

MARCH 2024

ICRMA Insider

Collaborate. Manage. Reduce.



[PICTURE CAPTION]

Connecting Through Member Visits

ICRMA staff recently hit the road to meet and connect with our member Cities face-to-face.

Through these meetings we are able to strengthen our relationships and provide personalized support. Together, we are able to deep-dive into City questions and concerns and offer expert guidance to take full advantage of ICRMA resources.

During the meetings ICRMA listens and gathers feedback to gain a deeper understanding of each City's unique needs and challenges. This enables us to enhance the solutions, services, and offerings we bring to the table.

In addition to listening, we also review educational resources, training, and experts available to the City through ICRMA. This includes sharing industry insights, best practices, and updates on regulatory changes that may impact the program. By equipping Cities with the knowledge and tools needed, we hope to empower you to make informed decisions as you navigate the complexities of city risk management.

To schedule your member visit, please contact Amber Anderson at amber.anderson@rpadmin.com.

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RISK MANAGEMENT CORNER: EYE SAFETY AWARENESS

Preventing eye injury

More than 2,000 people injure their eyes at work each day. About 1-in-10 injuries require one or more missed workdays to recover. Of the total amount of work-related injuries, 10-20% will cause temporary or permanent vision loss.

There are three things you can do to help prevent eye injury:

1. Know the eye safety dangers at work by completing an eye hazard assessment.
2. Eliminate hazards before starting work. Use machine guarding, work screens, or other engineering controls.
3. Use proper eye protection.

Safety eyewear protection includes:

- Non-prescription and prescription safety glasses
- Goggles
- Face shields
- Welding helmets
- Full-face respirators

Common causes for eye injuries are:

- Flying objects (bits of metal, glass)
- Tools
- Particles
- Chemicals
- Harmful radiation
- Any combination of these or other hazards

The type of safety eye protection you should wear depends on the hazards in your workplace. If you are working in an area that has particles, flying objects, or dust, you must at least wear safety glasses with side protection (side shields). If you are working with chemicals, you should wear goggles. If you are working near hazardous radiation (welding, lasers, or fiber optics) you must use special-purpose safety glasses, goggles, face shields, or helmets designed for that task.

Cal OSHA Title 8, Section 3382

Employees working in locations where there is a risk of receiving eye injuries such as punctures, abrasions, contusions, or burns as a result of contact with flying particles, hazardous substances, projections or injurious light rays which are inherent in the work or environment, shall be safeguarded by means of face or eye protection. Suitable screens or shields isolating the hazardous exposure may be considered adequate safeguarding for nearby employees. Employers must provide and ensure that employees use protection suitable for the exposure. <https://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/3382.html>

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

ICRMA members may be eligible for reimbursement for conference attendance.

PRIMA Annual Conference - Registration open!

June 6-9, 2024, Nashville, TN
conference.primacentral.org

CAJPA Annual Conference - Registration open!

September 10-13, 2024, South Lake Tahoe, CA
conference.cajpa.org

Cal Cities Annual Conference and Expo

October 16-18, 2024, Long Beach, CA
bit.ly/3IJtIVU

RIMS Annual Conference - Registration open!

May 5-8, San Diego, CA
rims.org/annual-conferences/riskworld-2024

AGRiP Staff Forum

October 6-8, 2024, San Antonio, TX
agrip.org/education

CALPELRA Annual Conference

November 11-15, 2024, Monterey, CA
calpelra.org

CA WORKERS' COMPENSATION UPDATE

In the last quarter of 2023, Governor Newsom vetoed a few key workers' compensation bills on Independent Medical Review, PTSD presumptions, and skin cancer. He also approved bills extending PTSD presumption for Safety Members, extending death benefits to state firefighters, and imposing workers' comp reporting requirements on contractors.

Vetoed bills

- [AB1213](#) This bill proposed that when: 1) Utilization Review (UR) denied medical care, and 2) Independent Medical Review (IMR) or the WCAB overturned the denial, any Temporary Disability (TD) benefits owing from date of the UR Denial through the date of IMR would not count toward the 104-week cap on TD benefits. This would have essentially extended the 104-week cap for TD benefits. The bill was vetoed.
- [AB1145](#) This bill would have extended PTSD presumption to State Medical Providers working for Dept. of Corrections and Rehab and State Developmental Services, including Registered Nurses, Psych Techs, and other Social Service providers. The bill was vetoed.
- [SB 391](#) This bill would have extended skin cancer presumption to Fish and Wildlife and Parks and Recreation departments. The bill was vetoed.

Approved bills

- [SB623](#) Extends the expiration of PTSD Presumption for Safety Members from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2029.
- [AB621](#) Removes limitations for death benefits for specific workers in the Department of Forestry and Fire. Families of state firefighters can now collect both work comp and PERS death benefits.
- [AB 336](#) Requires contractors to submit their work comp coverage application and classification codes to the state's Contractor State License Board. This is intended to prevent contractors from intentionally misclassifying their workers.

OUT & ABOUT

ICRMA was recently present at Public Agency Risk Management Association (PARMA) and Association of Governmental Risk Pools (AGRiP) annual events.

PARMA celebrated its 50th anniversary in Indian Wells, California in February during its annual conference. The event included informative educational programming and great networking. ICRMA representation included:

- Pam Mackie, ICRMA Board Member & Claims Committee Chair, City of Fullerton;
- Veronica Gutierrez, ICRMA Board Member, City of Fullerton;
- Rigo Gutierrez, ICRMA Board Member & Claims Committee Member, City of El Monte;
- Rita Wendling, ICRMA Board Member, City of Glendora and,
- Thurman Green, ICRMA Board Member, City of South Gate.

Members were joined by ICRMA's Assistant Executive Director Amber Anderson and Program Administrator Nilsa Quandt.

AGRiP's annual Governance and Leadership conference was held in March in Nashville, TN. The conference included over 800 pooling professionals from around the country. Session highlights included expected industry disruptors from AI and a keynote session on hugging your haters--or learning the most you can from your most dissatisfied constituents. Representing ICRMA at the event were:

- Ernie Hernandez, Board Member, City of Lynwood; and
- Patrick Matson, Board Member, City of Lynwood.

Members were joined by ICRMA Executive Director Dani Rogacki and Assistant Executive Director Amber Anderson.



Patrick Matson, City of Lynwood, enjoying Music City during AGRiP's Governance & Leadership conference.

BOARD HAPPENINGS

2023-24 Policy Year

Meetings

ICRMA Board

April 11, 2024
May 16, 2024
June 20, 2024

ICRMA Claim Committee

May 8, 2024

New Officers

Jesse Flores, President
City of Adelanto

Eduardo Sarmiento, Vice President
City of Huntington Park

New Members

Michael Antwine, City Manager, City of Bell
Rickey Manbahal, Finance Director, City of Bell
Paul Chung, CFO, City of El Segundo
Sergio Ibarra, Personnel Manager, City of San Fernando
Aarti Kaushal, Risk Manager, City of Santa Ana

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Jesse, Eduardo, and our new board members as they take on these important leadership positions within our organization.

MARCH 2024

SUPPORT YOUR PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS WITH LEXIPOL

For more than 20 years, Lexipol has been ensuring the well-being and effectiveness of the people who safeguard our communities — public safety professionals, first responders and local government employees. ICRMA members have access to Lexipol through the JPA.

Available resources to provide public servants with the knowledge, skills and abilities to serve communities large and small include:

- [State-specific policies](#);
- [Online learning](#);
- [Wellness resources](#);
- [Grant assistance](#); and
- [Industry news and information](#).

Lexipol also provides free content crafted by subject matter experts as resources for public safety, including:

- [Blogs](#);
- [Webinars](#);
- [Case studies](#); and
- [Videos](#).

Lexipol serves more than 2 million public safety and government professionals in over 10,000 agencies and municipalities. For additional information, visit www.lexipol.com.

GET AHEAD OF WORKPLACE INJURIES WITH COMPANY NURSE

Workplace accidents happen. So why be unprepared? Company Nurse is your first line of defense against work's little (and not so little) mishaps.

Triage with Company Nurse is proven to improve reporting times, reduce ER usage, and reduce the overall cost of claims.

Company Nurse can:

- Minimize pain
- Reduce administrative stress
- Save your City money; and
- Improve productivity

Company Nurse clients experience:

- 15-20% reduction in claims
- 20-30% reduction in cost
- 40% increase in self-care recommendations

Access to Company Nurse is available to ICRMA members through the JPA. Workers can contact Company Nurse via phone or online for ease of reporting at the time of injury.

To learn more go to www.companynurse.com.



SPECIAL EVENTS COVERAGE Q&A

Q: What is Special Events Coverage?

California Special Event Insurance is a type of insurance coverage designed specifically for one-time or short-term events held within the state. Special Events Coverage provides liability protection for Cities that permit public events to be held on their owned or managed property, including street closures and ICRMA-member sponsored events.

Q: Why does a City need Special Events Coverage?

Special Event Coverage provides valuable protection against unforeseen circumstances, safeguarding your event and minimizing potential financial risks.

Q: Who provides the Coverage?

Merriwether & Williams Insurance Services, Inc. They are responsible for all underwriting decisions, providing proof of coverage to the event holder and the ICRMA member, and collecting premiums directly from the event holder. ICRMA members work directly with Merriwether & Williams to obtain coverage.

Q: How are premiums determined for Special Events Coverage?

Premiums for an event will be determined by the type of event and the anticipated attendance at the event. The entire underwriting process is generally completed within four (4) hours.

Q: How can an ICRMA member request Special Events Coverage?

To request coverage for your special event:

- Have the event sponsor go to www.2sparta.com or call (800) 420-0555 to begin the quoting process with a licensed professional.
- The professional will determine the type of special event, activities and corresponding coverage required.
- After ascertaining the event type and activities, a quote will be issued via fax, mail or email.
- The quote will contain specific information required to purchase coverage. Payment may be made online or via cashier's check.
- Upon payment receipt, a Certificate of Insurance based on the City's pre-approved master policy will be activated and issued.

Q: Where do I find more information about ICRMA's Special Events program?

More detail can be found at icrma.org/programs/insured/special-events.

Q: What if I have questions about Special Events Coverage?

Contact ICRMA at icrma@rpadmin.com.

