



*"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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## CONTACT INFO

David Bolton

Loss Control Manager

(831) 296-9196 cell

[dbolton@merma.org](mailto:dbolton@merma.org)



## HELPFUL LINKS

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

[www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/](http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/)

[Schedule an Ergo  
Evaluation](#)

## Site Safety Inspections

School and site safety inspections are an important aspect of a safety program. Periodic inspections are two-fold: they help identify safety hazards before they become potential injuries and help identify equipment or areas in need of preventative maintenance. Site safety inspections are part of MERMA's suite of loss control services and include inspection of:

1. **Schools & Buildings** - This includes a comprehensive walk of the entire property, including sidewalks, parking lots, breakrooms, and classrooms.
2. **Maintenance buildings and yards** - Ensures tools and equipment are stored properly, housekeeping is in order, fire or electrical hazards are not present.
3. **Cafeterias** - Includes a review of kitchen tools and equipment, gas lines, fire protection systems, floor surfaces, and overall cleanliness.
4. **Parking lots** - Review of trip hazards, potholes, and pedestrian walkways.

All site inspections will include a report of hazards identified along with recommendations how to abate.

## Try to avoid Potholes!



Potholes are caused when water seeps into the ground between cracks in the road. This is why they tend to form during or after a good rain. Potholes not only cause major damage to vehicles in the form of flat tires, damaged wheels, and steering components, but also result in injuries. Depending on the vehicle, the jolt or trauma from hitting a severe pothole can also cause lower back injuries.

To avoid hitting potholes, ensure that you are traveling at a safe speed, that you are keeping your eyes on the road, and have your headlights on. (April is also Distracted Driving month. See [April 2022 newsletter](#) for more info on distract driving). In addition, puddles of water can often hide a pothole so avoid those as well. Sometimes, watching and following the vehicle in front of you at a safe distance can help you avoid a pothole.

Last, keeping your vehicle and tires properly maintained and inflated will help you avoid flat tires and becoming stranded on the roadside.

## 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, morale, 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.

## April Safety Calendar

Distracted Driving Awareness  
Month

National Safety Council

[nsc.org/justdrive](https://nsc.org/justdrive)

National Youth Sports Safety  
Month

Stop Sports Injuries

[stopsportsinjuries.org](https://stopsportsinjuries.org)

Lifesavers National Conference on  
Highway Safety

Community Event

[lifesaversconference.org](https://lifesaversconference.org)

National Walking Day

US Department of  
Transportation

[trafficsafetymarketing.gov](https://trafficsafetymarketing.gov)

National Window Safety Week

Window Safety Task  
Force

[nsc.org](https://nsc.org)

National Public Health Week

American Public Health  
Association

[nphw.org](https://nphw.org)

World Health Day

World Health  
Organization

[who.int](https://who.int)

National Work Zone Awareness  
Week

American Traffic Safety  
Services Association

[atssa.com](https://atssa.com)

National Playground Safety Week

National Program for  
Playground Safety

[safeatplay.org](https://safeatplay.org)

Workers' Memorial Day

American Federation of  
Labor & Congress of  
Industrial Organizations

[aflcio.org](https://aflcio.org)