The MERMA Monthly

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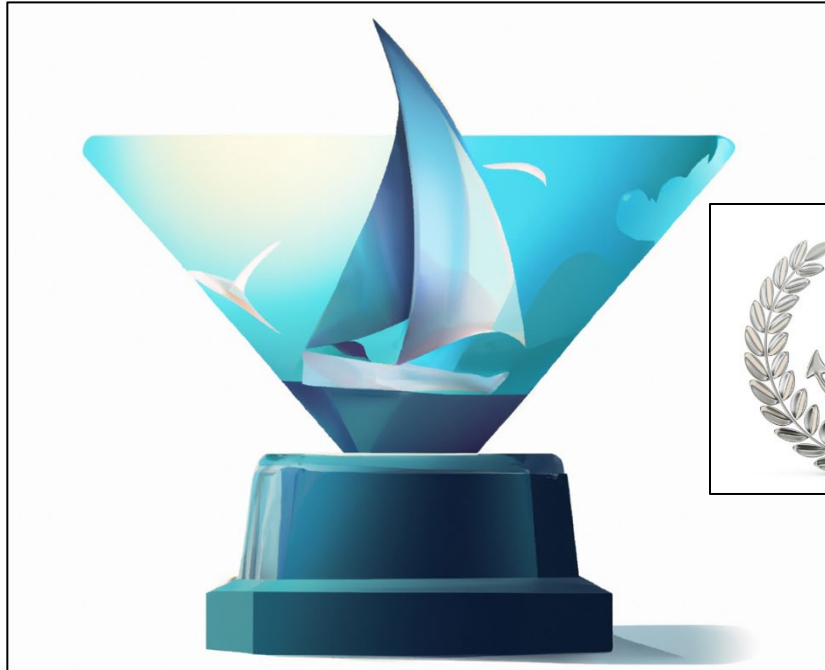
CONTACT INFO

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Loss Control Manager

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HELPFUL LINKS

www.merma.org

www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/

Schedule an Ergo Evaluation

Yacht Award of Excellence

We are excited to introduce the inaugural *Yacht Award of Excellence* for FY23/24. To qualify, within the fiscal year you must participate in a claims review, complete a site safety inspection, attend a board meeting, and schedule an injury trend analysis with the loss control manager, and schedule 3 supplemental safety trainings:

- ebackSafe for teachers & paraeducators
- Lifting & Lowering
- Slips/Trips/Falls
- Ergonomics Workshop
- Defensive driving
- Injury & Accident investigation for supervisors
- Other Supplemental training as recommended based on injury trends

For the districts that complete the program, you will receive **double** your Matching safety funds and presented with a prestigious Yacht Award!

Utility/Golf Cart Safety

Everyone driving utility/golf carts should be trained in the safe operation of the vehicle before setting out for the work to be done. It is tempting to treat UTVs as mini buggies or cars which is incorrect. They do not handle, brake, accelerate, or turn as cars and trucks do. They have a limited turning radius, higher center of gravity, and blind spots to be aware of.

Always follow the manufacture's recommendations for maintenance and always inspect the vehicle prior to use. In addition, establish a utility cart safety policy or rules and train employees annually. Training may or may not include the following:

- Always drive straight up or down on hills.
- Slow down to turn.
- Use 4-wheel drive if available and slow speeds on slippery surfaces to prevent skidding.
- Maintain payloads within the weight limits and people limits.
- Be sure all payloads are secured for travel.
- Increase your braking distance and decrease your speed with heavier payloads.

Update your IIPP

The beginning of a new school year is always a great time to update your policies and procedures, including your IIPP. Take a look at all your emergency contact information and personnel to ensure it is accurate and up-to-date, as there is often employee turnover entering a new fiscal year.

All policies and procedures should be communicated to employees upon implementation and whenever an update is made. Policies and procedures should be easily accessible via website or hard copies.

MERMA reviews all IIPP's during the beginning of the calendar year to ensure CalOSHA compliance. If you have any other safety policies that need a review, please contact David Bolton at (831) 296-9196, or by email at dbolton@merma.org.

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.

July Safety Calendar

National Fireworks Safety Month	Prevent Blindness America	preventblindness.org
Vehicle Theft Prevention Month	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration	nhtsa.gov