

Wise Words

State of Alabama • Department of Finance • Division of Risk Management

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Christmas Day Tornado

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An EF2 wedge tornado, one of forty tornadoes spotted across the Gulf Coast southern area on Christmas day, heavily damaged the majority of buildings at Murphy High School in Mobile. A wedge tornado is one that appears to be as wide as it is tall and normally ranges from one half to over a mile wide. Murphy High School, once the largest high school in Alabama, was built in 1926 and is occupied by 2,250 students, faculty and staff. The school is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Plans are underway to modernize the campus while preserving its unique appearance. The SIF (State Insurance Fund) provides property insurance for all county school systems and the majority of city school systems in the state. The SIF has hired construction experts to work with the Mobile County School System in order to determine repair costs.

A key coverage for the Mobile County School System is Extra Expense Coverage. As a result of this damage, seventy-two portable classrooms were set up at Clark-Shaw Magnet School to house the students and staff while Murphy is being repaired. The cost to rent the portables and costs associated with setting them up are covered as are additional costs to transport students to the new location. The Mobile County School System responded quickly and managed to get classes started again on January 7, 2013.

As you may suspect given the time of year it falls, the Christmas holiday is not often visited by tornadoes. However as we have seen on many occasions, tornadoes can happen at any time of year in Alabama.

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SEICTF Overview

SEICTF is a work injury benefit program which delivers compensation and medical benefits in the event of an on-the-job injury.

All work-related accidents should be immediately reported to SEICTF by submitting an Employer's First Report of Injury form. Upon receipt, a claim is established so that SEICTF can begin processing benefits available to the injured worker. They can expect friendly and knowledgeable Claims and Nursing staff to guide them to authorized physicians, assist them in coordinating early return to work, and pay their authorized wage replacement and medical expenses. Additionally, SEICTF provides vocational benefits when an injured worker is unable to return to their job after a work-related injury.

Please visit our website at www.riskmgt.alabama.gov for more information regarding the SEICTF program, and contact us at 1-800-388-3406 to discuss claims which have been previously reported.

Committed to Quality Medical Care

The Preferred Provider Network was developed for SEICTF (State Employee Injury Compensation Trust Fund) to provide high quality, comprehensive medical care to our injured state employees. The network is comprised of Primary Care Gatekeepers and Specialists located across the state that are responsible for treating and managing the work injury patient's needs. All providers are required to be credentialed BlueCross BlueShield PMD (Preferred Medical Doctor).

For physicians to become part of the SEICTF network, applications must be approved by the Provider Network Committee. When approved, the physician and office staff are educated regarding the SEICTF program's guidelines for the early return to work program, precertification process, and physician referrals. Our goal is to ensure that there is no delay in treatment to the injured employee and that quality care is provided.

For more information and a list of approved SEICTF Gatekeepers, please visit our website at www.riskmgt.alabama.gov or contact us at 334-223-6162 or 1-800-388-3406.



Underwriting Contacts

We are always looking for ways to improve our operation and are implementing an important change on May 1, 2013. Your agency will be assigned a specific underwriter to handle your agency's property insurance needs. This underwriter will be your contact person who will assist you when you need to make changes to your property schedule, need a certificate of insurance or just need a question answered. Be on the lookout for more information inside this year's property certification packet.

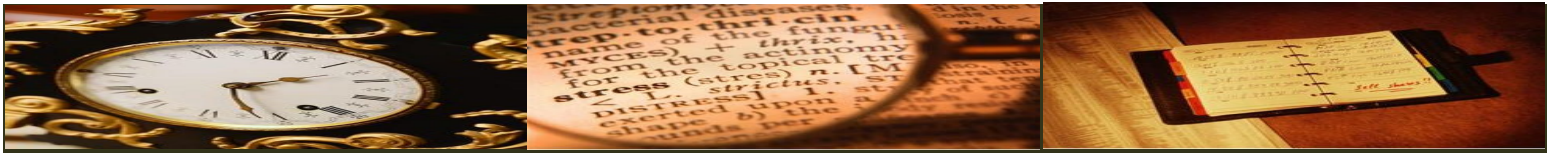
Time to Certify Property Insurance

The State Insurance Fund certifications will be mailed May 1, 2013. It is important that our certified copy be returned by June 30, 2013 to allow our office plenty of time to update changes prior to October's renewal. Please follow the instructions enclosed with the certification. Changes which occur during the fiscal year such as renovations to existing buildings, new buildings, purchase of new computers or other equipment, demolition or sale of buildings should be reported promptly to our office to ensure adequate coverage. Also, vacant buildings should be reported to us immediately so that proper coverage can be applied. Please refer to the memorandum enclosed with your certification in order to contact the Underwriter assigned to your agency.

Reporting New Construction

This is a reminder to report newly constructed buildings, including additions, to us as soon as you take possession. Please complete a Property Insurance Request form, available on our website www.riskmgmt.alabama.gov, and once completed, email, fax or mail the form along with a PDF document type of the floor plan and digital photos of the interior and exterior of the building to the underwriter assigned to your agency. Keeping your Property Schedule updated protects you in the event you need to file a claim and prevents our Claims Department from denying your claim for an unreported building or addition.





State EAP Training Opportunities—2013

In an effort to continue providing a high quality of EAP (Employee Assistance Program) services to our participating state agencies, the DORM (Division of Risk Management) will provide (3) one hour seminars on various topics for fiscal year 2013. We feel this will be helpful to all employees of our participating agencies to assist them in improving on their performance and management of their job responsibilities and related life issues.

These one hour seminars are presented throughout the state at various locations and are open to all employees of agencies participating in our State EAP services. We presented our first seminar in February on the topic of “Time Management & Organizational Skills: Making the Clock Work for You.” Our next seminar will be presented in April on the topic of “Dealing with Difficult People: Keeping the Peace.” And our final seminar will be presented in June on the topic of “Improving Communication Skills: More than Just Words.”

The dates and locations of the sessions for April are as follows:

April 2nd Huntsville

April 4th Montgomery

April 9th Tuscaloosa

April 11th Birmingham

April 17th Dothan

April 25th Mobile

The dates, times, and locations of our June seminars will be disseminated to each participating agency during the month of May 2013. The number of participants for each session will be limited to the number of slots available at each training location. We ask that those wanting to attend one of these seminars register early (no later than 7 days prior to the scheduled seminar date) because a seminar can only be held when we have at least 25 participants registered for that session.

We ask that each agency provide widest dissemination of this training opportunity to all of their employees and to encourage their supervisors to allow as many employees as possible to attend the seminar held closest to their work location in the state. The number of requested slots that we confirm for each session will be based on a first come, first served basis for each seminar location.

If you have any questions regarding these training opportunities, contact the State EAP Director, Mr. Samuel Boswell at (334)223-6153 or via e-mail at Sam.Boswell@finance.alabama.gov. If you have requests for slots in one of our seminars, submit your requests via e-mail only.

