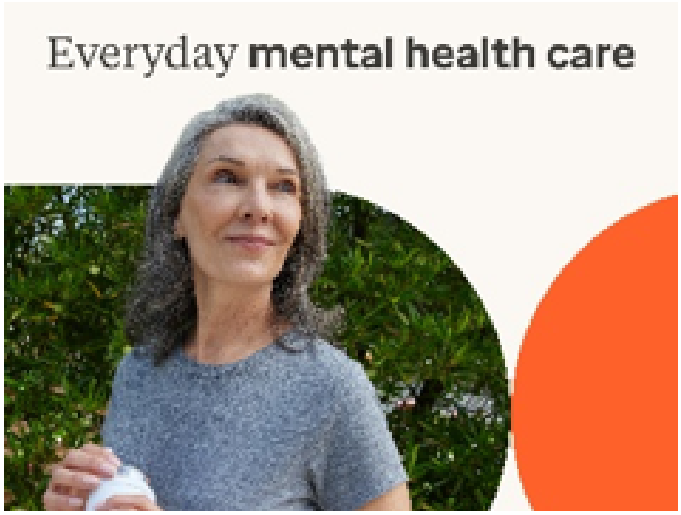
BEFORE THE STORM: FACILITIES AND CRITICAL ASSETS

A RISK BASED APPROACH TO WINTER PREPAREDNESS



OPTUM October Newsletter

World Mental Health



To access this month's EAP newsletter, please go to the Optum Website (Linked Here) and use access code SMCSIG.

Call toll-free: 1(866) 248-4094
Or log on to liveandworkwell.com
Access code: SMCSIG

Optum is your Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider.

Each benefit eligible employee and their family members have access to the program. EAP is available to help you help your employees and their families deal with life issues that may affect their ability to be productive in their jobs

UPTIME Q4 WEBINARS

The webinars are an introduction to Uptime for new employees, walking them through how to use the app and get the most out of it.

The wellbeing calendar is fully customisable, so if you'd like to tailor the content, timing, or focus areas to better fit your teams, just let me know and I'd be happy to walk through options with you.

- **Introduction to Uptime Webinar**
- **Managing Illness and Disease**
- **Mind and Body Check in**
- **World Mental Health**
- **Uptime Wellbeing**

SAVE THE DATE

M&O Meetings

M&O Vendor Fair
January 28, 2027

Details coming soon!

Executive Committee / JPA Board Meetings

November 5, 2026

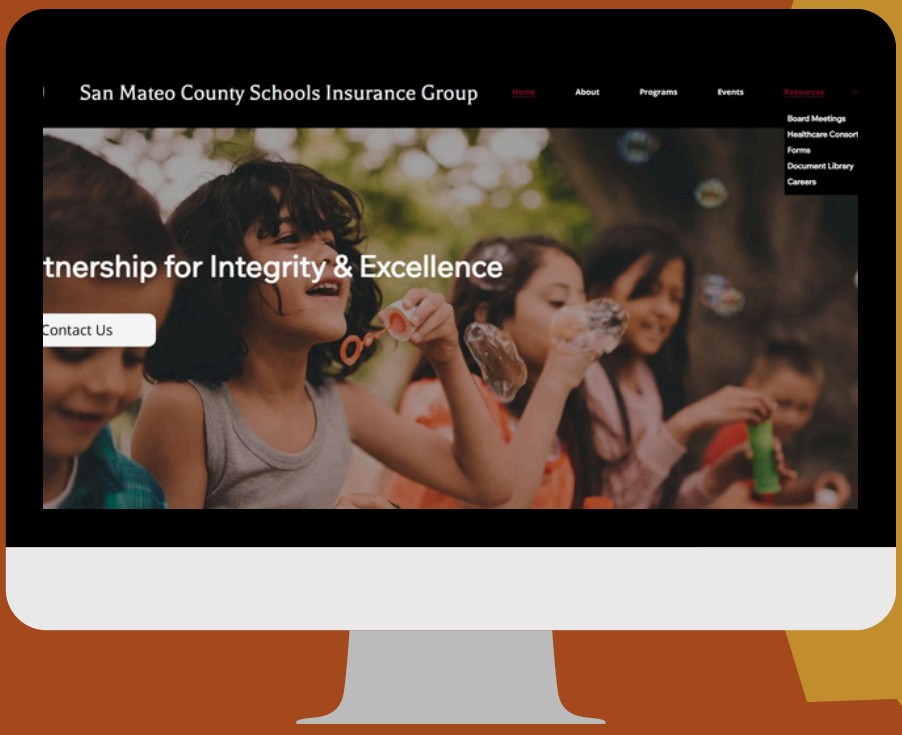
9:00 AM -12:00 PM
Location: ZOOM / SMCSIG OFFICE
1791 Broadway, Redwood City 94063

SMCSIG TRAINING SERIES

- **November 19, 2026**

Zoom
10-11

SIGN UP HERE



YOU CAN ALSO FIND UPCOMING EVENTS ON THE SMCSIG WEBSITE

The site serves as a central hub for important information and resources, including upcoming events, Board agendas and meeting summaries, Healthcare Consortium agendas and summaries, and a variety of fillable forms.

We encourage all members to visit the website and take advantage of these convenient resources.