



"To protect the human resources and financial assets of our member districts in order to support the future of public education"

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HELPFUL LINKS

www.merma.org
www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/
[Schedule an Ergo
Evaluation](#)

Slips, Trips, Falls on wet surfaces

Not surprisingly, over the past month we have seen an increase in slips trips and falls from the rain on wet surfaces. Slips, trips, and fall can result in hand, knee, shoulder, head, and back injuries depending on how you fall. Here are a few tips on how to avoid slips, trips, and falls related to inclement weather:

1. **Use floor mats.** Place floor mats in areas where the floor is smooth or slippery. You may need to ask your service provider who supplies your floor mats to provide extra mats during the rainy season.
2. **Use umbrella bags.** Umbrella bags are plastic bags that you can place your wet umbrellas in, so they don't drip water everywhere which creates a slip hazard. Typically, these are placed at the entrance.
3. **Remind employees to use handrails.** When going up and down steps and stairs, especially when outside, be sure to use the handrails to help reduce the severity of a trip and fall. Same rule for stepping in and out of buses on rainy days.
4. **Use signage to warn of wet floors.** If you know a surface is going to be wet and slippery, use wet floor signs or cones to help bring visibility and caution to areas.

Reasonable Suspicion and Drug & Alcohol Awareness Training for Safety Sensitive employees



If your district has a Transportation department with Safety Sensitive employees, you may also be required to train your supervisors on Reasonable Suspicion per DOT regulations. Reasonable Suspicion can be established when a trained supervisor has reason to believe an employee may be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol based on specific physical and behavioral observations.

In addition, all Safety Sensitive employees are required to have training in Drug & Alcohol Awareness.

An example of a Safety Sensitive employee would be a bus driver who is required to have a class A or B license.

If your district requires training or support in setting up your DOT drug & alcohol program, feel free to contact David Bolton for assistance.

Matching Safety Funds



It's that time of the year again! Time to get your Matching Safety Funds (MSF) from MERMA. This is FREE money for you to spend however you want. All you have to do is submit your receipts for health, safety, or security expenses throughout the year. MERMA will match 50% of the funds spent, up to your MSF allocation.

Here are some examples of expenses that are eligible for MSF reimbursement:

- Office chairs and office furniture
- COVID-19 supplies (masks, sanitizer, signs, etc.)
- Fire Protection expenses
- New tools and equipment for maintenance
- Personal Protective Equipment (gloves, knee pads, safety glasses, ear plugs, etc.)
- Repairs to fences or gates for security
- Security Camera expenses
- AED and First Aid kits

eBacksafe® for Teachers and Paraeducators



We are excited to offer eBacksafe® virtual injury prevention program designed specifically for teachers and paraeducators. **Segments of the virtual safety training were customized and filmed locally to ensure that real-life wellness scenarios were addressed.**

FIT has been in business for 30 years helping school districts and other organizations throughout the US protect the health and wellbeing of employees. It was discovered that fatigue, discomfort, pain, and injuries are often caused by something called Cumulative Micro Trauma and that when employees learned how to prevent it, their quality of life at work and at home improved dramatically.

If you are looking for strategies to improve culture, moral, staffing, and safety, this is a great program that is free to our member districts.

Contact David Bolton for details about enrolling your teachers and paraeducators in this virtual training program.

March Safety Calendar

Brain Injury Awareness Month	Brain Injury Association of America	biausa.org
National Nutrition Month	Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics	eatright.org
Workplace Eye Wellness Month	Prevent Blindness America	preventblindness.org
National Ladder Safety Month	American Ladder Institute	laddersafetymonth.com
National Patient Safety Awareness Week	National Patient Safety Foundation	npsf.org
National Poison Prevention Week	U.S. Department of Health & Human Services	poisonhelp.hrsa.gov
National Drug & Alcohol Facts Week	National Institutes of Health	drugabuse.gov
National Cleaning Week	ISSA - The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association	issa.com