

Wise Words

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

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What They Did Right—Blount County Schools

-Submitted by Brian Sigmon, AIC, Evers & Associates Birmingham, Inc. Insurance Adjusters

Blount County Schools Superintendent, Mr. Rodney Green, got the early morning phone call on March 21, 2017 that no superintendent wants to get, "There's a fire at one of the schools." The JB Pennington High School campus administrative and classroom building was on fire. The fire originated in the media center of the school and moved into the roof structure. Mutual aid calls went out with many fire departments from the surrounding areas, and these departments responded with equipment and personnel. Superintendent Green and his team activated their Emergency Response Plan.

One of the first calls Superintendent Green and his staff made was to the Division of Risk Management to report the fire. An experienced adjuster team was on site within hours, assisting and evaluating next steps with Superintendent Green and his administrative staff.

There were parts of the structure that were safe to enter. Due to the quick action by staff and the community, significant amounts of items were moved out of harm's way. Much of the school's band equipment was saved, and electronic and other valuable items were relocated to other buildings on the campus, protecting them from water and moisture from the firefighting efforts.

Relying on previous vendor contacts, they engaged a remediation company to begin the clean up once the fire was out. The remediation company began moving equipment and calling in staff for the inevitable clean up of both the structure and contents. Their school system had previously used the vendor and knew the capabilities of the vendor to respond on short notice.

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Retirement of Dorothy Roberts, Claims Administrative Assistant

Dorothy Roberts retired on April 1, 2017 after over 28 years of state service. She served 18 of those years as the administrative assistant in DORM's property claims department.

Prior to working with the Division of Risk Management, Dorothy worked for the Department of Corrections at the Kilby Correctional Facility and for the Department of Revenue.

Dorothy's slogan for her life is "may the work I've done speak for me." She says, "there have been ups and downs in her life and career, but she has come through it all."

Dorothy, we thank you for your service to the state, and we wish you the best in your retirement and future endeavors!



New Employee at DORM

Please join us in welcoming Kay Dobbs to Risk Management as the Administrative Assistant for property claims. Kay has also worked for the Board of Cosmetology and for the Soil and Water Conservation Committee.

Welcome Kay to our DORM staff!

Recap of Boiler Maintenance Training

The DORM Loss Control Department hosted a training session in May on "*Why Boiler Maintenance is Necessary.*" The training was offered free of charge to all entities participating in the State Insurance Fund. The training raises awareness of the Equipment Breakdown Coverage included in the SIF, and it promotes maintenance and safety. There were 50 participants representing 25 divisions at the seminar facilitated by Travelers Insurance. It was held at the beautiful Clanton Campus of Jefferson State Community College. Deputy Inspector James Dye with the Department of Labor also addressed the participants to discuss permit requirements and pending fee changes.

JUNE 30TH— CERTIFICATIONS DEADLINE!

The State Insurance Fund (SIF) property certifications were mailed out in May. It is important that your certified copy be returned to us by June 30, 2017 to allow our office adequate time to update values prior to October's renewal of coverage.

Your insured values have been updated using the most current cost valuation information available to us, but we request your continued assistance to ensure adequate coverage.

If you have any questions, please call the Underwriter assigned to your region of the state:

Southern Alabama Territory (UA, UAB, AU, USA):	Dale Whittle	(334) 223-6139
Central Alabama Territory:	Casey Dunn	(334) 223-6156
Northern Alabama Territory:	Heather Whorton	(334) 956-7110

What They Did Right-Blount County Schools

—Continued from Page 1

Due to the construction of the roof system, local fire departments encountered difficulties in extinguishing the fire. The fire departments could not risk putting personnel on the roof of the structure because of safety concerns. Ultimately the remediation vendor assisted the fire departments in deriving a creative solution to expose the roofing substrate that had made it impossible to extinguish the fire using traditional firefighting methods.



Several other vendors were called upon to assist in coordinating the efforts required to begin restoration of the school. One of those key relationships is with an architectural firm that is familiar with the process of seeking approval for emergency repairs with the various State of Alabama agencies involved with a loss of this magnitude.

Working with the Division of Risk Management adjuster and the various other experts, a plan was developed to secure the building from additional damage due to the compromised roof system. Coordinated meetings were held with the remediator and emergency clean up began shortly after the fire was extinguished. In coordination with the Division of Risk Management adjuster, a plan was developed to address both the structure and to provide faculty and students with rescued resources to allow classes to continue on site.

The initial remediation phase has been completed and permanent repairs to the roof system have begun to allow for permanent repairs to the structure. One of the keys to things progressing as quickly as possible was having a current Emergency Response Plan that allowed for Superintendent Green and his staff to assemble needed resources and vendors on short notice. Part of that process included that initial call to file a First Notice of Loss with the Division of Risk Management. This allowed the Division of Risk Management to process an initial advance of \$1,000,000.00 within three days of the loss. A second advance in excess of \$1,250,000.00 was processed in less than 30 days to assist with clean up and restoration expenses. Is your Emergency Response Plan ready for a disaster? That was the first step of What They Did Right!

Enhancing and Improving Workplace Morale



Presented by:
**BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH SYSTEMS**

- Define employee morale
- Discuss the importance of measuring morale and identifying ways to measure morale
- Examine signs and sources of low morale
- Identify solutions to low morale
- Review ways to enhance your motivational skills

EAP seminars are scheduled for employees of participating state agencies. The June topic is “Enhancing and Improving Workplace Morale.” The number of participants for each session will be limited at each location, so register today!

For more information:
Visit: www.riskmgt.alabama.gov
Call: (334) 223-6162

Register by email:

EAP.information@finance.alabama.gov

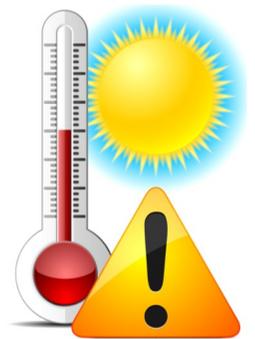
Seminar Dates:

6/1/17	6/7/17	6/13/17	6/14/17	6/28/17	6/29/17
Huntsville, AL	Tuscaloosa, AL	Birmingham, AL	Dothan, AL	Montgomery, AL	Mobile, AL

Prevention: Heat-Related Illnesses

Hundreds of State employees routinely work outdoors. Working in the extremely hot and humid weather conditions we experience here in Alabama can result in serious illness and even death if certain precautions are not taken. These are some of the heat-related illnesses, their symptoms and suggestions for immediate first-aid treatment:

- **Heat Cramps** – are caused by excessive sweating which depletes the body’s salt and moisture levels. Symptoms are muscle pain or spasms usually in the abdomen, arms or legs. First Aid should include: stop all activity and sit in a cool place; drink clear juice or sports beverage; do not return to strenuous work for a few hours after cramps subside because further exertion may lead to heat exhaustion or heat stroke.
- **Heat Exhaustion** – symptoms may include heavy sweating, weakness or fatigue, dizziness, confusion, nausea and muscle cramps. First Aid includes: have worker rest in a cool, shaded or air-conditioned area; drink plenty of water; have them take a cool shower or bath.
- **Heat Stroke** - symptoms may include: rapid high body temperature, hot dry skin, hallucinations, chills, headache, confusion and slurred speech. First Aid should include: call 911; move the person to a cool shaded area; cool the worker by soaking their clothes with water; spraying, sponging or showering them with water; or fanning their body.



The first step to preventing any heat illnesses is by drinking plenty of fluids. Some additional tips to prevent dehydration and other heat-related illnesses are:

- **Wear** light-colored, loose-fitting, breathable clothing such as cotton.
- **Drink** water frequently. Drink enough water that you never become thirsty.
- **Avoid** drinks with caffeine, alcohol and large amounts of sugar.
- **When** staying outside wear a hat and stay in the shade as much as possible.
- **Stay** in cool, shaded areas when possible; protect your skin with a sun block.